Authors: Scot McCullough, Rachel Rocole

Sponsors: Student Environmental Action Coalition; Women's Advocacy Council; Troy Winkelman, Senator

IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - OSHKOSH AFFILIATING WITH THE WORKER RIGHTS CONSORTIUM AND DISAFFILIATING WITH THE FAIR LABOR ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, The University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh is a Fair Trade University, which "seeks to create greater equity and partnership in the international trading system";[1] and,

WHEREAS, Production conditions under Nike[2] which produces University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh apparel[3], has a history of child labor, forced labor, wages that fail to meet workers' basic needs, and failure to recognize workers' rights to organize for basic human rights; and,

WHEREAS, The University has the ability to require that licensed products are made in accordance with international labor rights and human rights standards[4], site-of-production laws and regulations, and has the right, like any other university, to require disclosure of the names and addresses of the factories and/or confirmation of independent monitoring of factories; and,

WHEREAS, The Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) is an independent labor rights monitoring agency governed by students, university administrators and labor experts with 175 college and school affiliates;[5] and,

WHEREAS, The University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh is currently affiliated with the Fair Labor Association[6], an association that has a third of the seats on its Board of Directors reserved for corporations[7] and receives substantial funding from these corporations, has proven unable to provide objective reports on the conditions of workers, while the WRC is an independent organization; Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, The University has an obligation to its students to ensure that university apparel made for the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh are manufactured under safe, just, and healthy working conditions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh Student Association acknowledges the importance of fair labor practices; and,

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[1] http://www.uwosh.edu/fairtrade

[2] http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/steve_duin/index.ssf/2010/04/wisconsin_slashes_the_nike_swo.html

[3] http://bookstore.uwosh.edu/MerchList.aspx?ID=9919

[4] http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a23

[5] http://www.workersrights.org/howto/cost-benifit.asp

[6] http://www.uwosh.edu/fairtrade/faqs

[7] http://www.fairlabor.org/board-directors

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh Student Association supports affiliation with the Worker Rights Consortium; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh Student Association supports disaffiliation with the “Fair Labor Association”; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be delivered to the Office of the Chancellor and the director of the Fair Trade Committee.