

PRESS RELEASE

Progressive Faculty Network Recommends UNC Withdraw From the Fair Labor Association and Join the Workers' Rights Consortium

In a meeting on Friday, March 24, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's Progressive Faculty Network (PFN) voted overwhelmingly to support the position of the UNC's Students for Economic Justice (SEJ) on sweatshop monitoring.

PFN declares that the University should:

- withdraw now from the Fair Labor Association (FLA),
- join the Workers' Rights Consortium (WRC),
- participate as a full member in the WRC's founding conference on April 7, 2000, and
- immediately implement WRC requirements.

PFN believes that at this time the FLA's structure, which gives corporations a great deal of power over the determination of acceptable working conditions, is inadequate and unlikely to promote movement toward real social and economic change for textile workers around the world. The WRC aims to create a coalition among universities, students, workers, and grass-roots social justice movements. Because the WRC puts workers' rights to a living wage and humane working conditions before corporate profits, it offers the University of North Carolina a chance to be part of a progressive struggle for social change.

Progressive Faculty Network
March 28, 2000