

**URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**September 18, 2009**

**Present:** John Bryant, Roberta Campbell, Desirae Hosley, Rebecca Lee, Michael Maloney, Ann McCracken, Kay Russ, Louise Spiegel, Maureen Sullivan, Debbie Zorn

(Ann McCracken served as the chair of the committee as Bob Ludke was unable to attend.)

*Updates:*

Louise Spiegel, original chair of the committee, explained that she was glad to be back at the table. She wanted to explore how the committee can make connections to the community, particularly through cultural strengths of urban Appalachians. Mike referred to Louise as a “master practitioner of social networking”.

Maureen Sullivan introduced Desirae Hosley as an Americorps volunteer and her assistant. Desiree has been working on publicizing UAC’s events.

Rebecca Lee will speak to Roberta Campbell’s Integrative Studies seminar in November.

Ann believes that we should stay up to date on health care reform. The Health Foundation has posted information on the web at <http://reform.healthfoundation.org/>.

*Strategic Plan and Greater Cincinnati Survey:*

The committee discussed whether to participate in the 2010 Greater Cincinnati Survey and, if so, what questions do we need. Ann noted that the Greater Cincinnati Health Foundation will be conducting a survey next year also. She also suggested that we ask Bob, Phil, and Mike what questions should be asked and what other sources do we have?

The committee seeks connections by means other than lectures, presentations, and old-style Face to Face. UAC raises the question, Who Needs To Know and What UAC wants to know. Finding a strategic style that fits with the UAC core mission should guide future interactions. The next meeting will focus on dissemination opportunities looking again at strategic possibilities- where data can be found, collaborations to join, relationships to nurture. Each of these avenues already are engaged in by research committee members.

Questions regarding efficient uses of information followed with significant strong use of electronic mechanisms pointing the way. Additionally, UAC must explore connection more widely with youth and their social networking methods. Linking with established sites saves time and carries messages faster than going alone. Local/ regional influential institutions use very effective websites and interactive media devices to carry their message/ recruit/ and raise money. The next Research Committee meeting will focus on ways/ means to disseminate the Appalachian story; the culture, the people telling their stories, the “connection” and how its

history has been carried to the city. Louise noted that the strong possibility that the city would flourish if Appalachian values undergirded our future.

*Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell and Louise Spiegel on November 19, 2009.*