

*University Committee for Monitoring Labor
and Human Rights Issues*

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®
University Committee for Monitoring Labor and Human Rights Issues
Faculty Center
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ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

Membership:

Dr. Marv Waterstone, Geography **CO-CHAIR** (1/09-5/14)
Dr. Susan Shaw, Anthropology **CO-CHAIR** (1/09-5/15)
Dr. Damian Baca, English (1/10-5/16)
Dr. Paloma Beamer, Community/Environment/Policy (5/11-5/15)
Mr. Jim Collins, GPSC (6/11-5/14)
Dr. Jennifer Croissant, Gender/Women's Studies (2/11-5/14)
Pr. Andrew Silverman, Law (1/09-5/14)
Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge, Community Member (1/10-5/16)
Ramin Yadegari, Plant Sciences (1/13-5/16)

Charge of the Committee

The University of Arizona bears a responsibility to exercise leadership in labor and human rights matters. To this end, the University Committee for Monitoring Labor and Human Rights Issues strives to ensure that fundamental labor and human rights, particularly those articulated in the April 30, 1999 Commitments Relating to Sweatshops, are implemented by University licensees.

a. The committee makes recommendations to the President regarding fundamental labor and human rights issues including codes of conduct for licensees, monitoring of licensees, efforts to improve licensee compliance, and relations with non-compliant licensees.

b. The committee is also charged with educating the University community and the broader public about these issues.

Summary of Activities 2013-2014

The committee met six times during the 2013-2014 year.

The Committee continued to monitor the progress of Alta Gracia apparel in the ASUA Bookstores. Alta Gracia is a sweatshop-free factory in the Dominican Republic that produces an apparel line of university logo goods carried at over 400 colleges and universities. Its first delivery of product to the UA Bookstore was late and late product is usually refused but was accepted this time with a warning to Alta Gracia that its merchandise will not be accepted after its promised delivery date a second time. UA Bookstore Director Debby Shively advised Chair Waterstone that the products sold out, and that the UA would place a slightly larger order for



Fall 2013. We will continue to work with the Bookstore to expand the AG line, and to highlight its significance.

Chair Waterstone recently learned at a meeting of the UA Licensing and Trademarks Advisory Committee that the merchandise has been underperforming and that Alta Gracia has not been able to pay any royalties to the UA for the last two years. Alta Gracia asked for a waiver that was granted the first year, but not the second. Knight's Apparel, Alta Gracia's parent company, paid the minimum guarantee for the second year. The BookStore indicated they would extend the contract for another year. Allixandra (Alixie) Holcomb, Director of Trademark/Licensing has moved out of the athletic department and into the University Relations Department. She will now represent UA on the Fair Labor Association (FLA) and the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), and said she would continue to monitor Alta Gracia sales at the UA BookStores.

The committee met with President Hart in April to apprise her of the committee's prior and ongoing work, including work on a purchasing code of conduct.

The committee's work on this policy started during President Shelton's tenure and progressed through Interim President Gene Sander's time with positive feedback from both Presidents. The committee had been working with Ted Nasser, Director of Procurement and Contracting Services, who in turn had been in contact with Vicki Gotkin, Senior University Attorney from the Office of the General Counsel, asking them to look over the proposed policy and advise them of any issues that would need to be addressed before bringing the proposed policy forward. The committee feels a policy addressing a *Code of Conduct* for UA contractors and vendors should be in place and readily available to all vendors so that issues do not need to be addressed on a case by case basis after a University stakeholder complains that an entity doing business with UA does not uphold the UA missions and values. Chair of the Faculty Wanda Howell met with President Hart who asked Vicki Gotkin from the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to reengage with the UCMLHRI committee. Chair Waterstone has since spoken with Stephanie Rosenberg who will be the OGC contact, instead of Gotkin, working to move the *Code of Conduct Policy* forward.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Marv Waterstone, Co-Chair
UCMLHRI



Dr. Susan Shaw, Co-Chair
UCMLHRI