

Service-Learning Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2006 3:30-5:00 pm
LRC 507

Meeting Minutes

Present: Patricia Ploetz, Diane Bywaters, Michele Dickinson, Shari Ellertson, Rachel Hildebrant, Toni Sage, James Sage.

The meeting began with a brief introduction of Toni Sage, welcoming her to the committee.

Discussion:

1. Suggestions for new members and other important service-learning contacts on campus.

This list is the result of collective brainstorming about who might be valuable people to include in our service-learning efforts (either on the committee itself or at least as a “friend” of the committee).

- Larry Riggs and Perry Cook (Education)
- Jeana Magyar-Moe and Debbie Palmer (Psychology)
- Good folks from the math department
- Tom Wetter (Health Promotion and Human Development)
- Jasia Steinmetz and Annie Wetter (Dietetics) and the Director of CPS Café (who is this?)
- Karyn Biasca (Paper Science, after the accreditation busy-ness)
- Lori Richardson (early childhood education, on-campus childcare)
- Univ. Relations / Development / Alumni Assoc (Todd Kuckkahn)
- College of Fine Arts and Communication, Foundation Director (Kristin Duckart)
- Study Abroad / International Programs (Eric Yonke or Mark Koepke)
- Grant Support Officer (does anyone know her name?)

2. Discussion of long-term sustainability of having a Service-Learning Coordinator

Patricia outlined a variety of strategies for funding/supporting a service-learning coordinator.

Options through WiCC & VISTA:

- i. Renew current VISTA position (requires renewing WiCC membership and cost-sharing for post-three-year support; renewal can be either under the “old rules” or the “new rules”).
- ii. Keep WiCC membership and apply for NEW VISTA position(s) tied to significantly different project descriptions. Here, the VISTA proposal (for 3 additional years) would revolve around a particular theme, project, or academic topic.

Other options for funding a service-learning coordinator (compatible with the above):

- iii. Request UWSP administration for a full-time position to be created under the CAESE.
- iv. Write service-learning position(s) into outside grants (such as the 21st Century Learning Centers grant [details below]).

3. Campus conversation regarding the definition of Service-Learning

The group discussed possible strategies and timelines for generating a campus-wide conversation about working definition of service-learning. We discussed the need to include as many people and departments as possible in this conversation and not rushing the process. The group would like to see a definition adopted by the end of the academic year so that it may be used in connection with service-learning course redesign over the summer. The group liked the definition currently being used and feels this would be a good starting point.

We also discussed the various benefits of having a campus-wide definition, including the benefits of going through the process of generating a definition for UWSP. These benefits included:

- Raises awareness of service-learning, increases willingness to incorporate service-learning (leading to curricular re-design, enhancement of learning, careful measurement of learning, etc.)
- Opens up funding opportunities for faculty (aware of grants, prepared to be competitive)
- Links service-learning to the mission of UWSP, and this can help to legitimize service-learning in the eyes of administration (and this can lead to greater willingness to fund such efforts)
- Allows data to be collected about service-learning (a common definition will allow us to track, analyze, and justify service-learning activities)

The group discussed various strategies for beginning the process, including: a series of “brown-bag” discussions in the spring, a break-out session at the January teaching conference, small group activities during the February Service-Learning Colloquium, etc. We still need to come up with a concrete plan for developing a campus-wide definition of service-learning.

4. New Service-Learning Opportunity

Diane Bywaters and others are working with local elementary schools on “Garden Learning Club” idea that would open up numerous service-learning opportunities for UWSP. This idea is tied to a 21st Century Learning Center Grant that will be submitted in conjunction with Jefferson Elementary and Madison Elementary, as well as the Boy’s & Girl’s Club. (See attached “brainstorming” document for further information.)

5. Meeting days/times for Spring 2007:

We have tentatively set a meeting for **Thursday, January 18 at 2:00 pm** (the day after the annual teaching conference).

At our next meeting, we’ll discuss possibilities for our regular meeting times for Spring 2007.

Announcements & Up-coming Events:

- February 16, 2007: Day-long teaching colloquium on service-learning. More info here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/acadaffairs/caese/Conferences/ServiceLearning/index.htm>
- Spring Semester 2007 Brown Bags:
 - February 2nd 1:30-2:30, LRC 507 “Connecting to the Community”
 - March 2nd 1:30-2:30, LRC 507 “Funding a Service-Learning Course”
 - April 6th, 1:30-2:30, LRC 507 “Creating effective Reflection for Service-Learning Projects”