

UF Sustainability in Service and Outreach Implementation Plan

Vision

In framing the vision for sustainability in Service and Outreach, participants envisioned UF educating the next generation of leaders and providing tools for solving the problems faced by our communities. In this vision, UF would be recognized for outstanding student, faculty, and staff community, service/civic engagement. All members of UF would see themselves as part of a larger community and be actively engaged in service outside of their work and studies; this would engender respect for others and for the community as a whole.

UF would become a resource, providing volunteer experience, ideas, and sustainable solutions to the public. We would encourage students to explore their extracurricular interests while attending UF, and provide ways to gain experience in pursuing those interests through service to the community. Alumni would carry that ethic with them as they moved into the workplace, and remain involved in civic engagement and service throughout their lives.

Desired Outcomes

Access to Opportunities - Create an online campus-wide resource guide, with lists of community service and civic engagement opportunities available at UF that would be available to the community at large.

Departmental Support for Service Learning - Support would be provided through dedicated staff and/or an office to support faculty who incorporate service learning. Ultimately, the university would offer service learning programs in every college on campus, with a service learning/civic engagement liaison in each department for communication of opportunities to the campus community and alumni.

Educate the Campus Community - Students, faculty, staff, and alumni would understand the difference between direct service, civic engagement, and service learning. In order to enhance student experience, UF would provide faculty/student mentorships for sustainability related internships.

Foster Alumni Stewardship - Alumni would be encouraged to engage in service activities. UF would record this service, and this data would be used to create reports and incentive/recognition programs.

Recognition and Rewards - Establish programs to recognize and reward faculty, staff, students and alumni for participating in service learning and demonstrating sustainability practices. Create incentive programs for all faculty and staff to participate in community service during regular business hours. Allow for expansion of the UF Community Campaign to include an option for volunteering in addition to donating money.

Record and Report Service Activities - Develop accurate reporting procedure for community service hours and report student community service hours on UF transcripts. Use this data to create a community service and civic engagement annual report and incentive/recognition programs. Such recognition will further incentivize service while demonstrating UF's commitment to the community.

Support the Community Financially - UF would make community re-investment an investment priority. Monies would be invested locally by creating micro-credit or other loan programs for community development. Support would be provided through dedicated staff and/or an office to support faculty who incorporate service learning. Ultimately, the university would offer service learning programs in every college on campus, with a service learning/civic engagement liaison in each department for communication of opportunities to the campus community and alumni

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Action Plan

The table on the following pages lists the initial actions that can be taken over the next three years to move toward the vision for sustainability in Service and Outreach at UF. The intention of creating this list of actions is to provide a platform for working groups as they begin to implement the vision. This list can be modified over time, and is meant to be a “living document.” Progress toward these actions will be evaluated annually and an updated action plan will be developed in the spring of 2012.

| Outcome | Action | People |
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| Access to Opportunities Educate the Campus Community Record and Report Service Activities | 1. Communicate to Deans and Dept Chairs, and UF community (faculty, staff, students) regarding service database and encourage them to promote the <i>Colleges with a Conscience</i> effort | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Relations • IFAS Administration • Office of Sustainability • College Deans/Dept. Chairs • UF Communicators Network |
| Access to Opportunities | 2. Develop mechanism to find service opportunities offered through student organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean of Students (database) • Center for Leadership and Service • Citizens for Social Justice • Student Activities and Involvement (JWRU) |
| Access to Opportunities | 3. Connect alumni with service resources (interns, volunteers) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni Association • Career Resource Center • Center for Leadership and Service |
| Access to Opportunities | 4. Coordinate a summit on service and outreach at UF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Relations • Alumni Association • Center for Leadership and Service • Office of Sustainability • Student Government (student orgs) • Volunteer databases such as: Volunteer.net, United Way 211 |

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| Departmental Support for Service Learning Educate the Campus Community | 5. Research what other universities are doing to encourage service learning, audit/collect internal programs (examples of service, civic engagement, service learning) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Committee • College Deans/Dept. Chairs • Community Relations • Faculty Senate • Office of the Provost |
| Educate the Campus Community Recognition and Rewards Record and Report Service Activities | 6. Explore the development recognition and incentive program for graduate student service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Assistants United • Faculty Senate Chair • Graduate Studies Office (Registrar) • Center for Leadership and Service |
| Educate the Campus Community | 7. Develop service learning/externship opportunities related to sustainability in academics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Studies Advisor • Office of Sustainability • Sustainability Committee |
| Foster Alumni Stewardship | 8. Incorporate Green Grad Pledge into Alumni Association programming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni Association • Office of Sustainability • Student Government |
| Foster Alumni Stewardship | 9. Communicate opportunities for, and encourage alumni engagement/service (see International Gator Day sponsored by UF Alumni as a model) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni Association • Community Relations |
| Foster Alumni Stewardship Record and Report Service Activities | 10. Conversation with College Alumni Association about opportunities for incorporating service, capturing service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni Association • College Alumni Associations • Community Relations |
| Recognition and Rewards | 11. Incorporate service into Community Campaign as an additional option for giving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include faculty and staff participation in service opportunities, such as Gator Plunge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Relations • Center for Leadership and Service |
| Recognition and Rewards | 12. Engage in dialogue about appropriateness and mechanism for recognition related to service on/off campus in tenure and promotion process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Senate • Center for Leadership and Service • Office of the Provost • Sustainability Committee |

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| Recognition and Rewards | 13. Review recognition and reward/benefit programs of peer institutions related to service provided by employees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resource Services • Administrative & Professional Assembly • Faculty Senate |
| Recognition and Rewards | 14. Consider incorporating service category into Superior Accomplishments Awards or other award programs and/or developing other distinct award program(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resource Services • Alumni Association • Center for Leadership and Service • Cicerones • Office of Sustainability |
| Recognition and Rewards | 15. Open Community Campaign Fair to students, and ask vendors to highlight service opportunities as well as monetary needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Relations • Administrative & Professional Assembly • Center for Leadership and Service • Faculty Senate • Office of Sustainability • UF Communications Network |
| Record and Report Service Activities | 16. Engage in dialogue about appropriateness of and mechanism for incorporating service into transcripts and/or degrees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Government • Blue Key • Faculty Senate • Registrar Services • Student Affairs |
| Record and Report Service Activities | 17. Explore how reporting our service and outreach relates to UF mission and how best to communicate efforts (i.e. incorporate service metrics into annual report) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Relations • President's Cabinet |
| Support the Community Financially | 18. Research non-endowed funds and how they are invested and the potential for local investment priorities, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Financial Officer |
| Support the Community Financially | 19. Develop possibilities for, and examples of, reinvestment programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability |