

University Senate Research Committee Meeting
7 April 2017
1:00 PM
156 CL

In Attendance: E. Chasens, K. Cole, L. Distilio, K. Erickson, K. Fike, L. Hartman, M. Goodhart, R. Melhem, P. Morel M. Redfern, P. Smolinski, T. Soska, P. Supowitz, N. Spice, M. Spring, L. Terhorst, and J. Williams

M. Redfern stated that the Chancellor's office is still working on revisions to the intellectual policy document. He said there was a successful call for seed grants in the areas of 1) research and diversity, 2) Central Research and Development Fund and 3) sustainability and international research.

P. Morel stated this meeting will be devoted to community base research, introduced Assistant Vice-Chancellor L. Dostilio who is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement. She asked if M. Goodhart could make some introductory remarks on community based research.

M. Goodhart mentioned that from the previous Research Committee meeting on community based research, the topics raised included community engagement versus research, the value of community based research in tenure and promotion, and institution challenges related to development, coordination and approval of community based research activities.

L. Distilio introduced herself as coming from Duquesne University being the Director of the Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research. She is on the editorial board of the journal Metropolitan University. She stated the community engagement includes different initiatives with components in teaching, research and service. She provided a document (attached) showing the variety of engaged scholarship and the overlap between teaching, research and service. She discussed that her priority will be the Community Engagement Centers being developed at the University. These will follow a place based community center model, will have sites in the Hill District and Homewood and will focus on neighborhood based work. The Center staffing will include a center Director, administrative support student workers. The Centers will have space for research activities, education and storage

P. Supowitz stated the Centers will have about 10,000 sq. ft. and will have classroom space, office space for pro-bono legal work, business counseling, a youth wet lab and storage space. The Centers will also be family friendly.

M. Spring mentioned that in addition to the place based model, there is a need at the University for other non-neighborhood support for example in dealing with the city of Pittsburgh or the many local governments.

P. Supowitz stated the Office of Government Relations can be of some help in dealing with the city of Pittsburgh and local governments.

T. Soska mentioned that at the University there is the Academically Based Community Engagement (ABCE) group which is a self-constructed ad hoc group that is involved in the discussion of ideas and issues in community based engagement.

It was recommended that the Research Committee hold a meeting in the fall on the status of community based research at the University.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Patrick Smolinski and Penny Morel.