

Service-Learning Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday September 27, 2007 @ 10:00-11:00 am
LRC 507

Minutes

Present: Toni Sage, Michele Dickinson, Tim Krause, Scott Winn, Patricia Ploetz, James Sage.

After brief introductions, we discussed the following agenda items:

1. Review of new WiCC & VISTA grant

Michele distributed copies of the WiCC/VISTA grant that was approved and discussed a few of the key details. If you'd like an electronic copy of this grant, please contact Michele.

2. Service-learning events for the year

University Evening: Wed. Sept. 19 with Jeana Magyar-Moe (Psychology and service-learning)

This was a wonderful testament to the value of service-learning (okay, her presentation was about more than service-learning, but it was clear how valuable service-learning was to the whole project!).

SL Practitioners Meeting:

- Wednesday, September 12, 12:00-1:00 in LRC 414
- Wednesday, October 10, 12:00-1:00 in LRC 507
- Wednesday, November 14, 12:00-1:00 in LRC 507
- Wednesday, December 12, 12:00-1:00 in LRC 507 (final week of classes)

Brown Bag Discussions:

- Oct 19 @ 12:30 in LRC 604: Effects of Service-Learning on Student Learning and Satisfaction.
- March 21: Service-Learning from the Community Partner Perspective

Other Events:

- Field Trip to UW Eau Claire (still being arranged)
- January Teaching Conference: Global Citizenship (James & Michele will lead a break-out session on SL and global citizenship; we need to confirm this)
- Spring 2008 Reading Circles: Please recruit people who are interested (more details coming soon)
- Spring 2008 Service-Learning Colloquium PART 2 (Grants are in the works)
- Recruit and Promote Summer 2008 CAESE Curriculum Re-Design for SL
- Develop key projects to attract new SL faculty (Community Gardens, etc.)

3. Current "profile" of service-learning on campus

Michele is currently helping several professors with service-learning, including:

- Tim Krause (Computing / WDMD 270 and 480)
- Debbie Palmer (Psych 260 and 315)
- Jeana Magyar-Moe (Psych 270)
- Betsy Graham (biology 160 lab)

Surely, there are other faculty on campus who are using the principles of service-learning, but who do not call it service-learning (for whatever reason). Hopefully, we can create a cultural shift on campus to unify faculty who use service-learning. Employing the national definition of service-learning has numerous benefits for UWSP faculty and teaching staff. It will require patience and effort to create a campus consensus.

4. Creating a “vision” for service-learning on campus

Patricia reported that the Line Officers recently approved UWSP’s WiCC renewal and that they were pleased by the “data” we were able to provide with respect to the “value added” aspects of service-learning. It appears that ADMIN is beginning to appreciate fully the value of service-learning. This is very good news!

Part of this vision (as part of the “cultural shift” that must take place) includes creating a common definition of service-learning. This definition must be arrived at via consensus and participation (not a top-down mandate). The activities we have planned for this year (see above) will help to foster this. Eventually, we will need to focus on developing a campus-wide definition of service-learning.

Consulting the draft of the self-study, especially Criterion 5, may help to build this consensus. As members of the committee, we should try to see ourselves as ambassadors of service-learning, encouraging our colleagues to have an open mind, to be a resource for others, and to provide resources for others.

Committee members are welcome to direct inquiries to either Michele or James, or to refer them to the Service-Learning Steering Committee web page: <http://www.uwsp.edu/philosophy/jsage/slsc/>

James and Michele are working on recruiting additional faculty members to adopt service-learning (adopting both an individual strategy and a cluster strategy). We have a number of faculty in mind. If you know of anyone else who is quite interested and needs a bit more support and encouragement, please let us know!

Meanwhile, James and Michele are also attempting to create opportunities for faculty to get involved by creating “focal points” for projects, such as the Stevens Point Community Gardens (with Barb Grover). Having high-profile project sites may help to attract faculty to try out service-learning.

5. Additional steering committee members

Committee members are encouraged to keep their eyes and ears open for new committee members. We are looking for faculty and staff from a wide range of roles and capacities on campus. Currently, we are in need of tenured faculty members from outside the College of Letters and Science (though we’ll take anyone with some interest). Committee members need not be using service-learning in any of their courses.

Future SLSC Meetings:

- Thursday October 25 @ 10 am LRC 310
- Thursday December 6 @ 10 am LRC 507