

UFS Community Engagement Committee

One of the priorities set by FAU's strategic plan for 2015–2025 is to enhance Community Engagement and Economic Development. As part of this effort, FAU will seek Elective Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation. Preparations for Classification are beginning now, and will require both new infrastructure and modifications of existing policies to reflect in concrete terms FAU's commitment to Community Engagement.

As with all major initiatives at the University, the faculty has a critical role to play in helping to design policies and procedures to foster community engagement at FAU. Accordingly, the UFS will form an *ad hoc* Community Engagement Committee to assist and advise the University President's Community Engagement Task Force.

Composition

The Committee shall include one representative of each College. The Chair of the President's Task Force will also serve *ex officio* as a full member of the Committee. It will meet, on average, once a month during AY 2015–16, and may be reconvened in coming years. All Committee members will also be invited, but not required, to join the President's Task Force.

Charge

The purpose of Community Engagement may be defined as “the partnership of university knowledge and resources with those of the community to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.” The reciprocal influence of the community on the University, and *vice versa*, is essential in this definition, as is the mutual benefit of both.

The Committee's mission may evolve over time, but may begin by considering these questions:

1. How could the University best integrate Community Engagement into its traditional academic mission? In particular, how could the University broaden its definitions of teaching, research and service for purposes of Annual Assignments and Evaluations to credit activities that engage the community? Similarly, how could the University modify its promotion and tenure guidelines to account for community-engaged scholarship specifically?
2. How could the University best collect and disseminate data regarding the full range of its community engagement activities while minimizing the associated administrative burden on individual faculty scholars?
3. What other incentives, financial or otherwise, could the University introduce to grow and sustain active participation in this initiative among its faculty?

The UFS may ask the Committee for periodic updates on its deliberations and recommendations.