Creating Systems to Support Outreach Scholarship

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Preconference Workshop
Outreach Scholarship Conference
Pennsylvania State University
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Workshop

• What does an engaged institution look like?
  – Systems
  – Alignment
  – Toward a conceptual model/framework

• What has moved us along—case examples

• What will move your institutions along

• Resources
An Engaged Institution

• is fully committed to direct, two-way interaction with communities and other external constituencies through the development, exchange, and application of knowledge, information and expertise for mutual benefit.

» Stepping Forward As Stewards of Place, AASCU, 2002
Properties of Systems

• “A regularly interacting or interdependent group of elements forming a unified whole working toward achievement of a goal.”
• Input, transformations, outputs
• Boundaries
• Feedback
• Multifinality and equifinality
• Alignment
Diagnosing Organizational Systems

• The key to effective diagnosis is…
  – Know what to look for at each organizational level
  – Recognize how the levels affect each other
Organization Design Components

• **Strategy**
  – The way an organization uses its resources (human, economic, or technical) to gain and sustain a competitive advantage

• **Structure**
  – How attention and resources are focused on task accomplishment

• **Technology**
  – The way an organization converts inputs into products and services
Organization Design Components

• **Human resource systems**
  – The processes for selecting, developing, appraising, and rewarding organization members

• **Measurement systems**
  – Methods of gathering, assessing, and disseminating information on the activities of groups and individuals in organizations
Organization Design Components

• **Organization culture**
  – The basic assumptions, values, and norms shared by organization members
  – Represents both an “outcome” of organization design and a “foundation” or “constraint” to change
Alignment

• Diagnosis involves understanding each of the parts in the model and then assessing how the elements of the strategic orientation align with each other and with the inputs.

• Organization effectiveness is likely to be high when there is good alignment.
Key Alignment Questions

• Do the systems/design components fit with the inputs?
• Are the systems/design components internally consistent? Do they fit and mutually support each other?
Creating Systems to Support Outreach Scholarship...

• What are the focal issues/systems to consider?
• What are the transactions that need to occur within an institution to link systems to support outreach scholarship?
  – Significant facilitators
  – Challenges
• What are critical points of alignment?
  – What may be essential but insufficient?
• Developmental stages?
Toward a Conceptual Framework

- Structural model
- Function model
What Has Moved Us Along

• Kent State University
• Michigan State University
• University of Georgia
Kent State University

Gauging Institutional Readiness for the Scholarship of Engagement
- Founded in 1910 as a Normal School
- Now a doctoral-extensive university with eight campuses in northeast Ohio
- About 36,000 students
Engagement

• Service-learning courses and programs
• Internships in libraries, museums, businesses, schools
• Wick Poetry Center
• Kent/Blossom Art and Music Programs
• WW II Veterans’ History Project
• Partners for Workplace Diversity
Signs of Readiness

- Traditional model of faculty work expanded in the 1990s
- Promotion and tenure guidelines revised in line with *Scholarship Reconsidered*

*Procedures and Policies Governing Review of Faculty: Promotion, Tenure, Reappointment, and Non-Reappointment*

Academic Year 2004-2005
• Growing sense of role as a regional university
• Importance of statewide initiatives related to this scholarship
• Reverberating questions of how this scholarship can be defined, encouraged, and supported
Institutional Commitment

Institutional Systems

Institutional Leadership
Institutional Systems

• Broad view of scholarship embedded in documents, policies, and practices
• Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships
• Established programs for faculty development
• Established institutional research division
• Systems for evaluation and assessment
Institutional Commitments

• Mission that includes engagement
• Establishment of an Office of Regional Development, headed by a new Vice President
• Strategic plan that identifies engagement as a priority for planning
• Expectation of unit-based goals aligned with the strategic plan
Institutional Leadership

- President
- New Vice President for Regional Development
- Provost’s Office
• Faculty Senate
• Faculty Professional Development Center
• Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
• Academic Quality Improvement Project
Moving Forward

• Promoting discussion about scholarship of engagement
• Engaging faculty leaders in exploring and suggesting possibilities for the university
• Embedding this work in implementation of new strategic plan
Challenges Ahead

• Sustaining enthusiasm
• Maintaining academic quality
• Finding new sources of support
Office of the Assistant Provost
for University Outreach & Engagement

Enhancing Knowledge to Serve Society
Definition of Engagement

Engagement is the partnership of university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors

• to enrich scholarship and creative activities,
• to enhance curriculum, teaching & learning,
• to prepare educated, engaged citizens,
• to strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility,
• to address critical societal issues,
• and to contribute to the public good.

– Adapted from the CIC Committee on Engagement
“… a form of scholarship that cuts across teaching, research, and service. It involves generating, transmitting, applying, and preserving knowledge for the direct benefit of external audiences in ways that are consistent with university and unit missions.”

*Provost’s Committee on University Outreach, 1993*
Divisions of University Outreach & Engagement

- Advancement
- Communication and Information Strategies
- University-Community Partnerships
- Wharton Center for Performing Arts
- Center for Usability & Accessibility
- Service Learning/Civic Engagement
Outreach & Engagement Scholarship Model

University

Knowledge

Discovery  Application  Dissemination  Preservation

Impact

Community
The AAU land-grant university has a special role to engage its students/faculty, instructional and research resources to...

Educated Person

Campus Focus

- Conduct cutting edge basic and applied research
- Improve workplace practice and economic strength
- Strengthen citizen participation, civic responsibility, democratic values, and diversity
- Globalize perspectives and improve outcomes for communities

Discovery

Civic Engagement

Workplace Preparation

Global Knowledge

Community Focus

Educated Community/World
Supportive Services for Faculty
Enhancing Knowledge to Serve Society

- **Partners**
  - With faculty research teams

- **Consults**
  - Develop community projects

- **Trains**
  - Asset-based approaches to community change

- **Assists**
  - Building Service-Learning/Civic Engagement models

- **Funds**
  - Seed grants for outreach research

- **Develops**
  - Outreach measures and standards of practice

- **Markets**
  - Outreach and engagement activities

- **Advocates**
  - For the engagement mission
  - For cross institution benchmarks
  - For measurement standards
University Outreach & Engagement

Focal Content Areas: Seed Grant Areas

- Children, Youth & Families
- Community & Family Security
- Community Vitality & Economic Development
- Technology & Human Development
- Scholarship of Engagement
MSU Institutional Alignment

- No formal presence in academic governance
- No formal presence in unit mission statements
- No formal acceptance of O&E as part of P&T System

- Part of institutional mission but often viewed as service
- Leadership in Office of the Provost
- Strong operational programs
- Budget support
- Staff support
- Measurement tools for P&T in System
- O&E standard part of new faculty and administrator orientation programs
University of Georgia

- University-wide, interdisciplinary initiatives—Persistent Poverty, Latino ++/-
- Seed Grants (1st round) emphasis on scholarship +/-
- Service Learning +/--
- UGA Appointment, Promotion & Tenure Redo 0
- Outreach & Public Service/Faculty +/-

= institutional conversation/def.; integration/alignment (instruction/research)
Your Institutions?

- Individual Institutional Diagnosis—5 minutes
- Group Discussion—Facilitator/Reporter; Recorder 10 minutes each question

1. Do you have a definition of engaged scholarship—characteristics, process to develop it, how communicated/used?

2. Do faculty engaged in the SOE?

3. What systems seem to be working to support outreach scholarship…what is out of alignment…what needs to be created…what needs to be to happen to create systems?

4. How would you characterize the “developmental” stage of your institution in creating systems to support outreach scholarship?

5. Resources…used/developed/access
Resources

- Making the Case for Professional Service, AAHE
- A Larger Purpose Calling the Question: Is Higher Education Ready to Commit to Community Engagement? A Wingspread Statement, 2004
- Clearinghouse for the Scholarship of Engagement www.scholarshipofengagement.org
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## Institutional Mission

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<th>Level 1</th>
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<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Relevance</td>
<td>Medium Relevance</td>
<td>High Relevance</td>
<td>Full Integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No mention or undefined rhetorical reference</td>
<td>Outreach is what we do as citizens</td>
<td>Outreach is an element of our academic agenda</td>
<td>Outreach is a central and defining characteristic</td>
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**Barriers and constraints** (from NERCHE)

- Import of institutional history, mission, ethos, context, and resources

Leadership – Central Administration

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# P&T Standards

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<td>Outreach to campus committees or to discipline</td>
<td>Community outreach mentioned; volunteerism or consulting may be included in portfolio</td>
<td>Formal guidelines for defining, documenting and rewarding outreach</td>
<td>Community-based research and teaching are key criteria for hiring and evaluation</td>
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P&T Standards: Barriers and Constraints
(from NERCHE)

- Roles of external regulatory agencies (statewide boards, accreditation bodies, etc.)
- Cultures of disciplines & professions (autonomy, turf protection, work allocation systems)
- National and international prestige systems
- Internal reward systems
- Faculty careers and careerism (ethos of individualism, discipline-specific training, split loyalties – university, community, discipline)
- Absence of professional associations and journals for faculty committed to interprofessional collaborations; threats of marginalization and isolation
- Students’ orientations and characteristics (faculty orientations and curricular innovations as influenced by what students will permit)
- Problems of bureaucratization
- Antagonistic relationships between administration and faculty groups
- Accountability systems in, and for, the universities (what expectations, criteria, and rewards for relevance and impact?)
Central Administration

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<tr>
<td>None focused on outreach</td>
<td>Units may exist to foster volunteerism</td>
<td>Various separate centers and institutions are organized to provide outreach</td>
<td>Infrastructure exists to support widespread faculty and student participation</td>
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# Curriculum & Student Involvement

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<td>Part of extracurricular student life activities</td>
<td>Organized support for volunteer activity</td>
<td>Opportunity for extra credit, internships, practicum experience, special events/activities</td>
<td>Service learning and community based learning featured across the curriculum</td>
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## Tenure Faculty

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<td>Outreach defined only as campus duties; committees; little interdisciplinary work</td>
<td>Pro bono consulting; community volunteerism acknowledged</td>
<td>Tenured/senior faculty pursue community-based research; some teach service-learning courses</td>
<td>Community research and active learning a high priority; interdisciplinary and collaborative work encouraged</td>
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## Community Groups

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<td>Random or limited individual or group involvement</td>
<td>Community representation on advisory boards for departments or schools</td>
<td>Community influences campus through active partnerships or part-time teaching or participation in service-learning programs</td>
<td>Community involved in defining, conducting, and evaluating community based research and teaching</td>
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