

Senate Community Relations Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 16, 2010

Attendees: Genevieve Barbee, Community Human Services; Denise Chisholm, Co-Chair; Sabina Deitrick, GSPIA; Susan Hansen, Senate Liaison; Alexa Jennings, Student Government Board; Matthew Reinhart, Peoples Oakland; Wesley M. Rohrer, Co-Chair; John Wilds, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Community Relations; Steve Zupcic, Community Relations.

Old Business:

Minutes from CRC Meeting of February 16, 2009: Distributed and approved.

New Business:

Co-chairs Remarks:

- Wes provided a brief overview of the Faculty Assembly meeting (2/23/10). The primary agenda items were reports by the Bylaws and Procedures Committee and the Sustainability Sub Committee, and completion of discussion regarding the Regional Campuses Benchmarking Group for Salaries. Future Senate Meetings: Faculty Assembly 4/6/10 and Senate Council 4/14/10.
- Denise noted that planning was in process for the April CRC meeting and as soon as the meeting agenda/location is finalized the CRC members will be notified.
- Wes reported the resignation of CRC member Burhan Gharaibeh. The Bylaws state, in a vacancy, the person from the most recent election who had the next highest number of votes, is asked to fill the unexpired term. Margaret Rosenzweig, School of Nursing, has agreed to complete Burhan Gharaibeh's term which expires June 2011.
- Denise/Wes reminded members of upcoming events: Commonwealth Relations Committee Luncheon, Johnstown (3/19/10) – luncheon guest is Representative Bryan Barbin; PITT Day in Harrisburg – Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Unfortunately both Denise and Wes have teaching commitments on Fridays and will not be able to attend the Luncheon with Representative Barbin on March 19th. John Wilds reported that there are three buses scheduled to take faculty, alumni and students to the PITT Day in Harrisburg. Alexa Jennings reported that two information sessions were held to promote student participation. Student representation at the event is targeted for 55-60 students, which is a significant increase from 2009 when the event included 18 students. The CRC members commended Alexa for her efforts in increasing student involvement.

Community Service Events: Steve Zupcic and Alexa Jennings reported on several upcoming community service events:

- Collection of Crutches/Canes/Walkers for Haiti – over 200 assistive devices were donated to Global Links. Donations are still being accepted.
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank – The Annual Drive in April 2010 is being promoted as “The No Nonsense Food Drive.” It includes a virtual food drive. Individuals will be able to identify the campus they are affiliated with so that their donation will support local food distribution efforts (e.g., donations from

the Oakland Campus will support the Oakland Food Pantry). The Weight Race includes online donations with the goal of \$1 per pound lost. The Annual Drive is also being supported by the Chancellor's Challenge of a matching contribution based on food donated. The PITT Student Organizations are being encouraged to participate and "Compete for the Cause" by registering the student organization to fill donation boxes, donate monetarily, donate Dining Dollars, and creatively fundraise to collect donations. Prizes will be awarded to student organizations based on the tier level they achieve. Reminder of future Mass Food Distribution dates for this term: March 25th, April 22nd, and May 27th.

Community Education Events – Denise referred members to the attachments included with the agenda regarding upcoming events:

- The Third Annual Service-Learning Symposium & Showcase Event – March 24th
- Cosa Lunch-Time Conversation with Documentary Filmmaker John de Graaf – April 5th

University Update: John Wilds invited everyone to the dedication of Crossroads Park (Corner of Darragh and Terrace Streets) on Friday, April 9th from 11 am to 1 pm.

Student Government Board Update: Alexa Jennings reported on Community Service Events (see above) and also stated that she is actively trying to find a replacement for her as the SGB Representative. The CRC Co-chairs and members commended Alexa on her active participation in the CRC.

Community Engagement for Research, Teaching and Service (CERTS) Update – John Wilds reported that the program includes representation from the following Schools – Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, and Social Work. Discussions have been initiated with the following community organizations – Woman's Shelter and Homeless Education Fund.

Presentation: Sprout Fund Grant for Public Art

Matthew T. Reinhart, BS – Counselor at Peoples Oakland, shared information about Peoples Oakland and the Sprout Fund Grant for Public Art project and application. Matthew has coordinated the submission of an application for a mural on the Peoples Oakland building (3433 Bates Street). Matthew invited the CRC to have representation at community meetings for artist selection and design if their application is selected. Denise/Wes will be writing a letter of support on behalf of the CRC to be submitted with the application. If selected, the mural/project would be completed in October, 2010. Visit www.peoplesoakland.org and www.sproutfund.org for more information on Peoples Oakland and the Sprout Fund Grant for Public Art.

Future Meetings:

Next CRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, from 12:00 – 2:00 pm.

Submitted March 22, 2010

Denise Chisholm, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA