

TALLOIRES NETWORK
LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN HUB
FIRST REGIONAL MEETING
Buenos Aires, August 19th 2009.

Sala del Rectorado de la Universidad de Buenos Aires. Arenales 1371

Summary

18 Universities gathered in Buenos Aires for the first meeting of the Talloires Network regional hub in Latin America and the Caribbean, represented by 48 administrators, faculty, and students.

Hosted by Buenos Aires University (UBA), General Sarmiento University (UNGS), and CLAYSS, the Latin American Center for Service-learning and secretariat to the Talloires regional hub, the successful meeting allowed members of the Network to strengthen bonds, exchange information, discuss central issues, and agree on future actions to further extend the regional network.

The meeting also allowed potential new members to know more about the Talloires Network, and join a discussion on institutionalization of civic engagement, social responsibility and service-learning programs in Higher Education, lead by Dr. Andrew Furco, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement, University of Minnesota.

The Conference was opened with a video-conference by Robert Hollister (Tuft University), and a presentation by Rector Moreno León (Universidad Metropolitana de Caracas). It was closed by the hosts, Rector Hallu (UBA), Rector Feldman (UNGS) and CLAYSS President, Alejandra Herrero.

Notes from the meeting:

Morning session (members only): 24 participants

Opening & introductions

Robert Hollister gave the opening address thanks to a Skype videoconference. Quality of the reception, the simultaneous translation and the text provided in the folders in English and Spanish allowed all the participants to easily follow his words.

Carlos Eroles, Under Secretary of Outreach at Buenos Aires University, welcomed the participants to the beautiful, century-old building where the meeting was held, in representation of Rector Hallu. He underlined the importance of this kind of meeting for the region, in the frame of the “extensión” regional tradition.

Jose Moreno León, Rector of the Metropolitan University of Venezuela, gave the opening remarks in representation of the Board of the Talloires Global Network.

Ramón Altamirano, Director of Community Service at General Sarmiento University, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of links between Universities and their communities.

Nieves Tapia, Academic Director of CLAYSS, and Enrique Ochoa, Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Hub of the Talloires Network presented the agenda for the day, and opened the institutional presentations.

Institutional presentations

Most of the members had previously submitted written syntheses, which were distributed to all the participants, and will be uploaded to the member platform. The brief and lively 10-minute presentations helped all the participants to have a general overview of the rich and diverse experience represented. The coffee break and the group picture contributed to informal conversations, in a very open and warm climate.

Plenary open discussion

The general discussion looked for proposals to strengthen the regional network, and to promote visibility and shared activities.

Many valuable suggestions were made about the need and the different ways to document the civic engagement programs that the member Universities are accomplishing, as a way to increase the visibility of the work of professors and students. Members were encouraged to complete their profiles in the platform, and were shown how to use it to share information about their programs. Maria Rosa Tapia, responsible for the platform coordination, answered questions from the members and offered assistance to those less familiar with this tool.

Strongly related to the previous issue, there was an extensive debate about how to recognize and validate faculty and students efforts in civic engagement projects.

Discussion showed a general concern on the traditional mechanisms for faculty promotion, based almost exclusively on traditional publications and research. Some of the member Universities have already changed these traditional mechanisms of recognition and promotion, and there was a lot of interest in exchanging the different ways in which Talloires Universities in the region are creating formal ways to evaluate and recognize faculty and students civic engagement.

We also discussed making the curriculum more flexible and better articulated academically, and exchange different models to implement service-learning in different institutional contexts.

There were also some interesting discussions on language/ideological issues, and how to preserve the healthy diversity of the regional network, keeping at the same time a clear, strong message.

Main agreements reached:

- **Documentation of programs and projects**

- As a first step, it was agreed to share the current programs and projects in the same format each University is currently using.
- In a second stage, it will be discussed a common format to systematize all the experiences, allowing case studies and research.

- **Communications, collective voice and visibility:**

- It was agreed to keep two different levels of communications: internal communications among members liaisons will be developed basically through e-mail and the member's platform. General information likely to be distributed through public media will be sent monthly to be published in the Talloires section of CLAYSS Newsletter in Spanish, and offered to the Talloires Network website.
- Build a collective voice of the regional members should begin by sharing information and ideas, and respecting diversity of national and institutional contexts and languages.

- **Member's virtual platform:**

- CLAYSS Moodle Platform was considered a useful tool to give `maturity` to the exchange and trust-building process among member of the regional hub. Everybody agreed in promoting a more active use of the virtual platform to exchange good practices, materials, ideas, and to eventually generate common statements to raise a collective voice.
- It was agreed to share information and resources especially around six major themes: professional development; project management; research; "extensión"/Social Responsibility/Service-learning; Higher Education public policies, and ways of recognition for faculty and students participating in civic engagement practices.
- Forums will also be used themes of interest, such as the different forms of systematization of service practices within the institution, and the formats to document programs and projects to be share in the Network.
- Different levels of security and access will be established for liaisons and students. Members will be sending names and e-mails of people authorized in each University to use the institutional access.

- **Publications:**

There was a strong agreement on the need to create or look for some kind of publication (like a Journal), a space for peer-reviewed articles on civic engagement and service-learning to be published, as a way both to give visibility to good practices, and also to give

academic credit to those involved in civic service, social responsibility and service-learning.

- **Meeting in April, 2010 in Venezuela:**

Rector Moreno León announced a Conference organized by University Metropolitana on “Community Service and Social Capital Promotion”, to be held in Caracas, on April 2010. Dr. Moreno León invited all members of the Talloires Network to attend, and especially encouraged the participation of students.

Afternoon Session (open for other Universities): 48 participants

Dr. Moreno León welcomed the universities to the afternoon session and gave a synthesis of the Talloires Network, its projects and its upcoming activities.

Next, new participants had the opportunity to briefly present their universities’ civic engagement programs.

Dr. Andrew Furco, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement, University of Minnesota, gave a conference about *Institutionalizing the Practices of Service-Learning and Civic Commitment in Universities*. The PPT presentation had been translated to Spanish.

A lively round of questions and comments followed, moderated by Alejandra Herrero, president of CLAYSS.

Closing

Dr. Ruben Hallu, Rector of the Universidad de Buenos Aires and Lic. Silvio Feldman, Rector of the Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento and Ing. Alejandra Herrero shared the closing session.

Rector Feldman stressed the need of repeating this kind of meeting with the representatives of the member universities in the region.

Alejandra Herrero elaborated on the importance of forming a network with these characteristics for the universities of the region, which have a long trajectory ahead of them in linking learning curricula with community service. She expressed her gratitude for the day’s exchange in which university representatives “opened” the doors of their institutions, not only sharing their successes but also their problems.

Rector Hallu underlined the importance of civic engagement and service-learning as a central part of a modern University life, and made a strong call to intensify the promotion of practical projects of university extension along the lines of civic commitment and service learning.

Both Rectors ratified their commitment with the Talloires Network, and affirmed their will to give impulse to the regional networking.

APPENDIX 1: Agenda

Talloires Network members meeting

9am – **Arrival. Registration.**

9:15am – **Welcome:** Robert Hollister Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service - Tufts University, (Skype connection) and Jose I. Moreno Leon, Rector Universidad Metropolitana de Venezuela, on behalf of the Steering Committee of the Talloires Network.

9:45 am – **Introductions and networking:** Presentations of Network members

11:15 – **Coffee break. Group picture.**

11:30 am – **Plenary open discussion:** proposals to strength the regional network, promote visibility and shared activities.

1:00pm – **Lunch**

Open session

2:00 pm – Welcome to new participants. Introduction to Talloires Network. Nieves Tapia (CLAYSS) Latin American Hub

2:15 pm – Dr. Andrew Furco, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement, University of Minnesota (to be confirmed). Conference: *Civic Service Institutionalization in University*.

2:45 pm – Open dialogue: Civic Service in Latin America and the Caribbean.

5:00 pm – Closing remarks: Dr. Ruben Hallú, Rector, Universidad de Buenos Aires. Lic. Silvio Feldman, Rector, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento.

5:30 pm – End of activities.

APPENDIX 2: 21 Universities represented

Universities represented in the morning session:

1. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Santiago. Chile
2. Universidad Católica de Córdoba
3. Universidad Central de Venezuela
4. Universidad de Buenos Aires. Argentina
5. Universidad de Concepción. Chile
6. Universidad de Santiago de Chile.
7. Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico
8. Universidad Metropolitana de Caracas. Venezuela
9. Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento. Argentina
10. Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata. Argentina
11. Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires. Argentina
12. Universidad Señor de Sipán. Perú

Universities represented in the open session:

1. Instituto Getulio Vargas. Brasil
2. Universidad Abierta Interamericana. Argentina
3. Universidad Austral de Valdivia. Chile
4. Universidad Católica de San Pablo. Brasil
5. Universidad Católica del Norte. Chile
6. Universidade Federal Rio Grande do Sul. Brasil

Member Universities sending written messages to support the meeting:

1. Universidad Católica de Temuco (Chile)
2. Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Monterrey (Tec) (México)
3. Universidad Xochicalco (México).

APPENDIX 3: Attendants

A) Attendants to members only session:

| Country | Name | University |
|-------------|---|---|
| Argentina | Subsecretario de Extensión, Carlos Eroles | Universidad de Buenos Aires |
| Argentina | Director Serv. Com., Ramón Altamirano | Universidad de General Sarmiento |
| Argentina | Secretario Académico, Nestor Cecchi | Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata |
| Argentina | Secretaría de Extensión, Fabrizioo | Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata |
| Argentina | Secretaria Académica, Mabel Pacheco | Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires |
| Argentina | Lic. Graciela Santos | Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires |
| Argentina | Vice Rectorado de Medio Universitario, Daniela Gargantini | Universidad Católica de Córdoba |
| Argentina | Guadalupe del Barco | Universidad Católica de Córdoba |
| Argentina | Ing. Agr. Alejandra Herrero, Presidenta | CLAYSS |
| Argentina | Prof. Nieves Tapia, Directora | CLAYSS |
| Argentina | Lic. María Rosa Tapia | CLAYSS |
| Argentina | Lic. Enrique Ochoa | CLAYSS |
| Chile | Dr. Edmundo Leiva Lobos | Universidad de Santiago de Chile |
| Chile | Lic. Álvaro Ugueño Novoa | Universidad Católica de Temuco |
| Chile | Lic. Gracia Navarro | Universidad de Concepción |
| Chile | Lic. Francisca Casas-Cordero | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile |
| Chile | Lic. Chantal Jouannet V. | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile |
| Perú | Lic. Antonio Sánchez Chacón | Universidad Señor de Sipán |
| Puerto Rico | Dra. Mirelly Buitrago, Decana de Estudiantes | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Dr. José A Vargas Vidot | Universidad Interamericana |
| Venezuela | Dr. José Ignacio Moreno León, Rector | Universidad Metropolitana de Caracas |
| Venezuela | Lic. Rosalind Greaves de Pulido | Universidad Metropolitana de Caracas |
| Venezuela | Ruth Díaz Bello, Vicerrectorado Académico | Universidad Central de Venezuela |
| Venezuela | Lorena González Rodríguez, Coordinadora Central de Servicio Comunitario | Universidad Central de Venezuela |

B) Attendants to open session:

| Country | Name | University |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Argentina | Rector Rubén Hallú | Universidad de Buenos Aires |
| Argentina | Secretario de Extensión Oscar García | Universidad de Buenos Aires |
| Argentina | Rector Silvio Feldman | Universidad de General Sarmiento |

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|-------------|---|---|
| Argentina | Andrés Stella | Universidad Abierta Interamericana |
| Brasil | Luciana F. Marques | Universidade Federal Rio Grande do Sul |
| Brasil | Debora Dell' Aglio | Universidade Federal Rio Grande do Sul |
| Brasil | Ademar Bueno | Instituto Getulio Vargas |
| Brasil | Katia Goncalves | Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo |
| Chile | Mónica Salas Grandez | Universidad Austral de Valdivia |
| Chile | Gema Santander | Universidad Austral de Valdivia |
| Chile | Marcela Troncoso Zagal | Universidad San Sebastián |
| Chile | Ana María Barahona | Universidad Católica del Norte |
| Chile | Silvana Alvarado Gallardo | Universidad Católica del Norte |
| Chile | Eugenia Cerna Hinojosa | Colegio Pedro Concepción de Valdivia |
| Puerto Rico | Sra. Cybel Betancourt (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | José Santos Trinidad (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Luisyvette Rivera (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Jeylym Ortiz. (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Sheila Machuca (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Betzaida Pagán (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Aida Sánchez (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Karina Rodríguez (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| Puerto Rico | Christian Viera (student) | Universidad Interamericana |
| USA | Andrew Furco, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement | Minnesota University |

APPENDIX 4: Additional funding

CLAYSS organized the regional meeting with the funding provided by Tufts University to the regional hub.

To maximize resources, CLAYSS managed to secure additional funding from:

- **Argentina Ministry of Education:** “Educación Solidaria” National Program support hotel and travel expenses for representatives from Universidad Señor de Sipán, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Universidad Católica de San Pablo and Universidad Austral de Valdivia. All of them offered presentations during the International Service-learning Conference.
- **Buenos Aires University:** UBA provided the venue for the meeting, catering for coffee breaks and lunch, Internet connection and sound system.
- **Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento:** UNGS provided the folders, and printed the materials for all participants.

CLAYSS volunteers helped with the reception desk and logistics.