

Chancellor's Labor Codes and Licensing Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2014 • 67 Bascom • 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
<http://www.news.wisc.edu/laborlicensing/>

Committee members attending: John Ahlquist (Chair), Randy Dunham, David Gardner, Melanie Meyer, Jason Lee, Jason Weitzman, Tammi Simpson, Bruce Petters, Cindy Van Matre, Chelsea Anderson, Ian Coxhead, John Newton, Valyncia Raphael
Also attending: Everett Mitchell, Lisa Hull

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ahlquist at 12:03 pm.

Minutes. The minutes from the Nov. 17, 2014 meeting were approved.

JanSport. Materials and correspondence were distributed via email to the committee. Although the Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) has chosen not to communicate with the LCLAC, they have been corresponding with the Chancellor, and demanding that she “cut ties with JanSport.”

Chair Ahlquist said he wants the committee to revisit the JanSport issue in the spring semester (beginning 1/20/2015), and stated a desire to reach out to the workers at the Appleton VF/JanSport facility. If the committee had specific issues/questions to ask JanSport, it would be appropriate for the LCLAC to ask them to come back to talk with the committee. The previous meeting between JanSport/VF representatives and the formerly-named LCLCC was viewed as unpleasant and less than fully productive by both LCLCC members and JanSport/VF representatives.

Chair Ahlquist asked the committee to become more familiar with the report sent to the Chancellor (attached) from the LCLCC committee in March 2014. In that report the LCLCC recommended to the Chancellor that UW-Madison licensees who produce or source licensed apparel in Bangladesh sign on to and remain a party to the Accord. The Chancellor announced that UW-Madison will require licensees to sign the Accord on March 14, 2014.

When the committee made its initial recommendation in favor of the Accord over the Alliance there was no implementation evidence on which to compare the two initiatives. Chair Ahlquist said he wants the committee to consider developing a set of criteria on which to compare the performance of the Accord and Alliance on an ongoing basis. These criteria could also be used to evaluate future remediation initiatives in Bangladesh and elsewhere.

Ad-hoc committee on LCLAC structure report. Chair Ahlquist acknowledged the work of the ad-hoc committee and thanked them.

The ad hoc committee's report made three recommendations (see attached). A motion was made and seconded to consider the first recommendation and then proceed to the others. A motion was made and seconded to accept the first recommendation (“that procedures begin to initiate the process to implement this committee, under Faculty Policies and Procedures, as a joint shared

governance committee”). Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of being a shared governance committee. Pros included that some members felt making it a shared governance committee reporting to the University Committee would make the committee more permanent. They felt that as an advisory committee to the Chancellor they could be disbanded more easily. They wanted the member nomination process to be the same as shared governance nominations for other Chapter 6 committees.

Cons to being a shared governance committee that were discussed included that as an advisory committee to the Chancellor, the committee had a direct line of communication with the Chancellor, unmediated by the Faculty Senate or University Committee. Reporting up through the University Committee (UC) would not enhance the ability of the committee to get things done, it could instead cripple it. Chair Ahlquist reported on correspondence and discussions he had with Jo Ellen Fair (UC Chair). He emphasized that the UC was not favorably disposed towards the LCLAC. It seems unlikely that recommendations made by the committee to the UC would be approved. There is also no guarantee that the UC would even be interested in having the LCLAC exist at all. The UC would certainly not consent to making a formal shared governance committee without the consent of the Faculty Senate and the Chancellor. If a shared governance committee were approved its composition and governance would very likely look much like the current LCLAC.

Chair Ahlquist emphasized that the LCLAC is not a policy-setting board, and the only way to get policy through is to work with or persuade the Chancellor, and at this point the committee lacks credibility.

The motion was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjournment at 1:10 pm

Meeting schedule 2nd semester:

Tuesday, Jan. 20 from Noon – 1:30 pm (Please note the first meeting, on Jan. 20, is the first day that classes resume, and the meeting will last 90 minutes instead of the usual 60.)

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

Meetings will be held in Room 67 Bascom.