

Service Learning Task Force Minutes  
February 24, 1998

Present: Deborah Block, Kelly Bryan, Kevin Chun, Sally Gelardin, Kuni Hay, Roberta Johnson, Jack McLean, Patrick Murphy, Chealsea Nather, Tom Nazario, Maureen O'Sullivan, Susan Prion, Roberta Romeo, Lori Varlotta.

The minutes of the February 10, 1998 meeting were approved as written.

Jack McLean announced that the Campus Compact Grant could be amended and expanded to make all faculty legible for faculty incentive grants. The issues of whether it should be expanded and, if so, how was assigned to the Faculty Incentive Grant Committee.

Chealsea Nather was introduced as the undergraduate student representative to the task force. A graduate student has been invited, but we are waiting for a response.

Several members of the task force can not meet on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. After a brief discussion of alternative meeting times, it was decided to poll the entire task force to determine what would be the most convenient time to meet.

Deborah Block has accepted the chair of the Faculty Incentive Grant Committee. Committee sign-up sheets were circulated for others to join. The current committee membership is as follows:

<u>Definition of Service Learning Committee</u>	<u>Assessment Tools Committee</u>	<u>Faculty Incentive Grants Committee</u>
Lori Varlotta, Chair	Susan Prion, Chair	Deborah Bloch, Chair
Betty Carmack	Kelly Bryan	Robi Woody
Sally Gelardin	Kevin Chun	Roberta Romeo
Tom Nazario	Patrick Murphy	
David Robinson	Tom Nazario	
Dayle Smith	Chealsea Nather	
	Lori Varlotta	

Lori Varlotta, Chair of the Service Learning Definition Committee, presented the following draft of a definition of service learning:

Service learning is a pedagogy driven by the curriculum that encourages students to learn and develop through an academic credit bearing experience which extends student learning beyond the classroom into the community. These thoughtfully organized

experiences are community supported and service oriented. Service-learning provides structured time to reflect on, enhance and apply what is learned through course work.

Discussion followed regarding whether service learning is a pedagogy, issues of quality control, the distinction between service learning and volunteerism, the meaning of "community based" and the fact that professors and service recipients also learn from the experience. Varlotta reported that the committee planned to develop goals to further delineate what service learning is and had considered giving concrete examples. It was decided to refer the definition and matters back to committee for further work.

The next meeting of the Service Learning Task Force will be Thursday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m. at a location to be announced. A regular meeting time will be discussed once task force members are polled.