

# URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

September 22, 2006

## SECOND DRAFT

Present: Becky Bailey, John Besl, John Bryant, Roberta Campbell (Board Liaison), Bob Ludke, Bonnie Kroeger, C. Jeff Jacobson, Michael Maloney, Sherry Marshall, Phillip Obermiller, Maureen Sullivan (Executive Director), Debbie Zorn (Chair)

Debbie Zorn thanked the committee for choosing her as chair of the committee.

### *Research Updates:*

Debbie: The NIEHS report was completed this past summer.

John Besl: Has developed a data set for OASIS

Phil asked for help with compiling teaching materials on teaching Appalachian culture in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Roberta asked for him to share anything he found and he suggested that info could be put on the UAC website. Maureen thought this would be useful for the Mayerson Academy professional development. She has been talking to Rosa Blackwell about this.

John Bryant did some followup with Gear up students at UC. He is also working with the public library on the Library of Congress Veteran History Project which is getting interviews of people who served in the second World War. It would be good to get Appalachians involved and they can be interviewed at any of the Cincinnati library's branches. The Joyce Foundation is looking the distribution of teachers with regard to their qualifications in the state of Ohio.

Becky said that she would make herself and her students in her Public History Program at NKU available for research assistance. Her class is writing a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration booklet of the Appalachian Studies Association.

Jeff, among other projects, is working on the final year of an NIEHS grant to develop and implement an environmental genetics curriculum for Latinos, Urban Appalachians and African Americans.

Bob has resubmitted a proposal to the NIH to look at cardiovascular health among the Appalachian and African American communities in the City of Cincinnati. He, Jeff and Phil are working on a manuscript on using alternative questions for identifying Appalachians from the 2005 Community Health Status Survey. He noted that a faculty candidate from West Virginia University is working with UK to trying to define "Appalachian-ness". She has done focus groups in a southern West Virginia coal community and is interested in doing some additional focus groups on the subject. Bob has suggested that she pursue doing focus groups on urban Appalachians and indicated his willingness to partner in doing so in Cincinnati. Bob also submitted a research proposal to NIH on willingness to use hospice services.

Mike is working on the fifth edition of the Appalachian textbook and an article for the Northern Kentucky Encyclopedia.

Roberta and Maureen are continuing the gathering of oral histories of grassroots women leaders in the LPH neighborhood.

Maureen noted that Debbie Zorn had also been elected to the Board of the Urban Appalachian Council.

Sherry is working on her master's degree at UC and her research project will be a response to her family's "recovery" from the public school system.

*Newsletter:*

The *Appalachian Research Up-to-date* newsletter will be published in mid-November. It will be an online publication and Roberta will edit. Articles for inclusion should be sent to Roberta at [campbere@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:campbere@ucmail.uc.edu) by October 15. The newsletter will have general announcements, minutes of the research committee meetings, various articles, links to the UAC website, the Appalachian Connection, and other websites, and an invitation to upcoming committee meetings. The first bulletin will be sent to the larger research committee membership and then have a means of subscribing included.

*The direction of the Research Committee:*

Mike and Maureen outlined the origin of the research committee and led a discussion on future directions. Mike drew a timeline of the research on urban Appalachians that had been done in the past and noted that there had long been a connection between research and advocacy. He proposed that future research efforts might proceed from focusing on specific concerns (like health, education, employment, etc.) and then asking "what works?", "what needs to be done?", and "what research is needed?"

The committee created a subcommittee to explore conducting forums with activists and researchers around specific concerns. The first meeting of that subcommittee will be November 10.

The next Research Committee meeting will be November 17 at 10 a.m. at the UAC headquarters in Lower Price Hill.

*Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell, October 2, 2006.*