



MEETINGS

Venture Board of Directors Meeting, Brown University, September 2003

Marking the end of our self-study process, the Board approved Venture's three long-term priorities:

- Continue to offer and develop opportunities for students for experiential / integrated / community-based learning within the liberal arts context;
- Facilitate internal communication and relationships between members of the campuses, to guide in reflecting on practice concerning educating students for living a socially responsible life;
- More explicitly support mutually useful connections between our institutions and the larger community, for the purposes of influencing institutional and social change regarding our chosen themes / content areas, e.g., taking time off, urban education, public interest work, etc.

Peggy informed the Board of the upcoming community-based learning meeting at Sarah Lawrence and career meeting at Wesleyan, and the Board requested a meeting to serve as an internal academic review of the UES program and another to discuss international community-based learning opportunities, including the University of Glasgow program proposal.

Moreover, Venture hosted a reception for the Board and members of the Brown campus, which included a talk given by Dr. Brenda Allen, Associate Provost and Director of Institutional Diversity at Brown.

Community-Based Learning & Religious / Spiritual Life Meeting, Sarah Lawrence College, October 2003

Irene King, Director of Community Partnerships at Sarah Lawrence College, hosted a meeting for Venture colleagues working in the community service, community-based learning, and religious and spiritual life areas. The goals of this meeting were twofold: offer Irene advice as she was preparing for the implementation of Sarah Lawrence's new Democratic Arts Program, and begin discussing what we wanted to present at our AAC&U conference presentation. All of us were able to articulate our hopes for the meeting and have a conversation about the larger questions concerning educating students for social responsibility that are most pressing for each of us.

Career Services Meeting, Wesleyan University, December 2003

Mike Sciola, Director of the Wesleyan Career Resource Center, co-hosted this meeting with members of the new Center for Community Partnerships. The meeting served as a forum for individuals from career service offices to think about how students view our offices, how we can better help students interested in socially responsible careers and help foster dialogue about the rewards and challenges in living a socially responsible life. The discussion yielded eight projects for consortial work as well as several suggestions for each campus to consider.

UES Internal Academic Review, Vassar College, January 2004

Individuals with an expertise in issues of teaching and urban education gathered to evaluate the Urban Education Semester. The group learned more about the program, provided suggestions for improvement, and discussed new ways that the consortium can together work on issues of urban public education.

International Community Based Learning Meeting, Swarthmore College, February 2004

With the number of students interested in international community work and issues of global citizenship and social justice, this group gathered to discuss collaboration between the Venture study abroad offices and the possibility of creating a new international Venture program.

CONFERENCES | PRESENTATIONS

Urban Education Semester Student Presentations, December 2003 & May 2004

The participants of the Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 Urban Education Semesters presented their capstone projects to their academic mentors from the Venture campuses, faculty from Bank Street College, their cooperating teachers, friends and family.

AAC&U National Meeting, January 2004

The October 2003 meeting of service learning professionals led us to a deeper understanding of how this group's work benefits each of us on our campus and our work as a collective.

Peggy Chang facilitated a panel discussion/presentation between Sean Flaherty (F&M), Pam Heintz (Syracuse), Bill Meinhofer (Holy Cross), and Sam Speers (Vassar) at this conference about the Venture collaboration and how it helps us reflect on our individual work.

In addition, Venture was asked to facilitate a roundtable conversation for the pre-conference symposium, "Journey Towards Democracy." Venture was asked to do so because of our strong proposal for the Journey Towards Democracy grant.

COOL/Idealist.org National Conference, March 2004

After learning more about Idealist's work at the career services meeting at Wesleyan, career colleagues talked about the importance of building a relationship with idealist to further their work in supporting students interested in socially responsible careers. Venture was one of many sponsors for this conference, and students and staff from our schools could attend the conference at a discounted rate.

In addition, Kath Connolly (Brown), Cathy Crimmins (Wesleyan), Peggy, and Ken together presented at a session, sharing practical ways that we have worked to help students consider issues of social responsibility on our campuses.

SERVICES PROVIDED | RESEARCH

Community-Based Learning Meeting, Sarah Lawrence College & Career Services Meeting, Wesleyan University

These meetings demonstrated how the consortium can provide a service to its member schools. Sarah Lawrence and Wesleyan used their meeting as an opportunity to solicit concrete feedback from the other members of the group about the steps that their office is taking to better serve students.

New Website Launch, January 2004

Venture launched a new website that features organization by program and content area, a job resource and calendar section, a new web address, and online registration for the College Venture program. This site can be navigated more easily and helps reinforce our mission more clearly.

Increased Use of Listservs, January 2004

Along with the new website release, Venture's online presence has grown through regular use of its three listservs: College Venture listserv (for leavetakers), Urban Education Semester listserv, and the general Venture-L listserv (for faculty, staff, and administrators on our campuses). These listservs are used to share articles, job leads, Venture updates, and other information.

Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers, Careers in Public Service Conference, January 2004

A consortium staff member attended this conference to see how EACE is working to assist students interested in public interest work.

Careers in the Common Good Conference, Brown University, March 2004

Venture worked with Brown's Swearer Center, Career Development Center, and RI Campus Compact on this one-day event designed to help students consider issues that relate to exploring careers in the common good.

Peggy and Ken presented a workshop at this conference, "Putting Change in Your Job and In Your Pocket."

Updated Public Interest Resource Guide, March 2004

Colleagues from our various campuses contributed to improve and update this set of books, websites, events, and other resources for students interested in public interest work. This guide is available in hard-copy form and on the Venture web site.

Presentation for ONYX's Real World 101, Brown University, April 2004

ONYX (a Brown University student organization that promotes unity among African-American seniors) asked Peggy to present on personal finance issues.