The MSUM Academic Service-Learning Advisory Board and Center exist to “work collaboratively with faculty, students, and community organizations to initiate and provide quality academic service-learning opportunities that enrich the education and development of MSUM students while fulfilling real needs within the local community” (http://www.mnstate.edu/asl/mission.cfm). In 2008-2009, the AS-L Advisory Board membership consisted of:

- Steven Bolduc, Economics
- Tom Brandau, Film Studies
- Craig Ellingson, Theatre Arts
- Rebecca Gardner, Corrick Center
- Theresa Hest, Communication Studies
- Scott Seltveit, Technology
- Janet Haak, Academic Resource Office
- Terryl Christensen, FirstLink
- Emily Gunderson, Bethany Homes
- Megan Dietz, student

The AS-L Advisory Board scheduled meetings monthly to discuss AS-L development and activities on campus:

29 September 2008  26 January 2009
27 October 2008  23 February 2009
24 November 2008  30 March 2009

Minutes are posted on the AS-L web site: http://www.mnstate.edu/asl/
The more routine business of the board is recorded in the minutes. The S-L Center, now located in the ARO, fielded calls and e-mails from faculty and agencies who had questions about service-learning. Special events and activities follow.

We kicked off the school year with the annual **Community Partners Breakfast** on September 3rd, 2008. The breakfast was held in CMU 101. Several members of the Advisory Board were in attendance, along with 17 community agency representatives and faculty members from MSUM. This event gives attendees a chance to ask questions about how to use Service-Learning, both from the classroom and the agency sides, and for faculty to connect with community partners who have needs that align with their learning outcomes. Given the turnover in non-profit agency staff, and the addition of new faculty every year, it is important to hold this event annually.

Next fall’s breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 at 8:30 AM, location TBD.

Janet **presented** at two events in the fall, first at the Regional Conference on Volunteer Management and Leadership (sponsored by FirstLink) in Fargo on October 10th, and at MSUM’s fall In-Service days on October 13 & 14. For the first event, she spoke on the definition and how-to’s of Service-Learning, and fielded questions from the agency representatives in attendance. For the second event, she introduced the Distinction in Engagement program to the faculty attendees, and then presented at a second session on the subject of Student Engagement, along with Tim Decker of the Corrick Center.

Janet **attended** a Minnesota Campus Compact event on October 24, 2008. The Civic Engagement Practitioner Gathering was held at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN, and covered the power and use of story to inspire and embody the organization’s sense of mission.

Janet **wrote a grant application** through the Tri-College University office for a collaborative workshop. This grant was awarded, providing us with $1,000.00 in funding to host a workshop in the spring to gather community partners, faculty, and students to increase understanding of Service-Learning and establish connections among the three colleges and area agencies. This event was originally scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2009. This turned out to be the second week of the flood event, and all three colleges were still closed. We decided to postpone the event, and the Tri-College office graciously extended our funding until fall semester. This event is rescheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2009.
We put out a call for proposals for **faculty grants**. We had $2,000.00 available in the budget for these grants. The purpose of the grants is to promote the development of Service-Learning activities in new or existing courses. Due to faculty focus on completing the strategic planning related to budgeting that was requested by the president’s office, Janet assumed the responsibility of writing the grants, with the assistance of the two faculty members who expressed interest in the grant round this year. The Advisory Board approved both grant applications, giving $1,000.00 to Rea in Film Studies, and $1,000.00 to Ellingson in Theatre Arts. The funding for Film Studies was used for equipment needed to complete the Service-Learning project and has been spent, but the funding for Theatre Arts will be used for expenses incurred during fall semester. We have requested and are hopeful that the $1,000.00 for the Theater Arts grant can be carried forward into the next fiscal year, but we are aware that the financial situation of the University may render this impossible. If this grant funding is no longer available, the department will still carry out the service-learning project, but not to the degree possible were the funding available.

The Advisory Board **discussed the mission** of the S-L Center, and the broader concept of Civic Engagement. Until such time as the University is able to fund a faculty-level director position, the expansion to a Center for Civic Engagement model seems ill-advised. Discussion over the past few years, at both the faculty and administrative level, has reiterated the need for AS-L to be faculty driven. The board and center are doing well in serving as resources to faculty and community partners, but without faculty-driven leadership and University support in funding such an endeavor, it would be most prudent to remain what we are, a core of AS-L enthusiasts who enjoy working together to promote Academic Service-Learning on our campus.

Janet **worked with IT to create a Civic Engagement page on the MSUM web site**. The page provides a centralized link to the programs and organizations that participate in and promote engagement activities on our campus: [http://www.mnstate.edu/civicengagement/](http://www.mnstate.edu/civicengagement/)

Most importantly, **faculty at MSUM utilized Service-Learning as a pedagogical strategy** in their classrooms. During the 2008-2009 academic year, faculty in at least 8 departments placed 449 students in service-learning activities, and these students completed 6,858 hours of service to the community. (These totals do not include the numbers from the Social Work department. That department changed chairs this spring, and has not reported their numbers despite our requests. Their numbers are usually significant.) These numbers do not include all of the S-L activities taking place on campus, these are the ones that have been reported to the S-L office.
Looking ahead to 2009-2010:

During summer 2009, Janet will prepare information for teams from the Advisory Board to use in presentations (during the school year) to departments and individual faculty members who want training in the use of S-L in the classroom. She will also update the faculty handbook on the web site.

During the next school year:

- We will continue to update the web site (as student Megan Dietz did during the past school year), continue to cultivate relationships with community partners, and continue to provide information as requested to faculty and community partners.
- We hope that the university will continue to support the operating budget and Campus Compact membership for the Board.
- We will make presentations to departments and faculty members on the how-to’s of service-learning.
- We will host the Community Partners Breakfast in September, co-host the Tri-College S-L Workshop in October, and host the MSUM AS-L Conference in the spring (which will feature reports from the two grant recipients).
- We will work to institutionalize the reporting of S-L hours, hopefully within the context of the reports that departments already file each year.
- We will request that the university once again fund release time for a faculty chair for the board, and that the university consider funding a permanent half-time faculty director position.
- We will invite Dr. Midgarden to speak to the board about the American Democracy project, to determine in what ways we can assist.
- We will seek a member from the College of Education and Human Services to serve on the board, to keep the membership balanced from all colleges.
- We will actively support the expansion of S-L, Distinction in Engagement, and all civic engagement activities on campus.