




WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Via E-mail

June 29, 2011

To: Nancy Mathews, Director of the Morgridge Institute for Public Service and Professor of Environmental Studies

From: Paul M. DeLuca Jr., Provost 

RE: Service Learning Definition, Criteria, Recommended Practices, and Process for Course Section Designation

I am writing to provide formal confirmation that the University Academic Planning Council and I have approved the definition and criteria for service learning course offerings and the "Service Learning Course Section Designation Process" as described in the proposal you presented to the UAPC on June 20, 2011. (Full documents are posted at <http://www.apa.wisc.edu/UAPC/201011/June/index.html>).

The common definition for service learning assures that there are minimum standards for course sections labeled as service learning in the Course Guide and in the Schedule of Classes so that this information is clearly communicated to students. A common definition and criteria ensure that the expectations and needs of our community partners are met more consistently. The process for designation provides an efficient mechanism for faculty to list their service learning offerings and provides a reliable means of ensuring that students in the service learning courses have access to resources provided by the Morgridge Center to support service learning.

I appreciate that you consulted widely with faculty and staff as you developed this policy. The process associated with course identification formalizes a process that is already in place, and so we anticipate that implementation will be fairly straightforward. I ask that you see that this information is communicated to deans, department chairs, faculty, and others who need to be aware of these guidelines.

Thanks to you and your colleagues for taking this important step in setting common standards for this important student learning experience as part of our efforts to promote high impact practices.

Copies:
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Council of Associate Deans
Eden Inoway-Ronnie, Provost Chief of Staff
Aaron Brower, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning
Lori Berquam, Dean of Students
Joanne Berg, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

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