

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

April 25, 2005

DRAFT

Present: John Besl, Roberta Campbell (Board Liaison), Mary Ann Hamilton, Michael Maloney, Ann McCracken, Phillip Obermiller, Kay Russ, Tammy Schwartz (Chair), Margaret Shank, Maureen Sullivan (Executive Director), Debbie Zorn,

Research activity updates:

Mike reported that the fourth edition of the Social Areas Report has been presented many more times than any before. One presentation included the Uptown Consortium. Also, the website has received many, many hits both from direct access and from the link to the UAC website. Some regional city managers have expressed an interest in an analysis of those municipalities outside of Cincinnati. Mike also plans to refine the particular chart on neighborhood conditions that is included in the report.

Kay's dissertation on the effects of culture on career choices in Goshen, Ohio, is progressing and she recapped her work for new committee members. She used several measures of Appalachian identity including the question regarding whether respondents have people in eastern Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, and other areas that most urban Appalachians come from. On the question of whether a person identifies themselves as Appalachian, fifty percent reported that they did.

Maureen updated the current direction of the Urban Appalachian Council. As funding sources have become reduced, the four program areas have been turned into two: 1) Community Education and Services and 2) Community Outreach and Advocacy. The Council is also exploring questions of where Appalachians are as neighborhoods change and what community connections can be made.

Phil also noted changes in the migration streams from, in and around Appalachia. The streams of Appalachians who came in the 40s, 50s, and 60s to work in industry in the Midwest and east have changed to fewer migrants coming in this direction and many Appalachians returning to the region. The streams are shorter, more focused and those moving into the area are better educated with higher incomes. Those who return to the region tend to be less educated and poorer. However, the southern subregion of Appalachia is booming.

Tammy was funded to do some work in Oyler School on the 8th grade curriculum in the Arts. She also has an article that was published (will be?) in the *Journal of Adolescent Perspectives and Literacy*.

Tammy also suggested that at a future meeting (or another venue) the committee members might want to discuss the issue of Appalachian identity and connection to place within a global society.

Mike announced his retirement from Catholic Social Services in June.

Update on the Appalachian Studies Association:

Phil is editing a special edition of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* that has several articles by Appalachian scholars who have analyzed the 2000 census. The expectation is that this edition will be published around August, 2005. Phil highlighted some of the findings. Single-female-headed households with limited opportunities in poor counties are essentially “locked in” and immobile, thus explaining persistent poverty. Latino populations in Appalachia are growing and so are African Americans. However, the region is overwhelmingly white. Students receiving high school diplomas are at their greatest rate in Appalachian history and are on a great trajectory. College degrees lag behind the nation, however, due in part to students having to compete nationally with seats in Appalachian colleges. Also, poverty is associated with home ownership in Appalachia, because it also creates immobility.

Phil also noted that the deadline for submissions to the March, 2006, Appalachian Studies Association conference is October 1st.

Additional Business:

The committee examined the list of research papers and talked about whether to create some kind of research bulletin. Tammy, Ann, Maureen, Mike, and Roberta will meet in June to discuss what kind of venue a research bulletin should take and how should information on research be disseminated.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be held on June 27 at 10:30. Tammy will present her analysis of the focus groups study conducted for UAC.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell, April 25, 2005