

Report to the University Senate

June 9, 2009

**Service Learning
Task Force**

Task Force Members

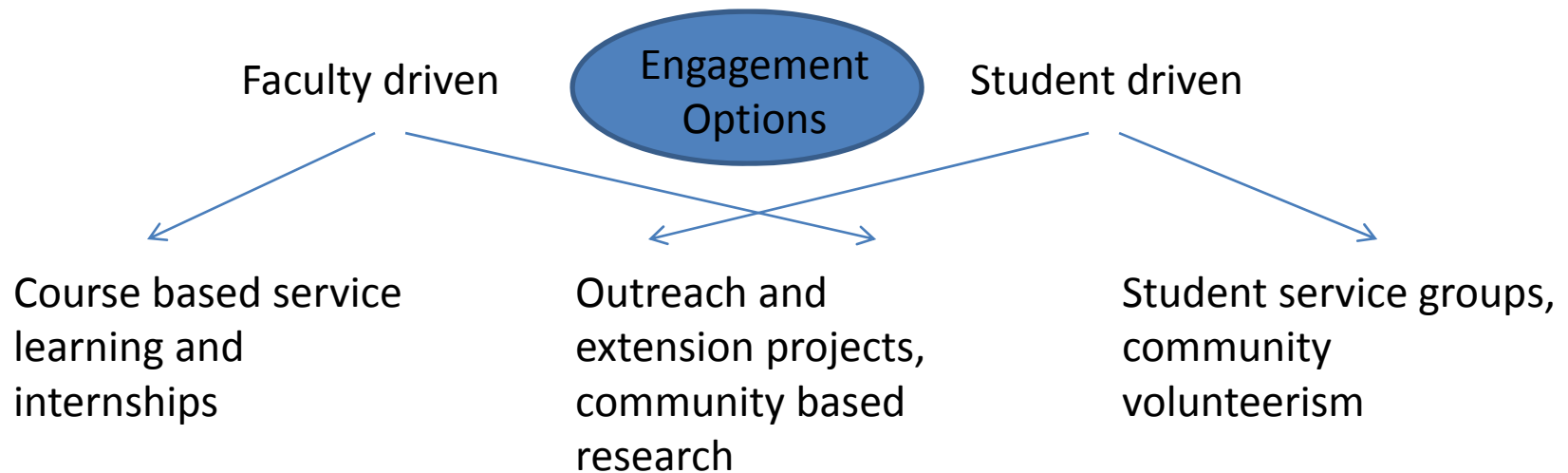
- Chair: Sharon Gaber, Office of the Provost
- Anne Adrian, ACES
- Royrickers Cook, University Outreach
- Paulette Dilworth, Access & Community Initiatives
- Patricia Duffy, Undergraduate Studies
- Ralph Foster, University Outreach
- Linda Glaze Undergraduate Studies
- Johnny Green, Dean of Students
- Jim Groccia, Biggio Center
- Paul Harris, Honors Program
- Paul Kittle, Greek Life
- Chris McClendon, ACES
- Nancy McDaniel, Educational Support Services
- Ruthanna Payne, Educational Support Services
- Karen Rankin, University Outreach
- Christa Slaton, College of Liberal Arts
- Gaines Smith, ACES
- Joyce Thomas-Vinson, University Outreach

Task Force Charge

- Respond to objectives for service learning in Auburn University Strategic Plan
- Define “service learning” options
- Review literature and best practices
- Assess Auburn’s current institutionalization of student engagement and capacity to expand it
- Identify policies, procedures and program development recommendations
- Outline an implementation plan

Definition of terms

- “Service learning” very specifically defined in literature as a course-based experience
- Strategic plan envisions a broader range of student service activities
- Task force defined a number of engagement options in three major contexts



Review of Literature and Best Practices

- Bibliography of engagement literature
- Analysis of programs at peer institutions
- Materials provided by Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
 - Auburn results from the *National Survey of Student Engagement*
 - *Managing Service Learning/Community Engagement*, Hanover Research Council report prepared for Auburn University

Review of Auburn's Capacity

- Guidelines for Carnegie “engaged institution” status
- Furco's self assessment rubric, based on the Kecskes/Muyllaert Continuums of Service Benchmarks
- Identification of currently designated service courses and enrollment
- Survey of academic administration and faculty
- Student focus groups

Estimate of Institutionalization

Dimensions and elements	Stage 1: Critical mass building	Stage 2: Quality building	Stage 3: Sustained institutionalization
I: Philosophy & mission			
Definitions			
Planning			
Alignment with mission			
Alignment with reforms			
II: Faculty support			
Knowledge, awareness			
Involvement			
Identified leaders			
Incentives			
III. Student support			
Knowledge, awareness			
Opportunities			
Identified leaders			
Incentives			
IV. Community Participation			
Knowledge, awareness			
Mutual understanding			
Identified partners			
V. Institutional Support			
Coordination/staffing			
Policy			
Funding			
Admin/Departmental support			
Evaluation/Assessment			

Drawn from "Dimensional Rubric for Institutionalizing Student Engagement"—Furco, UC Berkley, 1999

Recommendations

- Policy
 - Formalize definitions and establish service designation in course numbering system
 - Initiate process for designating service courses, programs
 - Qualify for Carnegie “engaged” classification, Campus Compact, others
- Pedagogy
 - Compile and distribute service engagement resource materials
 - Work with Biggio Center to initiate faculty development programs, symposia
 - Establish internal engagement grants for faculty
 - Coordinate with academic units and student organizations in developing new service initiatives
- Processes
 - Establish interactive web-based networking system for faculty, students, and community providers
 - Coordinate with Extension to integrate county service projects into system
 - Expand the base of community partnerships and service providers
 - Coordinate ongoing assessments with Institutional Research & Analysis

Implementation

- Provost Office designated offices of University Outreach and Access & Community Initiatives to develop an implementation plan
- Progress towards implementation to date
 - Reviewing responses to faculty survey and course census
 - Applied for spring Learn and Serve program development grants
 - Organizing faculty development sessions, competitive grants and student showcases for fall
 - System for interactive network installed and website established
 - www.auburnserves.com
 - 27 community service agencies recruited and posted
 - Extension partners coordinating entry of county-based projects into system
 - Distributed information through Camp War Eagle, and on campus
 - Institutional membership in Campus Compact established

Full report and implementation plan
posted at Provost's website:

www.auburn.edu/academic/provost