



# 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](mailto:usenate@pitt.edu)

**Community Relations Committee Meeting**  
**September 28, 2021**  
**1:00pm – 2:00pm**  
**Zoom Video Conference**  
**University of Pittsburgh**

## **Minutes**

Attendees: David Givens, Robin Kear, Kris Kanthak, Jammie Hammond, Anne Hays, Stephanie Mutchler, Nikita Chakraborty, John Maier, Sefakor Agbemadzo, Victor Bench, Marissa Arlet, Donovan Harrell, Lina Dostillo

Presiding: Shenay Jeffrey and LaMonica Wiggins

I. **Call to Order:** 1:00pm

### **II. Welcome and Introductions**

First CRC meeting of the semester. We welcomed new members and introduced new leadership within the committee. Started off with an icebreaker – Name, University Affiliation and What makes you feel cozy in the fall?

### **III. Senate Council Update**

**Robin Kear:** New Senate President; will be serving for 2 years. Currently working on forming a dependent care adhoc committee. Adhoc committee will be brought before the Faculty Assembly for a vote on October 6 2021- looking for a 2 year commitment to making dependent care more accessible A chair for this adhoc committee has been identified and will be announced at the vote. Also involved in the Resilience Steering Committee and Budget Restart Meetings. The new RCM Budget model will be piloted after chancellor approval. Any faculty eligible to vote about the union should vote- there are two weeks left. I'm here to help elevate your concerns, please reach out.

**Kris Kanthak:** New Senate Vice President; will be serving as executive committee liaison to this committee. Political Science department faculty and currently involved in community engagement research in Fayette County.

#### **IV. Updates from Community Relations Liaisons and Engagement Officers at Pitt (10 mins)**

**Shenay Jeffrey:** Civic Action Week starts Monday, October 4, 2021- this is an initiative out of Pitt Serves and the Engagement & Community Affairs Office. We need your support promoting these events. Opening ceremony on Monday will feature university leadership - Dr. Lina Dostillo, Dr. Clyde Pickett and Dr. Carla Panzella will be talking about Pitt's civic and community engagement. Community kickoff with Neighborhood Allies and 1 Hood Media in conversation about advocacy and disruption. Throughout the week there will be speaker workshops and service opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

**Lina Dostillo:** ECA Office Rebranding -The Office of Community and Governmental Relations up until recently were coupled together. However, our community engagement work at the university has been accelerated over the last couple of years with the addition of the Community Engagement Centers, the last plan for Pitt and community affairs work in the upper hill. This new branding of the Office of Engagement and Community Affairs will continue the visibility of the university's community engaged work and steward the community aspects of the new Plan for Pitt. Lina also provided updates on Wellsfest and permitting process for block parties in the city and parking permitting issues in the Oakland community.

#### **V. Updates from Community Pro-team Members and Partners - OPDC, OBID, Oakwatch, CHS, Peoples Oakland and OTMA (10 mins)**

No community pro-team or partners present

**Shenay Jeffrey:** OTMA update from Mavis Rainey via email – New regulations introduced by city council around the use of e-scooters and the new Port Authority of Allegheny County master plan covers the next 25 years of transportation through 2045. Report released in June 2021.

#### **VI. New/Other Business**

**LaMonica Wiggins:** The Community Engaged Scholarship Forum is looking for volunteers to serve on the planning committee for the March 2022 conference. Health and housing equity, research and broader impacts and environmental justice are the themes for next year. Folks are needed for 3 working groups: Proposal and Content Development, Audience Development and Marketing, Awards and Nominations. Volunteers can express interest by emailing Julia Spears directly or by visiting [www.cesf.pitt.edu](http://www.cesf.pitt.edu) to sign up. The Community of Practice will meet on October 6 with the theme Environmental Justice.

**Shenay Jeffrey:** Discussion and updates on student return and impact on COVID protocols and the larger business community and neighborhood. Wellsfest happened recently and there was an impact of student/community relations as a result.

**Robin Kear:** Students had a city permit for Wellsfest. The new Dean of Students recently hosted events on how students can be great neighbors to the residents of Oakland.

**Shenay Jeffrey:** Discussion on updating our vision and mission plan for this committee.

**LaMonica Wiggins:** We recently met with the new leadership of the Faculty Senate to discuss the expansion of the vision and mission for this committee. The university is increasing its work within the community and our committee is uniquely placed to offer support, guidance, resources, programming in that area. Our committee can work on educating faculty on how to do community-engaged work. Want to bring to the group for larger conversation for our next meeting.

## **VII. Adjourn**

1:49pm

**Next CRC Meeting: October 26, 2021 1:00pm-2:00pm Video Conference**