

Senate Community Relations Committee Meeting
Minutes
April 19, 2011

Attendees: G. Reynolds Clarke, Vice Chancellor of Community Initiatives; Denise Chisholm; Laurie Cohen; Marian Hampton; Peter Hart, University Times; Tracey Soska; Martha Terry; Tara Sherry-Torres, Oakland Planning & Development Corporation; Patricia Weiss; John Wilds, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Community Relations; Steve Zupcic, Community Relations.

Old Business:

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

New Business:

Co-chair Remarks: Co-Chair Denise Chisholm mentioned that Faculty Senate standing committee elections opened today. University Senate election results were Faculty Senate President: Michael Pinsky, Vice President: Patricia Weiss, Secretary: Linda Frank. Provost Beason spoke to the Faculty Assembly about the Middle States accreditation process. Plenary Update: Denise and Martha narrowed the possible plenary date to a few dates in October, however Meredith Minkler may not be available on those dates. The plans are to have a keynote speaker, a discussion panel of community researchers, and a community organization “marketplace”. Denise and Martha anticipate having more details for the May CRC meeting.

Denise noted that her term on the Community Relations Committee will end on June 30, 2011, and she encouraged members to think about sharing committee co-chair duties. Denise is planning to continue on as a pro-tem member.

Oakland 2025 Kickoff event: Tara Sherry-Torres of the Oakland Planning & Development Corporation shared news of the Oakland 2025 project. The kickoff event at St. Nicholas drew over 200 people, far more participants than expected. From this group 86% of attendees signed up for the study circles. The study circles are currently happening, and most will wrap up their work in the next week or so. Then OPDC will start coding the data collected from each group, and present the data at an Action Forum on May 12, 2011. Already there are many consistent themes emerging from the discussions – transportation, grocery stores, absentee landlords, community public education. At the Action Forum event participants will start making recommendations and form action teams.

University Update: John Wilds reported that the Pitt Day in Harrisburg had over 600 participants – faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members. Students from all five Pitt campuses went to Harrisburg to present to local state congressmen the case for increasing state funding levels to the University. Representatives from Penn State and the State System schools also held lobbying events on the same day. Renny Clark noted

that the lobbying process was on-going, and Senate and House committees were working to come up with recommendations for the state budget. Finally, John mentioned that the Peterson Sports Complex opened April 12, 2011, and that the event was very successful.

Community Service Events: Steve Zupcic reported that the April Food Drive was going well. All virtual donations to the drive would be fully matched by the Chancellor's Challenge. Physical food collections were ahead of last year's totals, but the virtual drive was being emphasized due to the efficiency of the virtual donations and the fact that the cash donation matches essentially doubled the donation. 100% of the collected drive funds would go to food purchasing. Steve also noted that he was working with the East Asian Studies Department to hold a fundraising concert for tsunami/earthquake relief. Donations collected during this event would go to the Brother's Brother Foundation's Japanese quake relief efforts. The Pittsburgh International Children's Festival will be held on campus May 11-15, 2011.

Future Meetings:

Next CRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. in 272 Hillman Library.

Submitted May 16, 2011
Marian Hampton