

To: Amy Banes-Berceli, Associate Provost
Kathy Dailey
From: Rebecca Cheezum, Chair, Experiential Learning Committee
Date: June 29, 2026
RE: Committee Final Report, 2025-2026 Academic Year
CC: Deidre Hurse. Chair Service Learning Subcommittee

I am pleased to submit this final report on behalf of the Experiential Learning Committee. The report includes (1) a list of activities of the Experiential Learning Committee, (2) minutes from our meetings this year, and (3) a report from the Service Learning Subcommittee.

1. List of Activities of the Experiential Learning Committee

The Senate Experiential Learning committee held five committee meetings.

In response to chairs feedback, a subcommittee (Becca Cheezum, Meaghan Barry, Deidre Hurse, Carrie Symonds) was formed to create a handout. There is a draft/template, but we need to finalize the language for experiential learning, in collaboration with the OU Pledge Committee (to continue next year)

Additional committee member activities - to support collaboration and alignment with other campus initiatives and/or to support the mission of the experiential learning committee.

- Committee Chair Becca Cheezum met with the chair of the Community Engagement Committee, Dave Dulio on 9/12/2025 to discuss alignment with committees.
- Several committee members attended a joint meeting of the Community Engagement and Experiential Learning Committees 10/16/2025. The primary purpose was to discuss a new community engagement award for students and the possibility of community engagement ambassadors.
- Chair met with Christina Moore from CETL to discuss possible collaboration to support faculty who want to integrate service learning into their courses -initial discussion 11/10/2026.
- Chair presented the Experiential and Service Learning Course designation plans to the Department Chairs for feedback on 1/13/2026. Meaghan Barry, a department chair, was on hand to support.
- Chair held a brief new-member orientation on 2/5/2026.

- Becca Cheezum, Meaghan Barry, Caitlin Demsky, Deidre Hurse Attended “Partnership: alignment and goals discussion convened by Associate Provost Kristin Landis-Piwowar on 2/16/2026.
- Chair met with the Provost on 3/5/2026.
- Becca and Meaghan attended Experiential Learning Review - a joint meeting with the chair of the Community Engagement Committee, members of the OU Pledge Committee and other working on the topic of experiential learning to discuss the definition and designation process.
- Becca and Deidre Hurse attended a “Service learning faculty development” discussion with Dave Dulio, Sarah Hosch, Christina Moore on 3/12/2026.
- Becca Cheezum and Deidre Hurse met with a group convened by Tricia Westergaard to discuss future options for badging on 4/3/2026.

2. Meeting Minutes from Experiential Learning Committee

Oakland University Senate Experiential Learning Committee

October 7, 2025

10:00 am

Via Zoom: <https://oakland->

[edu.zoom.us/j/94185417345?pwd%3DHJAM2fs1HpcALKH7iF32euCvDK6n1X.1%26jst%3D2&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1760184214715774&usq=AOvVaw0-qJAm5C0qqQuxsrmIxpXf](https://oakland-edu.zoom.us/j/94185417345?pwd%3DHJAM2fs1HpcALKH7iF32euCvDK6n1X.1%26jst%3D2&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1760184214715774&usq=AOvVaw0-qJAm5C0qqQuxsrmIxpXf)

Meeting minutes

In attendance: Jennifer Anderson, Meaghan Barry, Linda Bzhetaj, Becca Cheezum, Susanne Condron, Caitlin Demsky, Fay Hansen, Deidre Hurse, Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Jennifer Law-Sullivan, Molly McGuire, Diane Underwood, Ali Woerner

1. Introductions - *the members present introduced themselves, sharing their unit, role, their experience with experiential learning, service learning.*
2. Committee leadership
 - a. *Experiential learning committee -Becca will continue as chair*
 - b. *Service learning sub-committee - Service Learning subcommittee will meet to determine who their chair will be. Deidre will convene the meeting.*

3. Experiential Learning and how it fits with other similar initiatives on campus

Kristin Landis-Piwowar

Existing committees/entities on campus - Chief Community Engagement Officer, ELI, Senate Community Engagement Committee, Experiential Learning Committee, Service Learning Subcommittee - what are the lanes of each of these committees? How can we have better communication between the committees?

ELI was created to ensure that all students have opportunity for experiential learning. This is not a shared-governance committee, is headed by Wayne Thibodeau.

This (Experiential Learning) committee is to designated experiential learning courses

Service learning subcommittee is to designated service learning courses. This is helpful to Carnegie Community Engagement classification. We can show that students are taking service learning courses.

These two senate committees align with the Pledge.

Chief Community Engagement Officer - Dave Dulio - his work is aligned with Carnegie Classification. Kristin is not deeply involved. Meaghan says that some of what Dave's role has been to support faculty to engagement in service learning/experiential learning is more comfortable for faculty. Changing tenure and promotion, workload policies to include this.

Are we supposed to promote this? It would be great for us to promote this. Kristin talks about it with associate deans and deans. It is not our responsibility to "get the faculty riled up to do this." In terms of promotion and tenure and workload, it makes sense that faculty are not racing to do this.

Charles from life design has data on what they consider experiential learning. Charles moved to advancement.

Maybe a joint meeting with ELI to reconcile what they are doing as a group.

ELI seems to be more about marketing -

4. Review of process determined last year

The following courses will be automatically approved as experiential learning courses:

- a. *Studio classes*
- b. *Laboratory classes*
- c. *Research/dissertation classes*
- d. *Internship, practicum, clinical*
- e. *Study abroad/Study away*
- f. *Student teaching*
- g. *Service Learning*
- h. *Field work*

Department chairs will identify any other courses that are experiential learning courses. Schedule codes, etc. are used to identify courses as experiential learning.

Once the committee has gotten the experiential learning designation off the ground, what is the role of this committee? Shared governance would be happening.

We don't really feel like there is need for this committee in the winter. Do we need to clarify what is a studio, research, etc. course. There may need to be some more definition. An advisory that meets, as needed, could be a possibility.

5. October 16th meeting with the Community Engagement Committee - We will be discussing the criteria for the student community engagement award which will launch this year.

6. Setting committee goals for this year

- a. Communication with chairs
- b. Communication with registrar's office

7. Next meetings

- a. Thursday, 10/16 at noon Community Engagement and Experiential Learning joint meeting (in person and via Zoom)
- b. Thursday, 11/20 from 2:00 - 3:00

Becca follow-up tasks:

- Conversation with Wayne about ELI Council
- Present at chairs meeting, get feedback; Meaghan Barry will co-present
- Registrar's office - Sarah, Susanne, Becca meet to discuss automatic process through registrar.

Oakland University Senate Experiential Learning Committee
November 20, 2025
2:00 PM

Via Zoom: <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://oakland-edu.zoom.us/j/97371290691?pwd%3DqJrsXJPq3XaQwJDr5Z7WJSmkix6DT.1%26jst%3D2&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1763216921638951&usg=AOvVaw3fik BITPovnvu5ZcdY4ih>

Meeting minutes

In attendance:

Jennifer Anderson, Meaghan Barry, Sarah Butash, Becca Cheezum, Fay Hansen, Angie Kaiser, Susanne Condrón, Molly McGuire, Diane Underwood, Ron Piscotty, Carrie Symons

1. Review & approval of minutes - minutes approval with a change to spelling of Linda's last name.
2. Updates since last committee meeting
 - a. Joint meeting with Community Engagement Committee - award for students for community engagement, writing out criteria; will send out call this fall.
 - b. Registrar's office - - don't like having anything labeled as experiential if it doesn't have the experiential code? Is everything going to be considered experiential? Registrar's office didn't love experiential as an attribute when it is already a schedule code.
We could have a different name for those that are currently experiential?
 - c. Opportunities for collaboration with CETL - another idea: grants for faculty to develop something, put money into faculty members' hands - people may show up if they might be awarded.
 - d. Update from Service Learning Subcommittee - There were no new reviews completed
 - e. If there was a faculty development opportunity, Carrie Symons, Meaghan Barry, Fay Hansen, Becca Cheezum could help with a faculty development. Could we gather information and share them first? - could we create a clearinghouse for materials.
 - f. Highlight existing CETL workshop recordings.
3. Doodle poll to schedule meetings for next semester - Becca will send out a Doodle poll before the end of the semester to schedule meetings in the winter term.
4. Next meetings
 1. TBD (Winter semester)
5. Best of luck with the end of your semester!

Oakland University Senate Experiential Learning Committee

January 13, 2026

2:00 PM

Via Zoom:

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://oakland-edu.zoom.us/j/92711599584?pwd%3D8hRGe4ilAai4fx4shZPWLulm2mUqjy.1%26jst%3D2&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1768656861983060&usq=AOvVaw26MvF1tNkqzlxKjhf7jjWM>

Meeting minutes

In attendance: Jennifer Anderson, Linda Bzhetaj, Meaghan Barry, Becca Cheeezum, Susanne Condron, Angie Kaiser, Carrie Symonds, Molly McGuire, Ali Woerner

1. Review & approval of minutes
2. Feedback on designation implementation
 - a. Registrar's office
 - b. Chairs meeting - Becca and Meaghan will get together to create a handout. CarrieSymons stepped up to volunteer to help with the
3. Collaborating with Community Engagement, ELI, CETL
4. Update from Service Learning Subcommittee - Ali gave an update on the committee. They have focused on oversight and assessment and faculty support for service learning. No new application submitted this year. We did look at the findings from the student feedback, which was positive. They are developing the faculty recertification process for courses to be redesignated. The preliminary thinking is to determine if the class has changed, then just get redesignation. If something has changed, try to avoid a full re-submission. They were talking about a workshop, as faculty might be a little nervous about submitting.

Becca shared finding - grants, accreditation.

5. Assessment of experiential learning courses - there will be more courses that are experiential learning. Could probably not do the same kind of assessment for all the courses. There could be things happening in the courses that we could use, such as reflections.

Susanne - With service learning, it was purposeful to not burden faculty with much assessment. Probably want to use the same philosophies.

Kristin - is there a way to ensure that there truly is an experiential component to the course. This is the information that we are trying to extract through this group. This is connected to the Pledge.

Randomly select - Story gathering to brag about what they are doing. It is not required. You could handpick five and capture these stories. Less assessment, more outreach and getting the word out.

This is important for the service learning - collecting story. Understand what people are doing. This could help with the professional development, and also good for the Carnegie Classification.

6. Next meetings
 - a. Wednesday, February 11, 2026,

- b. Tuesday, March 17th, 2026
- c. Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

Oakland University Senate Experiential Learning Committee

March 17, 2026

2:00 PM

<https://oakland-edu.zoom.us/j/96982443264?pwd=CjFzIUSMbHBPSe8z9auxTjbEPriJXE.1&jst=2>

Meeting minutes

1. Review & approval of minutes - All were approved
(Committee)

- a. [November](#) (please check if you were there and make sure you are listed)
- b. [January](#)

Minutes were approved.

2. Update from Service Learning Subcommittee (Deidre)

- a. *No new applications*
- b. *Working on assessment process*

No updates - there are no applications in the

3. Committee-wide Updates

A. Joint meeting with Experiential Learning, Community Engagement, Pledge 2/16 (Becca and Meaghan) -

- i. *Becca talked about the meeting,*
- ii. *Why are we doing it? Carnegie Classification, Recruiting students (show what we are doing and get them excited for it.)*
- iii. *The process that Dave Dulio went through how courses were tagged.*
- iv. *It was good to come together and have a more common understanding of what we are doing*
- v. *There was some conversation about assessment - but there wasn't much. It may be that we are not there yet.*

B. Communication strategy to chairs (Becca and Meaghan)

i. *Meaghan created a communication draft document to communicate to chairs and faculty. It is still draft. We realized we needed to get clarity from the Pledge people about their definition of experiential learning.*

ii. *Diane Underwood needs to report when students do experiential learning out of state. Perhaps that could be incorporated into this process.*

iii. *We could potentially push back on decisions like whether labs count.*

- b. Related next steps

- i. *Confirm definition with those involved with the pledge (possibly this Friday?)*

ii. Depending upon the results of that meeting, consider suggesting disbanding the experiential learning committee?

iii. KLP outreach to associate deans regarding service learning accreditation requirements
(KLP)

4. Experiential and service learning symposium - next year around this time (Becca)
5. Provost pledge of 15 \$1,000 grants to develop SL component of course (Becca)
6. Feedback from Public & Environmental Wellness for committee consideration (Becca)
7. Thursday's roundtable through CETL. Consider registering if you haven't (Becca)
8. Final meeting of the committee for this academic year, scheduled for: Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

Oakland University Senate Experiential Learning Committee

April 15, 2026

2:00 PM

<https://oakland-edu.zoom.us/j/91324764701?pwd=d06cz4LgK0EfWimYlshbKLJbXlMnhl.1&jst=2>

Meeting agenda

1. **Review & approval of [minutes](#)** Approved! (Committee)

2. **Update from Service Learning subcommittee**
 - a. Two courses that they are reviewing.
 - b. Had last meeting of the year yesterday
 - c. Going to circulate survey to faculty to understand what people interested in service learning might need - training, service learning needs.
3. **Update from 3/27/2026 meeting with OU Pledge and Community Engagement**
 - a. Discussed some tension points with the experiential learning definition
 - i. Are labs (always) experiential learning?
 - ii. Are studio classes (always) experiential learning?
 - iii. Is there an amount of time or intensity to experiential learning that is required to earn course designation
 - iv. Where is the line for class activities?
 - b. *OU Pledge will bring a clarified definition to us for discussion. There is an understanding from the registrar's office that gathering the data is a lot of work and how perfect does it need to be.*
 - c. *We can only be in charge of the academic.*
 - d. *OU Pledge wants to cast a wide net.*
 - e. *The OU Pledge scope is beyond courses*
 - f. *The OU Pledge folks thought more of us could come to their meetings, too.*
 - g. *PeopleGrove - a possible software for use on that.*
 - h. Suggested next step: have Wayne Thibodeau of the OU Pledge attend a meeting with our committee early next year to agree upon nuance of experiential learning definition

4. **Year in review**

The Senate Experiential Learning committee held five committee meetings.

The Service Learning Subcommittee held four committee meetings.

In response to chairs feedback, a subcommittee (Becca Cheezum, Meaghan Barry, Deidre Hurse, Carrie Symonds) was formed to create a handout. There is a draft/template, but we need to finalize the language for experiential learning, in collaboration with the OU Pledge Committee (to continue next year)

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5. The year ahead

- a. Select new chair or potentially co-chair for the committee
- b. Have Wayne Thibodeau of the OU Pledge attend a meeting with our committee early next year to agree upon nuance of experiential learning definition
- c. Hold a faculty development institute (FDI) in collaboration with CETL, Center for Community Engagement.
- d. Hold a culminating event to FDI, such as a symposium. The following members of the experiential learning committee were interested in helping to plan or to present at such a symposium: Carrie Symons, Meaghan Barry, Fay Hansen, Becca Cheezum, *Deidre Hurse* **Anyone else?**
- e. The provost pledged to support 15 \$1,000 grants for faculty to support their developing a service learning component to the course. Convene early to release a request for applications. **Should this be the SL committee or the EL committee?**
Recommendation - have it be the service learning; it fits under the scope and if we are going to sunset experiential learning, this would make more sense.
- f. Once the definition of experiential learning is finalized in alignment with the OU Pledge, if the experiential learning process will go as this committee planned, through registrar and chairs, develop a formal proposal to sunset the experiential learning committee (but keep service learning committee) and bring it to the Provost Office, Senate Steering Committee, potentially Senate.

3. Annual Report from Service Learning Subcommittee

Senate Service-Learning Subcommittee

End-of-Year Report, 2025–2026 Academic Year

Committee Charge

The Senate Service-Learning Subcommittee continued its role as a subcommittee of the Experiential Learning Committee. During 2025–2026, the committee focused on four primary responsibilities:

- Reviewing and approving service-learning designated courses
- Developing a sustainable process for course re-certification and assessment
- Expanding faculty support and outreach related to service learning
- Planning for leadership transition and long-term committee sustainability

The committee met 4 times throughout the academic year.

Committee Leadership

Deidre Hurse served as Chair for the 2025–2026 academic year. During the spring meeting, the committee discussed leadership succession for 2026–2027 and agreed that a chair/co-chair model would provide better continuity and reduce workload. Under this proposed structure, the co-chair would assist with meeting preparation and note-taking during one academic year, then assume the chair role the following year.

Course Review and Approval

The committee established a rolling review process using two small review groups to evaluate service-learning course proposals.

During 2025–2026:

- Course MDM2 9381 was reviewed and approved for service-learning designation.
- Course MDM2 9380 was received but remains pending and will be reviewed at the beginning of the 2026–2027 academic year.

The committee agreed not to conduct routine course reviews during the summer unless an urgent need arises, in order to respect faculty contract periods and workload.

Re-Certification Process Development

A major focus of the committee this year was the development of a formal re-certification process for previously approved service-learning courses. The committee agreed that service-learning courses should be reviewed on a two-year cycle through a brief faculty survey administered via Qualtrics. Courses with no substantive changes would be automatically re-approved, while courses with significant changes would undergo further review.

The committee developed and refined a draft faculty re-certification survey that includes:

- Questions about course changes, service-learning structure, reflection activities, and community partnerships
- Logic for automatic re-approval, light review, or full review
- Optional open-ended questions regarding partner feedback and assessment
- Required upload of a current course syllabus
- Questions about faculty support needs and planned course changes

By the end of the academic year, the committee had substantially completed the draft and plans to finalize and distribute the survey at the start of the 2026–2027 academic year.

Faculty Support and Workshop Planning

The committee also developed a second survey to assess faculty needs related to service-learning workshops, training, and support resources. The survey was designed for both current and prospective service-learning instructors and includes questions related to:

- Faculty experience with service learning
- Challenges and barriers, including time, logistics, and community partnerships
- Preferred workshop topics
- Confidence in areas such as course design, reflection, GivePulse, and assessment
- Preferred formats for future training and resources

The committee intends to finalize and distribute this faculty needs assessment survey during the next academic year.

Student Assessment and Outreach

The committee reviewed results from the Fall 2025 student service-learning survey. The survey response rate increased to approximately 15%, aided by incentives and faculty promotion. Results indicated that most students believed service learning:

- Improved their understanding of course concepts
- Helped them apply academic content to real-world situations
- Provided valuable skills beyond the classroom

The committee discussed using these findings to support future faculty recruitment and to demonstrate the value of service learning to department chairs and accrediting bodies.

The committee also identified several outreach priorities for 2026–2027:

- Developing workshops and resources for faculty interested in implementing service learning
- Targeting programs with accreditation requirements related to community engagement or service learning
- Expanding guidance and training for GivePulse
- Increasing visibility of service-learning opportunities through newsletters, faculty development activities, and targeted communication

Materials and Documentation

The committee maintained the eSpace site containing meeting minutes, survey drafts, review materials, and supporting documents. Committee members confirmed access to the site during the January meeting, and eSpace will continue to serve as the central repository for committee materials moving forward.

Priorities for 2026–2027

The committee identified the following priorities for the coming academic year:

1. Review and determine the status of Course MDM2 9380
2. Finalize and launch the service-learning course re-certification survey
3. Finalize and distribute the faculty workshop and support needs survey
4. Identify and transition to a new chair and co-chair structure
5. Continue outreach to faculty and programs with potential interest in service learning
6. Develop additional support materials related to GivePulse, course design, reflection, and community partnerships

The committee concludes the year in a strong position, with a clearer review process, stronger assessment tools, and a growing foundation for faculty support and long-term sustainability.