

**Envisioning Service Learning in Atlantic Canada:  
Where Are We Now? Where Would We Like to Be?  
Waterfront Campus, NSCC  
June 12, 2009**

**In Attendance:** Sonya Major, Seth Crowell, Deborah Kiceniuk, Kim Kelly, Elizabeth Bowering, Janet Walker, Nancy O'Regan, Susan Nelson, John Cochrane, Sharon Blanchard, Christie Holzer-Hunt, Mike Leslie, Gina Sampson, Marla Gaudet, Margaret-Anne Bennet, Cyril MacGillivray, Carole Essiembre, David Upton

**Regrets:** Ken MacRae, Brian Crouse, Peter Smith

**Welcome:** Mike Hill, Associate VP Academic, NSCC

**Opening Comments:** Marla Gaudet

**Roundtable Discussion: Service Learning: Where are we now? Facilitated by Gina Sampson**

Institution	How much service learning is currently taking place at your institution?	Is it curricular and/or extra-curricular?	Is it international and/or local?	To what department does service learning report?	What is the institutional commitment?
Nova Scotia Community College  Nancy O'Regan	Presently, we don't know but we have done a survey of all campuses. In the fall we will be doing a tracking project	It is curricular the students are evaluated	We do both International and local projects	We report to the Associate VP of Academic & each school has a Dean	NSCC created the definition; it is in our Strategic Plan; we have one person that has been seconded into the position and each campus has a committee; there are no incentives for faculty

<p>NSCAD University</p> <p>Sharon Blanchard</p>	<p>Service Learning has been in existence since the College was formed</p>	<p>It is both curricular and extra-curricular</p>	<p>Primarily local but our students have been participating in informal international exchange programs for many years, some with a specific service learning component</p>	<p>Report to the School of Continuing Extended Studies</p>	<p>We have one person dedicated to this position; we are in the midst of setting up a division of Service Learning as part of Extended Studies and believe that all staff will be dedicated to Service Learning; we are currently looking for funding options to support this initiative; faculty will be directly involved in Service Learning through the Foundation Year Program.</p>
<p>Memorial University</p> <p>Kim Kelley</p>	<p>Curricular and Co-Curricular projects mostly of a short term basis – normally not longer than one semester .</p> <p>As we do not know exact curricular numbers, our long term plan is to conduct a faculty survey</p>	<p>We do both curricular &amp; extra-curricular</p>	<p>We do both International &amp; local</p>	<p>While we do not have a dedicated department for Service Learning, it falls under Experiential Learning which is part of Career Development and Experiential Learning, a division of Student Affairs and Services</p>	<p>We have one person dedicated to the position; don't provide money directly to faculty but faculty can apply for funding through Instructional development ; we are in the process of developing a database of Community Service Learning that will highlight specific projects and need</p>

PEI Dept of Education Mike leslie	We have a number of teachers taking part in Service Learning and we wanted to examine how to recognize that. We are also in the process of conducting a survey.	We do both curricular & extra-curricular	Our projects are both local & International	?	We are considering offering a Service Learning course separately. We will also be doing a portfolio model from HS graduates.
NS Dept of Education  John Cochrane	We have been doing Service Learning for years but have only recently started to develop it further; we offer co-op in high schools and the O2 program	The Service Learning is curricular	Our projects are both International & local	Each school has a Service Learning Coordinator	Our department has the resources to fund Service Learning across the province. Schools have difficulty in spending money that has been allocated for Service Learning
Mount Saint Vincent University Elizabeth Bowering	The university has a long history of reaching out to the community especially women. Destination 2012 (Strategic Plan of MSVU) indicates that the university will "develop outreach programs, community research and service learning opportunities".	Service Learning is curricular	Our projects would be both local and international.	We do not have a dedicated department for Service Learning	We do not have Service Learning as it is defined today Destination 2012 (Strategic Plan of MSVU) indicates that the university will "develop outreach programs, community research and service learning opportunities".

<p>Acadia University Sonya Major</p>	<p>Service Learning does exist at the university mainly as community based learning. We have a learning commons that fosters learning both inside/outside of the classroom.</p>	<p>Service Learning is both extra-curricular &amp; curricular. We have a co-curricular transcript</p>	<p>Our projects are both local and International</p>	<p>Within academic departments And the VP Academic</p>	<p>Acadia is committed to education of the whole student and efforts to incorporate community-based learning in courses and research are encouraged at all levels.</p>
<p>St. Mary's University Margaret-Anne Bennet</p>	<p>The university will also need to look at doing a survey of the Service Learning that is taking place</p>	<p>Service Learning is curricular</p>	<p>Our projects are both local &amp; International</p>	<p>We do not have a dedicated department for Service Learning</p>	<p>The university has a new academic plan as of 1 year ago. We are missing the connection between balancing the Service &amp; the Learning</p>
<p>St. Francis Xavier University Marla Gaudet</p>	<p>We have been doing Service Learning for 12 years</p>	<p>Service Learning at the university is both curricular &amp; extra-curricular</p>	<p>Our projects are both local &amp; International. The community is becoming saturated with traditional Service Learning projects and so the best way for us to grow now is to develop new programs for the community (eg. After school tutoring).</p>	<p>Service Learning reports to the VP of Academics and there is also a Service Learning Advisory Committee</p>	<p>We have 4 dedicated staff for Service Learning. Of these, 2 are permanent and 2 are funded through external monies. The university has not defined Service Learning in our mission statement or university goals; grants are available for faculty; we receive both internal and external funding; we do not have a co-curricular transcript but we do provide students with a certificate</p>

Dalhousie University Deborah Kiceniuk	The university does have Service Learning it is faculty based and it is also part of specific courses. Students can use Service Learning as part of their co-op work term or Honours thesis	Service Learning is both curricular & extra-curricular	Our projects are both local & International	We do not have a specific department that we report to.	Service Learning is articulated in the university goals. There is a commitment from the university to look at student engagement; and funding is available for faculty.
Atlantic Baptist University Seth Crowell	We do have Service Learning but the issues are in getting the community to recognize the services we offer	It is both curricular & extra-curricular	Our projects are both local & International	We do not have a specific department that we report to	The university does have a champion in each area; would like to avoid the top-down approach and let Service Learning evolve in the university; the problem is in the lack of staffing
University de Moncton Carole Essiembre	There is no formal Service Learning Centre at the University. However, there are local initiatives within faculties such as volunterrism, internships, formal co-op programs and community services. We would need to do conduct a survey in order to document what is being done.	It is both curricular & extra-curricular	Our projects are both local & International	We report to the VP of Academic	There is interest in Service Learning from the university

Nova Scotia Agricultural College  Janet Walker	Currently, there is not a lot of Service Learning taking place at NSAC	It is extra- curricular and it is requested mainly from students & faculty	It is both local & International	We do not have a specific department that we report to at the moment	To learn more about service learning and how it can be incorporated at NSAC
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**Service Learning from a community perspective:** David Upton, Nova Scotia Association of Community Business Development Corporation

- The mandate of our organization has been to build capacity in communities
- Our organization is community based and the board is made up of members from the community
- We lend money to small businesses and finance businesses that banks are not willing to consider
- Deliver workshops to students
- Design courses for the Colleges on Service Learning
- Challenge is to sell the concept of Service Learning to faculty & staff
- Some of the challenges that educational institutions face in the community include:
  - Locating faculty that are willing to participate in Service Learning
  - Teachers & faculty should be supported in Service Learning
  - Difficult to get faculty to engage in Service Learning

**Challenges & Solutions for Service Learning – Universities**

Facilitated by Marla Gaudet

- Credibility – rigour academic
- Institutional support
  - Resources

- Backing
- Value (P&T)
- Integration/Recognition
- Building authentic relationships/partnerships
- Balance/shared responsibility
- Students – Time
- Faculty – Time
- Sustainability

### **Possible Solutions**

#### Academic Rigour/credibility

- Recognition specific solutions
- Education about Service Learning/Reflection
- Faculty Workshops/Sharing
- Quality of assignments
- Sharing experiences (colloquia)
- Faculty champion
- Conferences – AAU
- Resource Lists – Research
- Administrative support/drive
- Critical/research and support
- Tie it into broad strategies
  - Engagement (Learning Outcome)
  - Consider retention & recruitment
- Start with Community minded faculty
- Student Champions
  - Student society
  - Student Union
- **STRESS**: graded on learning NOT service

## **Challenges & Solutions for Service Learning – Colleges & Government**

Facilitated by Nancy O'Regan

- Provide Awareness to faculty that Service Learning is a teaching strategy that can work
- Teachers need to understand that learning doesn't just happen in the classroom
- Teachers feel that students are missing important "class time"
- Leadership buy in from principals – share outcomes
- Community partners sharing risk

### **Possible Solutions**

- Develop PD on Service Learning for teachers & faculty
- Provide education & assessment support
- Teachers need to be educated on community based learning
  - Build one-on-one relationships with teachers
  - Work to bring faculty together & share the benefits of Service Learning
- Provide awareness on risk management & liability
- Subcommittees on working groups – Service Learning within existing organizations
- Consider a campus – specific environmental scans

### **Where do we go from here?**

- NS & PEI Departments of Educ. to meet to share ideas
- Secondary & Post-Secondary institutions influence each other
- Summary of mandates & mission
- Annual meeting of this group
- Conferences on Service Learning should invite students to attend & include a section for students