

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

Attendees: Genevieve Barbee, Community Human Services; Ken Batista; Denise Chisholm; Dina Ciabattini, Community Human Services; Laurie Cohen; David Givens, GPSA; Ed Galloway; Marian Hampton; Peter Hart, University Times; Sandy Phillips, Peoples Oakland; Bruce Rabin; Tracy Soska; Martha Ann Terry; Adrienne Walnoha, Community Human Services; Patricia Weiss; John Wilds, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Community Relations; Wanda Wilson, Oakland Planning & Development Corporation; Steve Zupcic, Community Relations.

Old Business:

Minutes from CRC Meeting of October 19, 2010: Minutes from the October 19, 2010, were distributed and approved.

New Business:

Co-chair Remarks:

Martha Terry recapped highlights from the October 19, 2010, tour of Children's Hospital. Denise updated the committee on recent Faculty Assembly news. Denise submitted to Faculty Assembly a committee update. The CRC was approached to host the Senate Plenary in fall 2011. Community-engaged research was proposed as a possible topic, and the CRC is currently awaiting Assembly approval for the topic. The Senate Admissions and Student Aid Committee noted in their report that surveyed freshman and sophomore instructors reported seeing a decrease in student writing skill quality.

University Update: John Wilds reported that work on the Bouquet Gardens complex should be completed for the fall 2011 semester, and will include the Chevron Hall addition. The work at the Peterson Complex is progressing well, with the field surfaces being laid by the end of the year. The Salk Hall addition will be a six story addition built in the rear parking lot of Salk Hall, and a 500 bed residence hall on 121 University Place is in the design phase. The former Children's Hospital in Oakland will be leveled and turned into a temporary greenspace while planning and design work is in process for a new construction.

GPSA Update: David Givens from the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly reported that Pittsburgh City Council declared September 2010 as "Student Civic Engagement Month". This recognition resulted from the organized student opposition to the proposed tuition tax, and was approved by Council in hopes of encouraging more student involvement in city governance. GPSA has also created an online petition in supporting the Port Authority's efforts to secure more state funding. The petition is available at <http://www.gpsa.pitt.edu/portauthority>.

Community Service Events: Steve Zupcic reported on a number of community service events. The Community Service Database now listed over 1800 programs involving a

community service component. The community Day of Caring had over 350 Pitt volunteers. The Christmas Day @ Pitt has over 1000 volunteers expected to serve dinner. Anyone interested in working at the Project Bundle-Up telephone bank at WTAE contact Steve directly. Tracy Soska reminded committee members about the Purposeful Gathering for Homeless Children tomorrow, Wednesday, November 17, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Lawn in Oakland.

Community Partners Reports: Co-Chairs Denise Chisholm and Martha Terry had invited any interested community partners to join the meeting and update CRC members on the activities within their respective organizations.

- *Oakland Planning & Development Corporation:* Wanda Wilson reported that the OPDC has formed a steering committee to help guide the Community Planning Process. This process will start in the spring with a series of open discussions designed to involve a variety of Oakland community, business, organizational and institutional members. The accompanying urban design analysis plan is slated to be completed by fall 2011. OPDC's School 2 Career program currently has 22 students involved in an after school program, and Wilson notes that several Pitt students act as tutors for the program. The program is very successful, and there are plans to double the student enrollment in the program next year. The JobLinks job readiness program is also being expanded to serve more community members. Wilson also noted the 82 units of OPDC-owned rental housing, the Fraser Farms greening initiative and the Keep It Clean Oakland (KICO) litter pick up campaign. Finally, OPDC is looking into new approaches to address problem properties and resident student behavior issues.
- *Peoples Oakland:* Peoples Oakland is a recovery program for those with serious mental or substance abuse disorders. Sandy Phillips reported the Peoples was participating in the Center for Disease Control's ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and Environmental Change) Program which encourages building healthy communities focused on overcoming chronic disease.
- *Community Health Services:* Adrienne Walnoha and Dina Ciabattone reported that the Oakland Food Pantry received \$16000 from the University of Pittsburgh to help them buy shelving, refrigerators and freezers for the pantry. The Pantry at 370 Lawn Street is staffed heavily by Pitt and Carlow University students. The After School program offers students tutoring after school 3 days per week. CHS was also involved in the Sleep-in for the Homeless, the weekday Smile-N-Dine lunch program, free computer literacy classes, and is currently working on funding outreach nursing for homeless health care.

Future Meetings:

Next CRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2011, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. in 272 Hillman Library.

Submitted January 12, 2011
Marian Hampton