

University of Montana

Civic Action Plan

2017

Civic Engagement Vision/Mission

We cultivate civic competency through curricular and community-based experiences, preparing students to be informed ethical graduates who contribute to the health and strength of our communities.

Approach

We will work towards this vision by analyzing our current civic engagement infrastructure on campus and in the community, mapping our current assets and resources, analyzing existing data, and putting together a planning team and working committee to pursue our civic action goals.

Current engagement efforts are supported through multiple campus entities including the Academic Enrichment offices including Civic Engagement, Education Abroad, Internships, National Student Exchange, and Undergraduate Research. Specific academic departments and individual faculty members also engage students in community-based service learning and research experiences. UM's Service Learning Advisory Board supports engagement efforts through the service learning course designation process and by providing faculty development opportunities. University-wide strategic planning efforts are currently in progress and will contain language supporting community engagement efforts. We will utilize each of these resources, as appropriate, to support our Civic Action Plan and leverage the energy behind the strategic planning process to help accomplish our goals.

In addition to campus resources, we have cultivated strong campus/community partnerships that will help support the Civic Action Plan. Strong community partnerships will help expand existing engagement efforts and serve as a model for new collaborations. Community partners often work through connecting entities like Civic Engagement, Internships, and departmental offices. The Civic Action Plan will help solidify these relationships and create a pipeline for new partnerships.

Our planning team is a working committee within the Service Learning Advisory Board and consists of representatives of various departments across campus. Their expertise with service learning, connections to the community, and the individual talents and skills they bring to the table will help us see the big picture of engagement at UM and help the Civic Action Plan initiate lasting and sustainable change. We will be able to utilize extensive service learning data collected each year, and especially during the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification application process, which will help the team identify areas of need, seek out potential collaborators, build on what is going well, and improve areas that need strengthening. To ensure voices beyond the scope of this team are included, the committee will work closely with

the larger UM committee that is formulating the university's current strategic plan. This will ensure the two plans complement each other and work together to achieve both aims.

Outcomes

Outcome	Type of Change	Commitment	Measure(s)	Indicator(s)
1. Engaged scholarship is rewarded in our promotion and tenure processes (and is tied to Unit Standards)	Faculty/Department: System/policy	#5: We foster an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education by setting high expectations for members of the campus community to contribute to their achievement.	Departmental data on promotion and tenure awards that include engaged teaching and/or research. Departmental changes in Unit Standards	An increased number of departments who use engagement work to help determine promotions and/or tenure. An increased number of departments that include engagement in Unit Standards.
2. Engaged scholarship is recognized and rewarded campus-wide	Faculty: System/Policy and Culture	#5: We foster an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education by setting high expectations for members of the campus community to contribute to their achievement.	Rewards for engagement presented during Employee Recognition Day, Charter Day, and/or other public recognition events	The creation of an Engaged Scholar award for faculty who successfully engage their students in the community.
3. Faculty is supported by the institution in their efforts to incorporate or further develop high quality service learning experiences into curricula.	Faculty: Capacity Development	#1: We empower our students, faculty, staff, and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearby and around the world.	Financial support is available for faculty interested in developing service learning experiences for their students through Service Learning Fellows program or course development funds.	An increased number of Service Learning Fellows and Service Learning Course Development funds made available to faculty.
4. First-year students have the opportunity to participate in a service project during their first semester freshman seminar.	Students: Culture	#2: We prepare our students for lives of engaged citizenship, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.	A service learning/community engagement component is incorporated into Freshman Seminars	An increased number of sections of Freshman Seminars that offer a service component
5. High School students are able to earn dual credit while participating in service learning experiences	Students: Policy/Systems	#2: We prepare our students for lives of engaged citizenship, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.	Dual credit in philanthropy/nonprofit admin course is offered and serves as a model for additional dual credit service learning offerings statewide	Number of students in dual credit service learning courses
6. Student community engagement activities are	Students: Culture	#1: We empower our students, faculty, staff,	Incentives and awards are given for engaged	Number of awards or recognition events

recognized and rewarded		and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearby and around the world.	students and/or student groups.	highlighting student service (Dorm incentives/rewards, ASUM service awards, etc)
7. The University of Montana expands commitment to prioritize and support community engagement work	Institution: Policy/systems	#4: We harness the capacity of our institutions—through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice—to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future.	1) The university's strategic plan includes language encouraging and supporting community engagement efforts of faculty, staff, and students 2) The university promotes community engagement through a staff/faculty volunteer day	1) Number of instances in the strategic plan where language specifically supports and encourages community engagement 2) Number of staff/departments who participate in volunteer day
8. Existing connections with community partners are maximized	Institution: Capacity Development	#3: We embrace our responsibilities as place-based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities—economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.	Charitable Giving Campaign community partnerships are leveraged to increase and strengthen service learning partnerships and other community engagement opportunities as well as help with data collection	Number of community organizations who request information about service learning or who share additional engagement data through the Charitable Giving Campaign application

Implementation

Activity	Timeframe	Responsible	Status
1. Research academic departments who do not consider engagement work when deciding on tenure and promotions utilizing data collected from the Carnegie application. Start with those departments who have an upcoming review (1 year out)	Summer/Ongoing	CK	
1. Set up meetings with these departments to talk about incorporating engagement work into promotion and tenure criteria	Spring/Summer/Ongoing	AV, CK, SLAB Committee Members	
2. Contact President to inquire about changing our Outstanding Volunteer Award to an Outstanding Engaged Faculty award	Spring/Summer	AV	
3. Use Sustainability Cohort as an example to propose similar	Spring/Summer	CK, AV, SLAB Committee Members	

funding for SL course development through the President and Provost's offices and Excellence Fund			
4. Contact Nathan Lindsey to inquire about a potential first year service option – either one large event or individually arranged class experiences	Spring/Summer	CK	
5. Develop dual credit philanthropy/nonprofit admin course with SL component	Spring/Summer/Fall	AV	
6. Contact Residence Life to talk about potential dorm incentives/awards for community engagement	Spring/Summer	CK	
6. Contact ASUM to determine if the Sentinel Service Award is still active	Spring	CK	
7. Play an active role in the strategic planning process once invited to participate	Ongoing	CK, AV and SLAB Committee Members	
8. Contact Charitable Giving Campaign Committee to determine if the application can be revised to collect additional information	Spring (before app goes out in May)/Summer	AV	

Communication: The efforts that result from this Civic Action Plan will be communicated through the Civic Engagement office's annual report which is distributed across campus, sent to high-level administrators, Service Learning Faculty, stakeholders, and published on the Civic Engagement office's website. By supporting community engagement elements of the University's strategic plan, successes of the Civic Action Plan will directly support the goals of the University and be communicated alongside those efforts.