

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



April 8, 2015

Service Learning Task Force

Michael Andrejasich, Architecture, *Chair*
Annie Abbott, Spanish & Portuguese
Adam Heinz, International Programs and Studies
Laurie Kramer, ACES
Bruce Litchfield, Engineering
Benjamin Lough, Social Work
Lisa Monda-Amaya, Special Education
Enrique Rebolledo, University YMCA
Sarah Zehr, Office of Public Engagement

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for serving on the campus Service Learning Task Force. The impetus to form this group has come from many directions, including a growing interest in and opportunities for international service learning, a strong sense of the importance of service learning as expressed recently in the Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education, and a meeting of service learning leaders on campus convened last spring by the Office of Public Engagement. Service learning can offer transformational experiences to our students, at the same time it demonstrates the university's commitment to local, national and global communities.

The task of your committee is to articulate the role of service learning in students' education, and identify actions to improve the quality, number, and value of service learning opportunities on our campus. To that end, we ask that your committee:

1. Summarize the main benefits of service learning to students, and connect those benefits to the characteristics of the most effective service learning courses and experiences.
2. Identify best practices for the development and implementation of service learning courses and extramural service activities that provide value to students, faculty, the university and communities they aim to serve.
3. Identify barriers to the development and implementation of service learning courses or other experiences, and recommend ways to overcome or reduce those barriers. Please consider both factors internal to campus and the relationships between campus units and external organizations.
4. Determine whether some campus-level structure(s) for service learning or coordination of service learning activities would be beneficial; if so, recommend a form that might take.

You may find it helpful to survey existing and recent service learning activities on campus, and describe the current state of service learning at Illinois. If you do this, please consider both course-based and non-course experiences as well as those experiences offered to students by University of Illinois Extension and other units with public service missions.

Your report can be concise, focusing on your main insights and your recommendations.

We ask that you do as much as you can toward your charge this semester, and provide a report by May 15, 2015. If your group should need additional time after that, we can discuss that in May. Thank you for contributing your time and energy to the work of this committee.

Sincerely,



Pradeep Khanna
Associate Chancellor for
Corporate and International
Relations



Reitumetse Mabokela
Vice Provost for International
Affairs and Global Strategies



Charles Tucker
Vice Provost for
Undergraduate Education
and Innovation