

Chancellor's Labor Codes and Licensing Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2015 • 67 Bascom • 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/laborlicensing/>

Committee members attending: John Ahlquist (Chair), David Gardner, Jason Weitzman, Bruce Petters, Cindy Van Matre, John Newton, Valyncia Raphael, Chelsea Anderson, Jason Lee, Tammi Simpson, Luke Gangler

Also attending: Everett Mitchell, Lisa Hull

Absent: Randy Dunham, Ian Coxhead

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ahlquist at 12:02 pm.

Minutes. The minutes from the Feb 17, 2015 meeting were approved.

New member introduced. Chair Ahlquist introduced Luke Gangler, a student, who will fill the position for the rest of this academic year that was left vacant when Melanie Meyer resigned from the committee in January. Luke is a freshman, and member of SLAC.

Chair Ahlquist provided an update on VF/JanSport. He had asked VF to put something in writing regarding what John and Everett were told when they visited VF in January. He also said he was not pursuing a visit to JanSport in Appleton until he hears something back from VF.

USAS union organizers and Rana Plaza survivor appearance. An unscheduled, informal meeting of the LCLAC was held February 27 in order to accommodate an appearance on campus by a survivor of the 2013 Rana Plaza (Bangladesh) building collapse and USAS union organizers. David Gardner and Bruce Petters gave an account of the meeting. After talking about experiences in Bangladesh the visitors asked that the University “cut ties with JanSport” because they are affiliated with VF, which is a member of the Alliance instead of the Accord.

Chair Ahlquist said the committee made a recommendation (accepted by the Chancellor) that licensees producing in Bangladesh be required to sign on to the Accord. He does not view a reconsideration of this recommendation to be on the committee's agenda this year. The Committee also made a recommendation (this was in May of 2014) that UW-Madison terminate its contract with JanSport. The Chancellor declined to take this action. He viewed the Committee's role as continuing to stay informed of developments in Bangladesh and elsewhere and making updated or revised recommendations as warranted. He said he was going to continue to try to get the information VF promised, and then report to the Chancellor what the committee has learned.

New Business: Cindy Van Matre announced that Knights Apparel has been purchased by HanesBrands. Alta Gracia will be spun off and still controlled by Joe Bozich.

The topic of licensing HanesBrands was mentioned. Cindy said companies are asked to complete the UW's corporate responsibility survey as part of the licensing process.

(more)

The committee discussed the need for a policy that answers the bigger questions like:

- How do we ensure that workers are being treated fairly?
- How do we know that the Code of Conduct is being adhered to, and companies we license are living up to its stipulations?

Cindy Van Matre will distribute the corporate responsibility survey that each of our licensees responds to each year. (The last five corporate responsibility surveys were distributed to the committee on 3/17/2015. Luke Gangler asked Cindy for JanSport's response to the survey, which she also sent to the committee on 3/19/2015.)

David Gardner reported that Athletics is discussing the contract for sideline providers, and talking to companies including Nike, Adidas, and Under Armour. The current contract with adidas expires on June 30, 2016.

Chair Ahlquist talked about the next meeting:

1. Have Scott Nova on the phone to discuss how Alliance and Accord are working together.
2. Answer questions from the committee.
3. He'd like the committee to come up with questions ahead of time, to make the best use of time.
4. Get information from VF or have them tell us they won't give us the information.
5. He will send an email to the committee with confirmation that Scott Nova will participate and ask for questions.

His plans for the next two meetings include:

1. Schedule a conversation with Scott Nova, hopefully for the next meeting (April 14).
2. At the May 12 meeting, discuss a statement the committee will make at the end of the (school) year.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting schedule 2nd semester: Meetings will be held in Room 67 Bascom.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 from Noon – 1:30 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 17 from noon – 1 pm

Tuesday, March 17 from noon – 1 pm

Tuesday, April 14 from noon – 1 pm

Tuesday, May 12 from noon – 1 pm