

Senate Community Relations Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 15, 2011

Attendees: Carolina Almarante, Oakland Planning & Development Corporation; Genevieve Barbee, Community Health Services; Denise Chisholm; Laurie Cohen; Mary Davidson, Oakland Business Improvement District; Marian Hampton; Peter Hart, University Times; Bruce Rabin; Tara Sherry-Torres, Oakland Planning & Development Corporation; Patricia Weiss; John Wilds, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Community Relations.

Old Business:

Minutes from CRC Meeting of February 15, 2011: Denise Chisholm asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2011, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

New Business:

Co-chair Remarks: Co-Chair Denise Chisholm reported that Co-Chair Martha Terry submitted the proposal for the fall 2011 Plenary, and the committee is waiting for approval from University Senate President Michael Pinsky. Immediately after receiving approval, the committee would start planning the event, and coordinate the event date with the schedules of the Provost and the Chancellor.

University Update: John Wilds reported that the men's basketball team was ranked as the #1 seed in the NCAA finals. The University administration is deeply concerned about the public education funding cuts within the Governor's proposed budget. The State Senate will be conducting hearing on this issue tomorrow, and the Chancellor and Provost are going to Harrisburg to present the case for increasing state funding levels to the University. The work on the Chevron addition is moving along well, with the work on the internal systems close to completion. The Benedum renovations are in progress, and the ground preparation work on New Salk Hall is under way. Work on Bouquet Gardens is well under way, with an intended completion date of August. The new 500 student freshman residence hall at 121 University Place is in the approval process with city planning and zoning. The building plans include first floor retail spaces, a second floor student wellness center, and perhaps plans to move the Student Health Service into the building. Magee Hospital will start an expansion project in April 2011.

Community Service Events: Steve Zupcic was unable to attend this meeting, so John Wilds delivered the Community Service update. Steve's office is in the process of planning the Pitt Partners food drive in cooperation with the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and the Oakland Food Pantry. Steve received an inquiry about a relief drive to assist the victims of the March 11, 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami. The Community Relations Office is looking into a fund drive somewhat similar to the Buckets for Haiti drive held last year.

One Pittsburgh Update – Laurie Cohen and Genevieve Barbee:

Laurie and Genevieve attended the brainstorming/concept mapping sessions with the emphasis on neighborhood engagement, and submitted notes from those meetings. The sessions focused on themes of safety. Over several sessions, participants generated a list of safety issues, distilled this list into categories, and developed action recommendations for each category.

New Business – Oakland 2025 Project:

Tara Sherry-Torres from the Oakland Planning & Development Corporation reminded CRC members about the Oakland 2025 planning project which will start on March 24, 2011, from 6pm-8:30 pm at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 South Dithridge Street. At that meeting, community members will work within facilitated discussion groups to identify community goals, and then these members will work to enact goals identified during the discussion process. Tara and Carolina demonstrated the process to CRC members by conducting an abbreviated discussion group activity with CRC members.

Future Meetings:

Next CRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2011, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. in 272 Hillman Library.

Submitted April 13, 2011

Marian Hampton