Attendees: Debbie Byrd, Mike Handzo, Guillermo Lopez, Paul Brunswick, Desmond Austin-Miller, Charles Elliot, Jarod Mast, Scott Hummel, Art Kney

Welcome and Introductions

Past Experiences with the Committee

- Mike Handzo: Excited to see college’s momentum in terms of emphasis and commitment to community engagement
- Guillermo Lopez: Referenced Moravian’s commitment to the Latino community; perhaps Lafayette could mirror a similar commitment; Latino population at Paxinosa growing by 2 and 3% annually, is currently 44%
- Paul Brunswick: Shift in perceptions of Lafayette’s impact, both from a business standpoint and the effect of Lafayette; interested in understanding barriers and problems in expanding the effort
- Amber Zuber: Interested in learning about current community needs and developing an action plan
- Charles Elliot: Echo Mike’s comments regarding improving relationships between college and community; better understanding of level of partnerships; deeper understanding on the part of the community of the depth and breadth of partnerships; how can we make the partnerships easier (referenced MOU as an example)? Looking forward to moving forward with a more hands-on approach
- Jarod Mast: Figuring out how partnerships can be facilitated to promote lasting impact; referenced John Frye’s examples at Franklin and Marshall and Drexel; from the NFP perspective what is the right conduit? How to we pair the right need with the right resources
- Scott Hummel: Three ways engineering can help: 1. Helping community groups solve socio-technical problems 2. Help students understand and learn through community engagement 3. Help local kids understand a career in STEM fields as a viable option
- Art Kney: Focused on education as a way to impact the community; STEAM Camp; Moving forward how can we hone our focus in terms of our work in the community
- Debbie Byrd: Support community engagement initiatives that meet community-identified needs; important to build relationships to learn about some of the more pressing needs of the community.

Brief Overview of CCE Steering

- Strategic development of this group to include leaders from various sectors of the community who have a broader and less self-interested perspective on LC-Easton community partnerships
- Create awareness about number and scope and depth and partnerships
- Educate ourselves about LC’s institutional culture and how it presents opportunities and barriers to community engagement
- Learn how Lafayette is perceived by various constituencies within the community
- Identify most pressing community needs & see if LC resources match up
- Challenges:
  - Lafayette is a predominantly white institution; how can we be intentional about partnering with underrepresented groups
  - New president
  - Not knowing who to call at Lafayette
Student interns can cause work and stress instead of being useful to NFPs
Currently more emphasis on what Lafayette gives to the community versus what the community can offer LC as well
Transportation challenges
Need for data, especially quantitative

Strengths
- STEM fields especially visible in the community
- Provide technical and academic knowledge in all sorts of areas
- Provide “people power,” esp. as regards student volunteers
- Support of local businesses
- Drawing organizations together
- Lots of student interest
- Over 60 faculty do community-engaged teaching and/or research
- Supportive Provost

Question: Is the committee focused on higher level engagement or student learning?

Mission Statement

The Center for Community Engagement supports community-based learning and research, student leadership through service initiatives, and other community engagement activities. The Center connects students, community members, faculty and staff through mutually-beneficial, sustainable partnerships. Our goal is to promote critical thinking, experiential learning, reflective service, and informed action.

- Lacks casual interactions in the community; how can we institutionalize philosophy surrounding casual interactions
- Too much focus on mutually beneficial partnerships; may not always be 50/50 advantages
- Perhaps add a point about the centrality of building relationships
- Lack of reference to resources
- Mission statement should reflect the broad and diverse audiences we impact and point to the importance of reaching out to students from diverse backgrounds (small step would be to include that in our mission)

- Why is there a sense of discouragement?
  - Lafayette is historically not a very diverse institution; leaders in Landis are mostly white; students of color sometimes feel excluded or unwelcome
  - Faculty don’t live on college hill so it’s difficult to develop a sense of community among people are just “coming to work,” it’s also an issue in the faculty compensation structure-getting the alignment between the community needs and what the faculty has to have so it’s not detrimental to your career
- The community has to want to engage; students of color have a family cultural experience of someone who cares about them
- Lafayette is considered a “suburban” school and kids and students

What is the mission of this steering committee?
On-boarding process; what do we, as staff, want to from this committee?

Potential strategic initiative: community has to want to engage; what is the meeting space to facilitate these relationships;
  - Emphasis that we’re looking to develop sustainable human, pedagogical and institutional relationships; no one level of engagement should be prioritized at the expense of others.

Potential strategic initiative: Identify strategies for building sustainable relationships, especially across difference

Potential strategic initiative: Prioritize community needs and concerns and see if we can match them up

AVOID: “Collaborative Fatigues”

  - **Potential action step:** go back to the mission statement and suggest revisions with community input
  - **Potential action step:** share CCE brochure with committee members for feedback
  - **Potential action step:** Provost will host reception on 10/21 from 4:15-5:00; would committee members care to attend?
  - **Potential action step:** develop mission for steering committee
  - **Potential action step:** create google doc of pressing community concerns; list potential faculty interests

Making Progress

  - Shouldn’t hesitate to give us homework; meeting schedule is difficult to maintain the momentum
    - Draft mission statement and suggestions online; then have something in place before the next (Oct. 28th) committee meeting
    - Out of the steering committee have subcommittees on action steps
    - More on-going discussions to think about this on a continuous basis
    - List top three needs; prioritize community needs and action

Next meeting: CCE Staff will draft sample mission statement for this committee; committee will weigh in in between meetings; we might also do more homework in terms of developing
  - Oberlin project as best practices; review examples from other institutions to establish multi-semester goals
  - Come up with needs or concerns

December meeting: Action Plan

***Please send updated contact list
***Invite committee members to reception

Next meetings dates (locations TBD):
  - October 28th
  - December 2nd