CITA Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2007

Attendees: Linda Silka, Robert Forrant, Craig Slatin, Dan Egan, Shelia Kirschbaum, 
Cathy Crumbly, Susan Winning, Robin Toof, Philip Moss, Bill Mass and Robert 
Grantham. Meeting Minutes taken by Nancy Hodge.

Summer CITA Project

The past ten summers CITA has been bringing together graduate students and high 
school students to work on a community based project. This year five graduate students 
and four high school students from Lowell high and Manchester NH High were chosen 
for the team. The team was managed by Patty Coffey.

The group was assigned three projects this summer. One project included a digital 
presentation based on immigrants’ personal histories. Another project was to 
develop a “best practices” guide of ways Umass Lowell can get involved in downtown. 
One of their tasks included visiting other schools to find out what they do to bring the 
community into the University. And another was a Lowell Sun article discussing the 
work of the team. A web site showcasing the work of the CITA Summer Team will be 
up and running shortly.

Conference Update & Upcoming CITA Work

The committee did discuss and ponder what are the next steps for a CITA conference. 
See memo below from CITA Co-Chairs titled: 2007/2008 CITA Focus.

CITA Book and possible journal issues

Over the summer months, Linda and Bob went through and found 20 papers that were 
well enough along in development that could be included into book and/or a journal. 
CITA hired a graduate student from the within the University. Nine papers are being 
shaped into a book for a publisher. “Engage or Perish” is currently the working title. 
There were a number of papers that had environmental focus. These papers will go into 
aspecial issues journal.

It was noted that the book will show all papers from abroad which will demonstrate a 
broad diversity of papers not just from UML. John Wooding will be helping to edit the 
volume.
Miscellaneous

The group discussed in detail the direction of the committee. The Labor Extension Program submitted a proposal. The proposal suggests having a dinner/lunch conversation on Social Capital in the Workplace and the Community. A copy of the proposal is on file with CITA records. The group questioned if this meets the needs of the committee and do we have the energy. We need to show value with limited funding.

It was suggested that at this point in time, CITA take a look at what we have done and where we are going. Changes have given us the freedom to redefine ourselves. The freedom to determine what we are about, where we are going and where we have been. Series of discussions of all the work and where do we go next will take place at our future meetings.
Memo from Linda Silka and Robert Forrant, CITA Co-chairs

2007/2008 CITA Focus

The CITA Committee sees this year as one of reflection and assessment of CITA’s impact over the last decade. CITA has achieved much in its work and it continues to be a primary force on campus for examining the university’s mission of sustainable regional economic and social development.

CITA efforts over the last decade include:

- Seven conferences and countless workshops and discussion groups relating to the University’s mission.
- Three well received scholarly books (with a fourth underway) that have highlighted a great deal of the University’s community engagement activities across nearly all of its colleges.
- Ten years of extraordinarily successful summer projects bringing together high school youth and graduate students to complete research and action projects on CITA-related topics determined through community conversations.
- Tens of thousands of dollars in seed grants to scholars in all of the colleges that have resulted in significant external funding and refereed publications.

This year we intend to engage faculty, staff, students, and partners in discussions about:

1. What kind of impact is UML having in the region? What kind of impact do we intend to have in the future? What kind of impact would our regional partners like to see us have?
2. What, in fact, is a public university’s role in its region? Should tax payers, local governments, community agencies and organizations, and the state legislature have expectations for the role of a public university?
3. Considered together, what do all of the different themes explored by CITA indicate about what UML has achieved and can achieve?

We will carry out this dialogue through: a series of monthly discussions at CITA meetings; a review of our past conferences and the research and publications they have fostered; a careful review of how seed funding has led to outside grants and refereed scholarship; and a series of small, community breakfast meetings with our off-campus partners.