

Worker Rights Consortium

Frequently Asked Questions

Prepared by United Students Against Sweatshops -- 12/8/99

1. Does WRC have a required Code of Conduct?

No, the WRC does not require a *specific* Code of Conduct, but it does require that member schools have a Code that includes full public disclosure, living wage language, women's rights, the right to organize, and basic health and safety rights.

The Code included with the WRC document is not required for all schools, but it is recommended. Schools that decide to adopt the WRC Code of Conduct as their school's official code should indicate so in the sign-on letter.

2. Is a living wage provision required for any school wishing to join WRC?

Yes, the enforcement of a living wage is required in WRC's Code of Conduct, but the WRC recognizes that further research is necessary before a living wage is implemented. Joining WRC does not require the immediate enforcement of a living wage, but rather a commitment to fully participate in studies such as the Living Wage Coalition coming out of the Madison Symposium. Todd Whitmore, an administrator from Notre Dame, is coordinating the Living Wage Coalition and can be reached via e-mail at: Todd.D.Whitmore.1@nd.edu.

Once a living wage has been more thoroughly studied and there is general agreement about the best way to calculate a living wage, WRC will require its members to implement a living wage in context-specific ways, as advised by the WRC governing board.

3. Can schools appoint anyone they wish to be their administrative representative to WRC?

Yes. The WRC prefers if the administrative representative does not have a vested financial interest in the college or university's licensing operation. However, if a school believes that they will be best represented by a licensing official, they are free to appoint whomever they choose.

4. What is the governance structure of WRC?

WRC's main decision-making body is a 12-person governing board. The advisory board will appoint 6 members, USAS will appoint 3 students, and member schools will elect 3 college or university representatives. The governing board, in turn, will hire an executive director and a professional staff. A full list of the WRC advisory board, as well as those organizations that have endorsed WRC, will be available soon on the USAS website:

<http://www.umich.edu/~sole/usas/>

5. What is the financial structure of WRC?

WRC is currently beginning the process of obtaining 503(c) status as a non-profit organization. Membership dues, when collected, will be managed by the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility until WRC obtains non-profit status.

6. Will WRC have a founding conference?

USAS is hoping to organize a founding conference in the spring of 2000. More information on the conference, and about WRC, will be available in late January.