

Decision

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But more than the FLA or the WRC itself, Frohnmayer said Tuesday's decision was made to ensure effective compliance with the University's Trademark License Code of Conduct, which sets standards for the conditions under which University apparel is made.

"The code of conduct remains our central focus," Frohnmayer said. "The sub-question is how to monitor compliance."

For now, that question will be answered by the FLA and the WRC, both of which monitor labor conditions in factories producing apparel sold through many universities. The University will have simultaneous membership in both groups, a plan that about 15 other schools are currently trying.

Frohnmayer admitted at the press conference that he considered joining both groups last spring, but said

the FLA has recently made great strides to change its practices, including a new university advisory committee. He added that he reviewed student input from last year about both groups and decided the FLA had changed enough to warrant University inclusion.

"The FLA is not the same organization that existed in spring," he said.

Both the FLA and WRC have their critics, but the administration and the student activists who fought last spring for the WRC are at odds about which group is best. The WRC had its first national meeting in July in New York City, and is not as far along in the organization process as the FLA, which is closer to being able to monitor the working conditions in factories. But student leaders adamantly disagree with Frohnmayer's statements that the FLA has changed and removed the apparel industry's influence on the FLA board, the primary complaint about the organization.

"The FLA cares more about facto-

ry owners than factory workers," ASUO President Jay Breslow said.

The University president's decision was also prompted by an interim report compiled this summer by the University Senate Review Panel, which was appointed to oversee committee concerns with membership in the WRC. The report, presented to the president on Monday, recommended that the University not bind itself to one organization.

The review panel comprises four faculty members and no students, but the licensing code of conduct committee that recommended Frohnmayer join the WRC last year had student representation.

Frohnmayer said the addition of the FLA would help to enforce the conditions of the licensing code of conduct and "not lose momentum by betting on one horse."

He made his decision to join the WRC last spring after almost a year of recommendations from the licensing code of conduct committee and the University Senate and a 10-

day student protest on the Johnson Hall lawn. A week after Frohnmayer signed on, Nike President and CEO Phil Knight, a University alumnus, pulled his personal donations from the University.

Frohnmayer said Tuesday that he made a courtesy call to Knight to inform him of the FLA decision but it remains unclear whether Knight will give money to the University any time in the future. Kirk Stewart, vice president of corporate communications at Nike, said the FLA decision does not change Knight's philanthropic association with the University.

"The FLA has made dramatic moves in monitoring issues," said Duncan McDonald, University vice president for development and academic affairs, who attended the WRC's national meeting in New York City earlier this summer. The next WRC national meeting is scheduled for Oct. 2.

In Tuesday's press conference, Frohnmayer also stressed that the

change doesn't signal the beginning of the end for the WRC's ties with the University, and Breslow agreed.

"This decision [to join the FLA] will remain on an entirely different track," Frohnmayer said. "It was not meant to undermine the University Senate review process [of the WRC]."

The choice to join the WRC and Knight's reaction brought national attention to the University. In contrast, Tuesday's decision came quickly and with much less publicity, although Frohnmayer stressed that he took the recommendations from the past weeks and months under consideration. Many who supported the WRC last year were also vocally against joining the FLA, and Frohnmayer said he reviewed those comments again before making his decision.

But he also made it clear that, ultimately, the choice to join was his to make.

"At some point, the buck does stop at my desk," he said.

Reaction

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commonplace for the new student body president every time another development breaks with the worker's rights issue on campus.

Members of the Executive definitely know what they're angry about — the decision itself, the timing of Frohnmayer's sudden announcement before the entire student body was on campus and the time it will take away from other projects — but they aren't exactly sure what the next step is.

"Since it was dropped on us, it

changes everything," Breslow said. "We need some time to decide."

Breslow was one of hundreds of students who spent the start of spring term last year protesting in front of Johnson Hall for Frohnmayer to join the Worker Rights Consortium, a newer group similar to the FLA that monitors factories where University apparel is made. In contrast to the WRC, the FLA has gained credibility because it has been established longer.

For Breslow, the lack of a dialogue in Frohnmayer's decision to sign on with the FLA has been the biggest disappointment. He said students were not directly involved

with the decision to join the FLA, even though Frohnmayer wrote in a March 29 Emerald column that the answers to the labor issue "must be found by all of us, working together."

"All of a sudden, 'ding,' we were with the FLA," Breslow said. "But there's a key piece left out and that's students."

Frohnmayer said he looked at previous complaints with the FLA from last year and thought the group had changed enough since then to warrant the University's approval and inclusion.

Breslow was also critical of the president's decision to announce

the University's membership with the FLA before the fall school term began and while student activists are busy with other projects.

"He could have announced this earlier in the summer or in one week," he said. "There is no pressing issue that dictated us signing on with the FLA this week."

Both he and Magner admitted they are worried about the impact Frohnmayer's decision will have on relations between the offices of the student and administrative presidents.

"It's very difficult to work with someone you're frustrated with," Magner said. The FLA decision has

diverted her attention from the ongoing voter registration campaign for the November election and from educating students on local and national issues.

Magner said the Executive cannot take a stance on the various political issues so they have to work with the administration to get as much information to the students as possible.

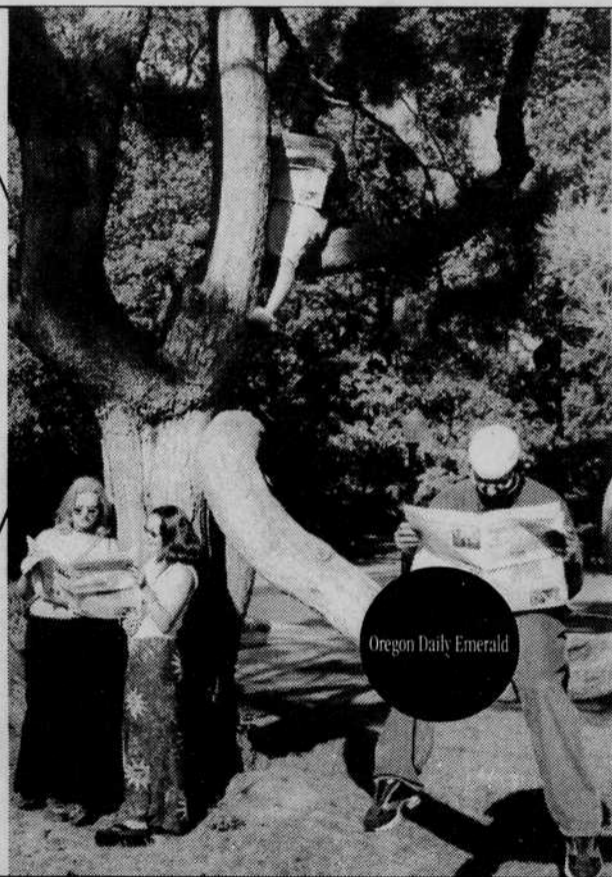
"We're all working together as a coalition and this is derailing the entire project," she said.

The FLA decision has also left the Executive office to better define its

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THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON TO PICK UP THE ODE

Read between classes.



Notice of student position opening Fall 2000 Student Programmer/Computer Support Office of Resource Management

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