



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Phyllis M. Wise, Interim President

January 3, 2011

Mr. George Chavel
President and Chief Executive Officer
Sodexo North America
9801 Washingtonian Boulevard
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dear Mr. Chavel;

A group of students at the University of Washington has raised a number of concerns about Sodexo's treatment of its employees and about Sodexo's management of contracts and pricing for schools it serves. Among the concerns raised are a class-action lawsuit involving African-American employees, a number of alleged OSHA violations over the past ten years, and a lawsuit with the state of New York over pricing issues. In general, the student group has expressed concerns about fairness to employees and integrity in dealing with client institutions. The University of Washington is contracted with your company to provide concession services at our several athletic venues. Our student group is asking the University to terminate the contract because of these various concerns.

Before considering their request, I told our students I wanted to hear from you. I have told them that we have had no such complaints here at the University of Washington with regard to our contract with your company. In return, our students have asked whether the University of Washington has an obligation to do business with companies that operate at a certain ethical standard, regardless of whether the alleged questionable practices occur here at the University or elsewhere around the globe.

Therefore, I would like to provide you an opportunity to respond to the concerns our students have raised. I would be interested in knowing how you have addressed worker complaints and claims filed against you, in particular what steps, if any, you have taken to address problems when identified and what mechanisms you have in place to deal with complaints. I am also interested in your perspective on the pricing issue that formed the basis of allegations made by the state of New York in its lawsuit filed against your company. Any information you can provide to show how your company is working to address these matters and to improve business practices would be helpful to me as I consider our students' petition.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis M. Wise
Interim President

cc: Ms. V'ella Warren