

Kansas Corps Planning Meeting
Kansas Board of Regents Office, Topeka, KS
10/25/2007

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Curt Brungardt, FHSU. A sign in sheet was passed around for signatures and email addresses of those in attendance. Those attending were Rindi Zimmerman (FHSU), Kelsey Colglazier (FHSU), Diana Ohl (FHSU), Shelby Hoytal (Kansas Volunteer Commission), Lynda Bachelor (KSU), Kelli Stout (KU), Mary Marston (Kansas Campus Compact), Samantha Heady (PSU), Eddie Penner (PSU), Josh Davis (WSU), Michael Huffman (Dept of Commerce), Russ Gaeddert (Hesston College), Curt Brungardt (FHSU), Senator Janis Lee, and Chantelle Arnold (FHSU).

II. Kansas Corps Concept

i. Description/Purpose

Dr. Brungardt then began by discussing the concept of the Kansas Corps and the work that has been done to this point. He noted that higher education has three main areas of focus: Teaching, Research, and Service. He also noted that last spring a "Day of Sharing" was held that sparked an interest and lead to the creation of the Kansas Corps concept.

The concept of the Kansas Corps is that a pool of student volunteers from Kansas higher education institutions would be established to serve the public service needs of all Kansans. Currently there are two goals of the Kansas Corps. They are to create a new network of volunteers and promote citizenship and civic engagement.

ii. Three Areas of Service

A link would be created with existing community service programs to provide disaster relief, aid for social services, and economic development for Kansas communities. The Kansas Corps would also create opportunities to bring students from all higher education institutions together.

iii. Program Structure

At this point the original planning committee is seeking input on finding a consensus about the kind of support system the Kansas Corps needs and how to implement that system. That is why all of those in attendance were invited as well as those who couldn't attend. Dr. Brungardt expressed a call for more planning from a larger group of interested participants so that a detailed proposal could be developed and presented to the Kansas Board of Regents. Dr. Brungardt told all

in attendance that the concept paper had been presented to the Student Body presidents and that group had taken it to the Kansas Board of Regents. Both groups showed a strong interest in the concept.

iv. Pilot Project

Dr. Brungardt then mentioned that the original committee would like to see a pilot project implemented in the spring, possibly April. This project would test the concept of the Kansas Corps. No date was set but it was mentioned that National Youth Service Day may be a possibility.

III. Strengths and Limitations

Dr. Brungardt followed the introduction of the concept by asking those in attendance for strengths, limitations and goals that would have to be accomplished for the concept. Following are a list of ideas that were shared from the group.

*** Strengths**

- ~the collaboration aspect and sharing of ideas will enable better use of resources;
- ~cooperation (rather than competition) would be seen amongst higher education;
- ~communication between schools when there is a disaster would be increased, a possible model for this might be the *(211) "Share Network" which is an online collaboration on the web for all involved schools
- ~students would be able to see the bigger picture and the difference they make in Kansas as a whole
- ~there is a large pool of college students in the state of Kansas for potential volunteers
- ~today there is a movement/enthusiasm for volunteerism and community service in the college age students (they are passionate about making a difference)
- ~there wouldn't be a need to start from scratch, there could be use of existing volunteer practices among colleges in Kansas
- ~a clear need for volunteerism has been seen in Kansas
- ~this concept would capture more of the volunteering that's already occurring in return helping Kansas be more known nationwide
- ~people who have heard of the idea love it both in government AND out of government, a real interest has been sparked
- ~the Chair of the Board of Regents is interested and has already started to open doors
- ~good volunteer programs and networks are attached already
- ~Kansas Corps concept is modeled loosely after another successful organization of another state-the Pennsylvania Case

- ~we're breaking new ground
- ~sustainability reasons are feasible with the inclusion of the social service aspects of Kansas Corps

***Limitations**

- ~it's great in theory; however would it ever work in practice
- ~would there be campus support from faculty and administration that allows students to go during an emergency
- ~disaster relief vs. disaster recovery
- ~does Kansas Corps take away from current volunteering already occurring in the community
- ~how do you create a support system, training, transportation, supplies etc.
- ~who will coordinate it
- ~would the coordinating office need to be partnered with the government
- ~flexibility is an issue
- ~maybe only a few colleges would participate; there is no guarantee for 100% participation
- ~will it create conflict with institutions that are not a part of Kansas Corps
- ~there is a process that it takes to get state funding if it is needed for the program

***What are the goals that we have to have accomplished?**

- ~Have to create something that's likely to be successful.
- ~Is it financially feasible for higher education and state to create a structure and to volunteer?
- ~The right support system for Kansas Corps must be found.
- ~Does it make sense for college volunteers and their schools?
- ~A reasonable timeline must be created.
- ~Is this feasible for partners and communities?

IV. Ideas on how the Kansas Corps could be used

There was much discussion throughout the day on this topic. Currently, the group is looking at three areas of service: disaster relief, social services, and community development. These issues could be structured in two ways: geography and/or issue.

V. Program Structure/Processes Options

The group continued on with the brainstorming session by discussing what the basic components of the program structure could look like. Some ideas that were talked about were:

- ~a coordinating unit
- ~the network of participating schools
- ~what key partnerships needed to be established
 - *partnerships with government and non-profit/private sectors; and
 - *partnerships with recipients of service

- ~types of support systems (a loose model or very detailed, organized model)
- ~recognition and/or incentives for volunteers
 - *possibly modeled after Ameri*Corps VISTA
 - *scholarships
 - *service-notation on transcripts

VI. Future Planning

Things that need to be discussed and considered in future planning meetings and brainstorming sessions for inclusion in the final proposal should include:

- ~How will Kansas Corps be funded?
 - Possibilities include: dues, pay partial dues
- ~Consideration must be taken for schools that can't pay.
- ~How will Kansas Corps events be paid for?
 - Possibilities include: reimbursement, match funds
- ~How many students are we talking about with Kansas Corps?
- ~How many events are we talking about with Kansas Corps?
- ~How many volunteer hours are we talking about with Kansas Corps?

VII. What do we do next?

The group discussed things that should be done in the upcoming weeks and months to get this concept to a proposal. Following are steps that will be implemented.

- ~Find out who's interested in participating in the development of this proposal
- ~Develop a detailed "Game Plan"
- ~Provide much more depth to the pre-proposal
- ~Bring together and regionalize all partners
- ~Host focus groups with higher education institutions, non-profit agencies and private sectors for input
- ~Come together in the spring to finalize details and complete proposal for presentation to the Kansas Board of Regents

VIII. Most obvious people that should be involved

Dr. Brungardt asked the group for additional names of people or agencies/organizations that should be included as we move forward with the development of this concept. Possible names for inclusion follow.

- ~State Entities
- ~Rural Community Involvement
- ~Pride Organizations
- ~National Vo-ad
- ~Original "Day of Sharing" attendees
- ~4-H Extension Offices
- ~Kansas Board of Regents staff (possibly Dr. Kelly)

~Department of Aging
~Governor's office

The meeting concluded with Dr. Brungardt stating that the original committee would work together to implement the steps that had been discussed. Correspondence will continue through email. Any additional names that should be included should be sent to Dr. Brungardt. A meeting will be set for the spring to continue with this concept.

Minutes submitted by Rindi Zimmerman and Chantelle Arnold.