



University of Pittsburgh

Community Relations Committee
University Senate

1234 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260
412-624-6504/6505 • Fax: 412-624-6688
E-mail: usenate@pitt.edu

September 20, 2011

Rm 272, Hillman Library (2nd floor conference room)

Noon to 1:30 pm

Attendees:

Genevieve Barbee, Community Human Services; Laurie Cohen; Mary Davidson, Oakland Business Improvement District; Maggie Folan; Peter Hart, University Times; Linda Hartman; Patrick Loughlin; Tara Sherry-Torres, Oakland Planning & Development Corporation; Bruce Rabin; Tracey Soska; Martha Terry; Gwen Watkins; Patricia Weiss, John Wilds.

Old Business:

Laurie Cohen called the meeting to order at 12:10. Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and approved

Martha Terry reported that plans are moving ahead for the Fall Plenary, Nov. 10, in the Union. Kevin Jenkins of the Pittsburgh Foundation has been confirmed as the keynote speaker; two teams have responded affirmatively to participate in the panel discussion; Tracy Soska will follow up with a potential team from Engineering. By the CRC's next meeting, tasks needing to be completed will be identified for volunteers from CRC. GSPH will provide foam boards and easels for the poster session.

New Business:

John Wilds reported that Pitt's Chancellor and selected University participants met with the State Appropriations Committee to discuss recent budget cuts and to highlight the educational and economic impact that the University has on southwestern Pennsylvania. The Committee will be meeting next with Temple University administrators and faculty.

Martha Terry reported on the Faculty Assembly meeting, where she delivered CRC's annual report. Also of note from that meeting were changes made in the format of Faculty Assembly minutes, so that items that require action are easily monitored. At the October 4 meeting, Rush Miller would present on the proposed Open Access system. Pictures of students are now available through faculty course rosters; and issues of printing when individuals have "dual citizenship" will be explored.

Tracy Soska raised the issue of a visually impaired student who wants to create a student group around disabilities and would like to speak at our November meeting. This segued into a conversation about the schedule of topics for the coming year, which is as follows:

October – Plenary planning; November – Student interested in disabilities; December – no meeting – members are urged to volunteer time with a favorite cause; January – report from Renny Clark and John Wilds on issues from the administration and Harrisburg; February branch campus conference call (TBD); March – community partner updates; April – Oakland 2025 update; May – field trip (site TBD); June – planning for 2012-2013. Laurie will design an on-line survey to determine the destination for the field trip; sites include United Cerebral Palsy, Blind and Visual Services, Kingsley Association, Hill District YMCA, one of the branch campuses, Wadsworth Hall in Oak Hill, Hill House or the First Tee in Schenley Park.

Gwen Watkins reported on University participation in the United Way Day of Caring, which involved over 260 University members and included work at Canterbury Place, The Urban League, Rodman Baptist Church, Naomi’s Place and Cliffside Park.

John Wilds gave updates from his office:

Pitt is now part of the Atlantic Coast Conference. With regard to construction, Bouquet Gardens is complete, Salk Hall construction is moving forward after soil stabilization took place, razing of UCSUR on University Place is complete and construction will begin on a new 578-bed dorm with first-floor retail space; Pitt’s Student Health and Counseling services will also be moved to this location. By 2013, Pitt will have over 8000 beds on campus for undergraduates, with the goal of decreasing the need for sub-standard housing in other areas of Oakland.

More disruptive partying is reported among residents living in Oakland. The University is working with Oakland groups to address the issue. Bruce Rabin asked about the impact of two new dorms on the CMU campus on partying in the area.

Community Partner Announcements:

Tara Sherry-Torres of OPDC briefly updated the group on Oakland 2025 and called for participation in “walkshops and workshops” to get input. There are two action teams – code enforcement and Rock Alley-Lawn Street Overlook, to create a trail connected to the Eliza Furnace Trail. There may also be a Transportation action Group. The final report should be out in January.

Genevieve Barbee announced CHS’s Sleep-In for the Homeless on Oct. 21, her advocacy activities, CHS’s holiday gift card drive and the Love Your Block Project. The CHS Food Pantry received \$6000 from Pitt; the pantry serves 250 people/month, which includes 75 new households every month. The number of families with young children and senior households is increasing.

Mary Davidson of OBID reported on the international “Parking Day” movement and related activities here in Pittsburgh. She also announced the “Eat Smart” initiative, a collaboration of OBID with Pitt’s Nursing School.

Additional Items:

Linda Hartman raised the issue of the lack of street numbers on University buildings, making it difficult to direct public safety vehicles such as ambulances to locations where first responder attention is needed. John Wilds suggested that she contact Homeland Security to discuss what could be done.

Johns Wilds reported that UPMC would be holding a second meeting about changes to the Montefiore/Presbyterian site. Plans are to tear down the Blue Building, which will necessitate that several medical school departments be relocated.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2011, Noon to 2 pm

Submitted by Martha Ann Terry, Co-Chair, and Genevieve Barbee, October 16, 2011