

**Senate Community Relations Committee Meeting**  
**12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Room 272, Hillman Library**  
**October 18, 2011**

**Attendees:** Genevieve Barbee, Community Human Resources; G. Reynolds Clark, Vice Chancellor of Community Initiatives; Denise Chisholm; Laurie Cohen; Mary Davidson, Oakland Business and Improvement District; David Givens, GPSA; Maggie Folan; Marian Hampton; Peter Hart, University Times; Linda Hartman; Tracy Soska; Martha Ann Terry; Tara Sherry-Torres, Oakland Planning & Development Corporation; Trevor Smith, Community Human Services; John Wilds, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Community Relations; Gwen Watkins, Community Relations.

**Old Business:**

Minutes from CRC Meeting of September 20, 2011: Martha Ann Terry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2011, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

**New Business:**

Co-chair Remarks: Co-Chair Martha Ann Terry reported on the University Senate Faculty Assembly meeting of October 4, 2011. The Book Center will be totally renovated starting April 2012. The Book Center is currently surveying faculty and students for suggestions and feedback concerning what services and items the Book Center should offer. The survey is linked within the Communities menu at <http://my.pitt.edu>.

Co-Chair Laurie Cohen reported that the Plenary Committee has received several poster submissions for the Plenary Marketplace, and eleven have been accepted so far. The Senate Fall Plenary will run from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., with the Marketplace and Poster Session to be held from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. The CRC Co-Chairs will be meeting with University Senate President Michael Pinsky next week to finalize the remaining details for the Plenary. Tracy Soska mentioned that two of three panel speakers have been confirmed; the third has not responded to repeated contacts and Tracy is starting to arrange for another participant for the panel. He is seeking someone who has performed service learning research projects within the sciences.

Laurie Cohen discussed the proposed May 2012 CRC field trip to visit a community partner or project site. Laurie asked how many CRC members had received the online survey she sent out via email, and some members noted they had never received it. Laurie agreed to resend the email.

Finally, Martha Ann and Laurie have been contacted by Mr. Carlino Giampolo regarding concerns about noise and trash in Oakland, and they have referred Mr. Giampolo to John Wilds. Mr. Giampolo took out an advertisement in the October 13, 2011, issue of the *University Times* about his SOUL program. He would like the University to pay for the program.

University Update: John has talked several times with Mr. Giampolo on this subject, and has stated that the University is willing to work with a consortium of concerned community groups, rather than with Mr. Giampolo alone. Dr. Wilds noted that OPDC has a very effective trash pickup/clean-up program. Pitt has responded to complaints about trash and excessive partying by meeting with community groups. Some Pitt students were in attendance at these meetings, and many of the students said they were unaware of the difficulties they were causing.

City Councilmen Peduto and Kraus met with officials from Pitt, CMU, and other local educational institutions to discuss how to help students understand the impact of their behavior on the community. The University contacted several student organizations and fraternities/sororities before Homecoming, and asked these groups/organizations to spread the word about celebrating responsibly. Pitt has stepped up police patrols in Oakland neighborhoods, and so far in the semester, there have been no police calls.

John also reported that construction is underway for the foundation of the new residence hall across from Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall; completion of construction is slated for August of 2013. One outside wall of the Graduate School of Public Health building has been removed in preparation for construction of the new addition. The Chevron Hall renovation is almost complete. The Salk Hall addition is continuing; work is being done to stabilize the hillside behind the hall due to the presence of abandoned mines within the hill itself.

Oakland 2025: Tara Sherry-Torres of the Oakland Planning & Development Corporation reported that the next stage in the Oakland 2025 project is starting. There will be four design workshops held in Oakland neighborhoods to facilitate further input into the project, and a presentation of the final plan on November 17, 2011, at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Student Updates: David Givens reported that the GPSA received the League of Women Voters' Good Government Award. GPSA is also promoting the new O'Hara Student Center located at 4024 O'Hara Street. There will be a Sleep-In for the Homeless event in Schenley Park on Friday, October 21, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

David noted that the GPSA executive board is considering formalizing its relationship with the CRC and the Governmental Relations Committee, and this will probably take the form of an elected position within GPSA. Tracey moved for the CRC to investigate the formal addition of elected student representatives on the CRC. Linda Hartman raised the question of whether student representatives on the CRC would have voting rights, and suggested the CRC explore this question. John Wilds seconded Tracy Soska's motion to investigate the formal addition of elected student representatives on the CRC, and Martha Ann Terry asked for a hand vote of CRC members. Motion was accepted.

Community Service Events: Gwen Watkins reported that 300 people participated in the University's 2011 Day of Caring. The Community Relations office is wrapping up its

work on this year's Project Bundle-Up. Gwen notes that the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank has moved its monthly Food Bank distribution date from the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, and has seen increased participation due to the change. Gwen also reminded CRC members of the Christmas Day @ Pitt event, the Sockathon, and the Hat & Glove projects.

Community Updates:

Community Human Services – Genevieve Barbee reminded CRC members that they can still register to participate in the Sleep-In for the Homeless, and that 250 have preregistered. The Oakland Food Pantry has seen an increase in demand, and a rise in emergency appointments. CHS has received funding from the United Way to fund the 2012 “Money in Your Pocket” free tax preparation program for low-income individuals. CHS is also gearing up for its Giving Tree project whereby donors can purchase gift cards from local businesses to give to CHS clients. Trevor Smith reported that he met with City Council on October 18, 2011, and all nine council members showed their support for more affordable and safer housing by issuing a Will of Council.

Oakland Business and Improvement District – Mary Davidson reminded everyone of the Oakland 2025 final presentation event. She also mentioned that OBID is working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Oakland Restaurant Week where several eateries will feature lunches for \$5.00. David Givens asked if there were any reaction to the changes in parking meter costs. Genevieve noted that as of September 22 through January 1, 2012, on-street parking meter rules will not be enforced after 6 p.m., but enforcement will return to regular levels on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.

Mission Statement Revision: Martha Ann and Laurie asked the CRC about any revisions to the current CRC mission statement. Any changes or revisions would be presented at the next University Faculty Assembly meeting. The committee discussed several revisions to the mission statement. After some deliberation, Tracy Soska moved for approval, John Wilds seconded, and all attending CRC members approved the following revisions to the CRC mission statement:

**MISSION:**

The Senate Community Relations Committee observes, engages in, and promotes relationships between the University of Pittsburgh and its many external communities.

**GOALS:**

In the three-fold mission of the University (Teaching, Research, and Public Service), community interfaces are frequent and deserve careful consideration and response. Therefore, the goals of the Community Relations Committee are to:

- understand and communicate the mutual needs and benefits of the University and its communities at their points of intersection;
- increase collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh's Community Partners.
- maintain awareness of activities; and

- report its findings and recommendations at least annually to the Senate.

**Future Meetings:**

Next CRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011, from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. in 109 Parran Hall.

Submitted November 12, 2011  
Marian Hampton