

**Senate Community Relations Committee Meeting
Minutes
February 16, 2010**

Attendees: Denise Chisholm; G. Reynolds Clark, Vice Chancellor of Community Initiatives; Marian C. Hampton; Susan B. Hansen, Senate Liaison; Peter Hart, University Times; Linda Hartman; Alexa Jennings, Student Government Board; Wesley M. Rohrer, Co-Chair; Tracy Soska; John Wilds, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Community Relations; Wanda Wilson, Oakland Planning and Development Corporation; Steve Zupcic, Community Relations.

Old Business:

Minutes from CRC Meeting of November 17, 2009: Minutes for the November 17, 2009 were distributed and approved.

New Business:

Co-chair Remarks:

- Denise apologized to anyone who didn't receive an invitation to the combined Senate Community Relations Committee and Senate Commonwealth Relations Committee luncheon in December 2009. There were apparently two lists of people to invite, and some people were missed when the invitations were sent out.
- Denise reported CRC activities at January Faculty Assembly session. Denise notes there was a discussion about salary benchmarking, and noted the February 4, 2010 University Times article "Regional salary benchmarking: Faculty claim marginalization" (<http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=11103>).
- Denise noted that the scheduled meetings have deviated from the initial calendar of topics. The upcoming March 16 meeting was planned to have been held at the new Hill District branch of the Carnegie Library or University Prep Academy. At this time we're planning to meet at Hillman Library for the next meeting. Denise reminded members about Pitt Day in Harrisburg on March 23, 2010.

Oakland Trash and Property Maintenance (Mr. Carlino Giampolo)

Wes/Denise reviewed the information provided with the agenda:

- http://www.napawash.org/resources/peirce/peirce_7_22_07.html
- SOUL Program
- Neighborhood Improvement District

The committee discussed the information; CRC members and representatives from Community Partners identified programs currently addressing maintenance in the Oakland Area.

Community Service Events: Steve Zupcic reported on several upcoming community service events:

- Haiti "Bucket Brigade" -- Started with 500 buckets, but response from the University community was great -- upwards of 1200 buckets filled with essentials. Final collection of the buckets will be this week.

- Collection of Crutches/Canes/Walkers for Haiti – There is a great need for canes, crutches and walkers to aid disabled survivors in Haiti. Pitt is working in conjunction with Global Links to collect donated canes, crutches and walkers. Please bring these items to the GSPH auditorium by March 3, 2010. Steve will be sending out a postcard to all Pitt employees publicizing this collection.
- Oakland Food Pantry – The Food Pantry is currently serving 86 families per week, with an increase of five families per week. Participants of the Pitt Weight Race are being asked to get people to donate \$1.00 to the Food Pantry for each pound lost. Gifts of money allow the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank to purchase food in bulk at a greatly reduced cost -- \$1.00 in cash roughly translates to \$3 to \$4 dollars in purchasing power. This event will conclude in April, and then in April the Chancellor's Challenge will match dollar for dollar any Pitt donations to the GPFB.

University Update: John Wilds reported his office has been active with the Oak Hill Associations' education committee and employment committees. Pitt students have been informally tutoring students who live in the neighborhoods, and Pitt is working to formalize this program. Wes asked if there was any need for adult literacy program, and John thought there might be.

Student Government Board Update: Alexa noted that she now officially the Governmental Relations chairperson for the SGB, as well as the SGB students representative to the CRC. SGB is working on a University-wide students food drive, perhaps involving some form of competition between groups. Alexa felt the Dining Dollar donation drive did well last year, and she's meeting with Sodexo to organize the program for this year. Steve mentioned that all Pitt donations will be counted toward the "local" GPFB pantries. Alexa mentioned that SGB members will be participating in the Pitt Day in Harrisburg, and that SGB is encouraging Pitt students to join in the effort.

Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) – Tracey discussed the new effort to look at COPC as a center of excellence for community engagement. An alumnus of Pitt has been approached about making a gift endow COPC. There is still a great need to get Pitt faculty and students to give back to the Pittsburgh community, and COPC projects offer that opportunity. COPC is working to build on existing relationships in local neighborhoods like the Hill, Uptown and Hazelwood, while seeking new opportunities in other Pittsburgh neighborhoods. Projects are currently on a small scale, but Pitt is working to enlarge both the number and size of the projects. University Senate President Michael Pinsky is a strong advocate of such community engagement, and has contacted representatives from each Pitt school or department to invite them to join in the effort.

Future Meetings:

Next CRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. in 272 Hillman Library.

Submitted March 10, 2010
Marian Hampton