Community Relations Committee Meeting
The University Senate charge of an examination of Anti-racism and Black Lives

The community relations committee is comprised of faculty and staff representation from across various schools within the University of Pittsburgh, liaisons from Community and Governmental Relations, Community Engagement, Community Relations, Facilities Management and City/County Relations at the University and a number of pro-team members and partners from the Community. The pro-team members include representation from OPDC (Oakland Planning and Development Corporation), OBID (Oakland Business Improvement District), Oakwatch, CHS (Community Human Services), Peoples Oakland and OTMA (Oakland Transportation Management Association).

The mission of our committee is to understand how the University operates within and serves the surrounding community. We share a commitment to the development and maintenance of bidirectionality between the University and the community.

In our first meeting of the 2020-2021 AY, we discussed the charge placed by the senate on issues of race, equality, and justice. In our conversation a theme of accessibility and a theme of awareness emerged. Accessibility reflects the ways in which the community has access to the University, this may include University spaces, such as libraries, gyms, or food establishments. Access to information and resources about local high schoolers getting into Pitt or workshops on building local businesses. And even access to transportation. Awareness reflects the need for the community to know of and feel welcome utilizing community-based programs that the University currently provides.

Given these two important areas, we are implementing an Ask of Pitt evaluation. What are the concerns of the community and what does the community Ask of Pitt in regards to accessibility and awareness.

Action Plan Outline:
1. Meeting with the Community and Governmental Relations department, including the directors of the CEC in Homewood and in the Hill District.
   a. Conducted by the co-chairs: Shenay Jeffrey and Jennifer Cousins
2. Complete a SWOT evaluation on areas of accessibility and awareness
   a. Completed by members of the committee
3. Reassess the vision of the CRC to encompass community engagement and inclusivity goals with our pro-team partners.