

Notes from First Meeting – ISU CASTL Civic Engagement... Team

January 28, 2010

Present: Tom Gerschick, Derek Herrmann, Steve Hunt, Pat Jarvis, Phyllis McCluskey-Titus, Kathleen McKinney (Chair)

Overview and History

1. Kathleen began by summarizing the history of ISU's involvement with the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) over the last 12 years. We have entered the final phase of CASTL (2 years- January 2010-December 2011). In this phase institutions are encouraged to engage in SoTL and provide support for SoTL that promotes key institutional initiatives. We applied to do so connecting SoTL to civic engagement (including service learning) and promoting learner autonomy. Encouraging student voices in SoTL is also part of this effort. Thus, "At Illinois State University, we have been involved in a number of 'high-leverage institutional agendas' that are directly part of or related to our strategic plan, *Educating Illinois*. Two of these are the American Democracy Project --and civic engagement more generally-- and promoting Learner Autonomy. As we move forward on these and related initiatives, we are also hoping to strengthen our existing investment in, and understanding of, service learning and its connection to civic engagement and learner autonomy. The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning can help us with these initiatives. This would happen via mechanisms such as sharing past SoTL literature on these topics, holding campus conversations about these topics, assisting in the design of and support for local SoTL studies on these topics, and making public what we learn to share implications and promote change when appropriate. Thus, our goals for this final phase of CASTL are that through engaging in the scholarship of teaching and learning we will do the following:
 - Better understand and document the developmental and learning processes and outcomes for students of involvement in civic engagement experiences in and out of the classroom including service learning opportunities.
 - Better understand and document the extent to which, and how, enhanced learner autonomy is related to civic engagement and service learning experiences.
 - Share what we learn via the web site, presentations, and publications.

Actions (need committee members to volunteer self and others) Proposed

- On line Survey of all ISU faculty about whether they do civic engagement and/or service learning assignments in class or related to student organizations, the nature of these projects, whether they have reflected on or studied learning outcomes, whether/how/where reflections/studies have been made public, and the type of support they would like to see for doing and making public such reflections/studies.
Derek has volunteered to work on this through his GA at the Assessment Office and with others' help.

- Making sure we involve students in this work. (e.g., An undergraduate student on the committee, student collaborators in SoTL projects on civic engagement, Student reflections on their civic engagement experiences shared in some way, etc.)
- Offer, depending on funding from Cross Chair in SoTL Office and partners, internal funding for SoTL projects on civic engagement by ISU instructors (**Kathleen will work on this.**).
- Offer, depending on funding from Cross Chair in SoTL Office and partners, internal funding for travel to present SoTL projects on civic engagement by committee members and by other ISU instructors. (**Kathleen will work on this.**).
- Find and create a list of possible external funding sources. Apply for external funds to support SoTL research on civic engagement here at ISU.
- Provide workshops. For example, a CTLT workshop on including civic engagement assignments in courses or in co- and extra-curricular settings followed by a CASTL team workshop on doing SoTL on the outcomes of such assignments.
- Assisting instructors in making their SoTL work (course redesign, reflections, studies) on civic engagement public at conferences, in papers, etc.
- Support for team members conducting SoTL on civic engagement (small grants, travel money, writing circle...). (**Kathleen will work on this.**).
- Form partnerships (see below). (**Kathleen and Steve and ?? will work on this.**).

Possible Partners to Combine Resources, Collaborate on Support or Research, and Avoid Redundancy

1. Student Affairs including the Service and Leadership Office
2. Some RSOs
3. CTLT
4. American Democracy Project including the new Civic Engagement Minor, the Political Engagement Project, and Community Engaged Classrooms
5. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

It was suggested that **Kathleen attend a full meeting of these groups** and discuss our team and initiatives.

Support for Committee Members

1. Books on Civic Engagement and SoTL.
2. Paid annual memberships in ISSOTL for 2 years.
3. If funds available, some travel money.
4. If funds available (yes, for FY10), small stipend or operating funds (\$200-300 each).
5. Networking and collaboration opportunities for SoTL on civic engagement, service learning, learner autonomy.