

Service Learning Task Force Minutes  
March 5, 1998

Present: Deborah Bloch, Kevin Chun, Sally Gelardin, Kuni Hay, John Koeplin, S.J., Sara McGinley, Jack McLean, Patrick Murphy, Tom Nazario, Maureen O'Sullivan, Susan Prion, David Robinson, S.J., Roberta Romeo, Robi Woody, Lori Varlotta.

The minutes of the February 24, 1998 meeting were approved as written.

Sara McGinley and John Koeplin, S.J. were introduced respectively as Graduate Student representative and McLaren School of Business representative. A complete roster of the task force was distributed.

Task Force members were urged to complete their availability polls and return them to Jack McLean, UC 306.

Lori Varlotta, Chair of the Service Learning Definition Committee, presented a revised draft of a service learning definition. After lengthy discussion, the task force reached a consensus on the following definition:

Service learning is an instructional strategy that assists learning and development in an academic, credit bearing experience, that extends learning beyond the classroom and into the community. Service learning provides structured time to reflect on, apply, enhance and evaluate what is learned in the community. These organized experiences must be of mutual benefit to those served and the student providing the service.

Because of time limitations, a discussion on the committees suggested goals was deferred to a later date.

Susan Prion, Chair of the Assessment Tool Committee, suggested that a meeting be devoted to hearing the experiences of those faculty members who have done service learning at USF. She said her committee - and the task force as a whole - would benefit from knowing how and why they got started, the challenges they faced then and now and the benefits from using service learning.

Deborah Bloch, Chair of the Faculty Incentive Grant Committee, asked that we devote the next meeting to brainstorming about incentive grants. Her committee would welcome input from the entire task force. Because of the delay in formulating a definition, it has been difficult for her committee to formulate plans and criteria for faculty incentive grants. She suggested we slightly revise our time line to start publicity on Monday, March 16 but have the actual criteria and applications available later. All agreed.

The next meeting of the task force will be Tuesday, March 10 at 1:30 p.m.