

Missouri Service-Learning Advisory Council Meeting
May 5, 2004
Peachtree Conference Center – Columbia, MO

Welcome: Chairperson Beth Nickle called the meeting to order at approx. 10:20 a.m.

Introduction of council members: The following council members were in attendance and introduced themselves to the group:

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| Judie Ashley | Angel Martinez |
| Heather Crawford | Scott Miniea |
| Maureen Cunningham | Beth Nickle |
| Chris Damron | Cherice Preiner |
| Nicole Downs | Alicia Riner |
| Donna Halsband | Janet Schuster |
| Steve Henness | Mel Schneider |
| Stephanie Hill | Julia Vargas |
| Jessica Lenoir | |

Vanda Easley, from the State Farm office in Overland Park, KS, was the council's guest.

Changes/approval of minutes: Scott will take over council chair duties in Sept. rather than November. The State Farm headquarters office is in Bloomington, Illinois, rather than Indiana. The motion to make the Consortium the council's fiscal agent passed. Judie moved to approve the minutes with the changes named above. Mel seconded. The motion passed.

Reports and updates:

Missouri Service Day: Alicia updated the council on Missouri Service Day. 425 people attended. The 185 Learn & Serve participants who attended were about half of last year's numbers, due to transportation issues and conflicts with spring break. Next year's event is tentatively scheduled for March 30, 2005. One idea is to start the event at 9 a.m. and have the awards ceremony first, since many school groups have to leave early. Several council members indicate that 10 a.m. would be more doable for groups starting out in the morning from long distances. It was also suggested that Capitol tours be added in again. Priorities for the event were discussed. Another idea for next year's event is to have the plenary session as a kick-off celebration that involves everyone, provided space is available to accommodate up to 600 people.

K.C. Service-Learning Conference: Julia spoke about the Peace Jam Slam event. About 100 youth attended. The event focused on advocacy and activism, and getting involved in "Rock the Vote" this election year. Next year's Nobel Peace Prize Laureate will be Jose Ramos-Horta from E. Timor. Nicole and Jessica shared about the "adultism" workshop they attended.

National Service Learning Conference: Council members commented on their conference experience in Orlando. Angel didn't feel this year's conference was a youth-oriented. Scott got a lot out of the advocacy sessions. Chris brought home a wealth of information. Peter Yarrow's "Don't Laugh at Me," session on antibullying was a hit. Project Success and G2G, a state-of-SL report summary (www.nylc.org) were also mentioned. Donna also mentioned that the American Assoc. of Colleges & Universities is researching the implications of service-learning on college students and depression. Jan showed the Missouri SL video to a group at the "rookie" conference

track. It was very well received, and at least 10 people wanted a copy. She encouraged the council to market the video as a fundraiser.

David Eisner's visit to K.C.: David Eisner, the new CEO of the Corporation for National & Community Service, visited Kansas City on May 4, in preparation for the Points of Light conference there in June. He wanted to see a SL site, and so Alicia was able to hook him up with Hickman Mills. Stephanie organized her students last minute, and Nicole gave a presentation for Mr. Eisner's visit. Council members discussed emailing David Eisner and Amy Cohen, director of Learn & Serve America, to follow up on what's happening with SL in Missouri.

Nonprofit Consortium update: The council's plans to finalize the St. Louis Nonprofit Consortium as its fiscal agent were retooled after some issues arose within DESE. The new plan will designate 5 council members to form the Missouri SL Partnership, which will begin looking for funding sources. The partnership members will remain a part of the council. The council voted unanimously by email to approve this plan. Bylaws are now in the process of being written. Members should follow up with the Consortium on registering the Partnership as a nonprofit with the Sec. of State's office, which will require a fee. The \$900 the Consortium still has from the Higher Ed group should still resort to the Partnership.

Service-learning legislation: Scott updated the council on how the passage of the SL legislation is progressing. He has testified 3 times. The bill has been to the Senate Committee and the House Education Committee, and after some ripples, has been packaged with two other measures and will remain on the House's consent calendar, which almost guarantees passage.

Summer SL camp/youth retreat: Stephanie indicated that two separate bid processes to 5 providers have yielded no responses. Alicia stated she is not allowed to contact providers once a bid is out. The council discussed ways to approach follow-up on bidding next time. The State Farm funding for the camp has been received, however it was unclear whether the money had to be spent this fiscal year. Vanda will follow up with the grants person to see if an extension is possible. Jan moved the council send out bids, beginning July 1, for camp during summer 2005, and then later amended the motion to include a council youth retreat late summer 2004 to begin planning for the camp. Mel seconded. The motion passed. Judie mentioned the Pallotti Center in St. Louis as one possible location for the camp and/or retreat. Westminster College was also suggested. Members were asked to email Alicia camp locations and contact names, as well as someone who can assist with setting up service projects locally. Approx. 75-100 people is the goal (50 middle schoolers, 12 high schoolers, and adult coaches).

Lunch break

Recognition: After lunch, Beth and Alicia recognized council members with certificates and committee chairs with gifts for their contributions.

Service-learning conference: The SL conference will be held separately from the Show Me State Service Conference this year. The SL coordinator conference will be Oct. 6-7 at Lake of Ozarks, and will focus on education coordinators need to be effective. The Learn & Serve conference will be for a wider audience, and more "fun." Oct. 14-15 are the dates decided upon, and Alicia is aiming for 125 participants. The location is also Lake of Ozarks. It will be open to all schools, even those not currently involved in service-learning. Jan suggested date saver cards be mailed out to everyone at the start of school year.

Schools going off Learn & Serve funds: Beth asked for suggestions on how to keep schools engaged who will be going off L&S funds at the end of the year. Council members from schools who are finishing said their SL programs will not go away, but will not function at the same level without grant dollars and a coordinator. Schools will mainly lose conferencing and networking opportunities. Scott suggested a mailing list of schools be maintained. Steve proposed possibly holding a “jumping off” workshop for exiting schools that would focus on resource development, and exploring a partnership with AmeriCorps*VISTA that would allow schools to place volunteer SL coordinators with non-funded programs. Judie suggested expanding media/communication efforts to make in-roads with audiences who can support SL. Chris wondered if the council could set up a fund to keep quality SL programs going. Beth asked the council to continue thinking about this issue over the summer, and bring ideas to the next meeting.

Council officers for next year: Officer nominees for next year are Scott—chair, Julia—vice chair, and Steve—secretary. Beth moved to approve. Chris seconded. The motion passed.

Meeting dates: Sept. 1 will be the first meeting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scott suggested committees hold a conference call sometime in October. November 17 will be the fall meeting. The first meeting of the new year will be Jan. 12. The spring meeting will be May 4. Thursday, July 29th was set for the executive committee retreat. Old committee chairs should plan to come.

Beth passed out council member commitment to serve forms for 2004-05, and membership nomination forms. Nomination forms should be returned to Beth, Alicia, or Scott.

Committee meetings:

Prof/Youth Dev. – the committee gets an “A” for effort on the SL youth camp! The newsletter needs to be revived. For next year, the committee will work on developing SL standards for Missouri, youth camp for summer 05, and a SL calendar with youth quotes. The committee also felt the council needs to work on integrating youth into the business of council meetings by activating a youth co-chair who will assist the chair with meeting preparation and facilitation.

Partners – the committee has focused on developing partnerships, and getting more CBOs to sign on this year. Next year’s goals include: getting the word out through the media, more tie-in to the MAP test, focusing on defining partnerships, revising the toolkit to be more agency-oriented, and providing mentors to new CBOs.

Advocacy – the committee promoted the National SL Partnership, passed legislation (pending!), and hooked up with the Consortium. Next year will involve promoting the website, advocating with MOACTE, exploring linkages with Character Ed, promoting the Missouri SL Partnership, selling the SL video, media outreach to KBIA, KWMU/Springfield/KC, marketing to former grant schools, assembling legislative packets, creating a reflection booklet mktg. package, laying groundwork for a higher ed SL bill, and mapping grant sites/former grant sites/SL colleges.

Alicia summarized handouts related to the service-learning grant application. Scott asked people to forward him events where SL could be marketed through conference presentations, etc.

The meeting adjourned at approx. 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Steve Henness
May 5, 2004