



University of Pittsburgh

*Community Relations Committee
University Senate*

1234 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260
412-624-6504/6505 • Fax: 412-624-6688
E-mail: usenate@pitt.edu

**Community Relations Committee Meeting
March 24, 2020
12:00 Noon-1:30 PM
Zoom Video Conference
University of Pittsburgh**

Minutes

Attendees: Victor Bench, Wanda Wilson, Lina Dostilio, Jamie Ducar, Paul Supowitz, Judy Callan, Jennifer White, Mavis Rainey, Marissa Arlet, Jacob Kariuki, Georgia Petropoulos and David Salcido

Regrets: Amani Attia, Dasia Williams, Tim Coleman, Dominic DiSanto, Kenneth Batista, Andrea Kriska, Mary Beth McGrew, James Williams III, Kenneth Thompson, Hannah Green, Eric Macadangang, Amanda Ritchie, Mariarosaria De Rosa, Kelly Gilliam

Presiding: Jennifer Cousins and Shenay Jeffrey

I. Call to Order: 12:34

II. Welcome and introductions

First CRC zoom meeting! We took a few minutes to see how everyone is doing during this health crisis and to see how everyone is transitioning to an online only world.

III. Review of February meeting minutes

February 2020 CRC minutes have been accepted

IV. COVID-19: How is everyone doing? What are ways that everyone is coping? What can we learn from each other?

David Salcido: There are numerous resources available on the Pitt website to help with the transition to an online structure. In regards to mental health issues that are an important consideration during this time, the University Library system has acquired digital copies of an *Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Moods and Madness* by Kay Jameson. A question about availability to online meeting vs. in-person for the CRC meetings was raised. Jennifer White and Judy Callan would like to continue with zoom meetings after the social distancing restrictions have been lifted. Meetings via zoom are more

convenient for people who have trouble getting to the physical meeting. We will work on having in-person meetings with zoom functions next year.

V. Updates from Senate Committee

General update on the move to online courses and what that entails for students. For instance, there are different options for grades for students this semester. A P/F option is available for students, given the tremendous upheaval they have faced mid-semester.

VI. Updates from Community Relations Liaisons and Engagement Officers at Pitt

There is a continuation of reaching out to community partners throughout the city. Planning is going on to briefly train a core of volunteer IT support people for our neighbors. CGR is working with the Office of Pitt Serves to find other people/students who can help with IT navigation. There is a city wide Buddy Program through Pittsburgh Cares. People can request a buddy for help during this time or volunteer to be a buddy. Pittsburgh cares is also pursuing a city wide coalition Level 1 program which involves the recruitment of basic level volunteers who would do wellness checks via phone. A level 2 program involves deputies to volunteer locally to share online information with their neighbors. The goal is to have a robust set of offerings for Pitt people to volunteer and contribute to the community. Pitt is also responding to donation requests and aiding in emergency operations coordinator.

Pitt Serves: working together with CGR for a volunteer management system. Using social media engagement strategies to involve the people of Pitt. Pitt be-a-good-neighbor day was held online, mostly through Instagram with Pitt Students. There are numerous engagements online with students who are doing a lot of volunteer work.

VII. Updates from Community Pro-tem Members and Partners - OPDC, OBID, Oakwatch, CHS, Peoples Oakland and OTMA.

OPDC: Wanda Wilson: OPDC is offering services remotely. School to career staff is offering classes via zoom and coordinating schedule of presenters that can speak to all of the students via zoom. Students can still work on drone pilot work, Microsoft work, SAT prep. They are in the process of determining which students would be able to provide service opportunities with high school students and provide check-ins twice a day. Also working with outreach via phone with seniors who are aging in home and may need help with daily activities, like grocery shopping.

OBID: Georgia Petropoulos: Many Oakland restaurants open for take-out and delivery. There are numerous promotional information out there stating that local restaurants are still in operation. There is a push to get the word out. There are programs with UPMC to get connected with the employees, for restaurants to do drop offs for delivery. Local restaurants want to provide food delivery to the Pitt community as well. The Oakland Cleaning program is still up and running. Here is the website with helpful information, <https://onlyinoakland.org/>

OTMA: Mavis Rainey: OTMA continues to provide information about commuter social distancing tips and tips for working from home. Port Authority reducing transit service by 25%, most of the reduction was in express services, and service now looks more like weekend service. A list will be provided on the website. As of now, there are no restrictions on travel. Psp.pa.gov to check for restrictions on travel. Construction and private development has come to a halt in many areas. OTMA website: <http://www.otma-pgh.org/>

VIII. New/Other Business

Updates from Oakland Planning Meeting: David Salcido and Mavis Rainey: Questions arose as to how the process will proceed given the current climate. This is an ongoing question that the committee is addressing. The March meeting was held on Wednesday the 25th with zoom. General concerns are still about the representation of the members of the committee and if the Oakland population is being sufficiently represented. There is a lack of diversity on the steering committee and a need to reach out to the diverse communities as well as address the loss of minority groups in the community and around Pittsburgh. During this climate, resident groups of the committee may have more options to engage between meetings to get prepared for the next steps.

IX. Adjourn

1:22 PM

Next CRC Meeting: Tuesday April 21, 2020 12:30 -2:00pm Video Conference