

PREAMBLE

The University of Georgia (hereinafter "University") establishes the Community Engagement Unit (hereinafter "Unit") as a structural subdivision dedicated to advancing the University's third mission through sustained, mutually beneficial partnerships with external communities. The Unit operates within the principles of openness, democratic values, academic integrity, social responsibility, and alignment with European standards of higher education, including the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) and best practices of European university alliances.

The establishment of the Unit reflects the University's commitment to societal development, civic engagement, inclusive collaboration, and the creation of long-term societal impact through education, research, innovation, and community-oriented initiatives.

DEFINITIONS

Community Engagement – A mutually beneficial process through which the University collaborates with external communities to address societal challenges, strengthen civic values, and generate positive social impact.

Community Partnership – A sustained, structured, and reciprocal cooperation between the University and external stakeholders from public, private, non-profit, and civil society sectors at local, regional, national, and international levels.

External Community – Institutions, groups, organizations, or individuals outside the University who participate in collaborative activities, projects, and initiatives.

Engaged Scholarship – Academic research, teaching, and creative work carried out in collaboration with external communities to address practical societal issues.

Volunteerism – Individual or collective activities performed freely for public benefit without financial compensation, recognized as a component of civic engagement.

Impact Assessment – A systematic evaluation of outcomes resulting from community engagement activities, assessing social, educational, cultural, and economic value.

MISSION OF THE UNIT

The mission of the Community Engagement Unit is to cultivate, support, and institutionalize meaningful and reciprocal relationships between the University and external communities, thereby contributing to societal development, civic empowerment, knowledge co-creation, and the realization of the University's third mission.

Article 1. Community Engagement Unit

1.1. The Community Engagement Unit (hereinafter "Unit") coordinates and promotes meaningful community engagement initiatives of the University of Georgia (hereinafter "University") through advocacy, partnerships, research, and capacity-building strategies.

1.2. The Unit is a structural subdivision of the University.

1.3. The Unit operates under the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, Labor Code and University Statutes.

1.4. The Unit is accountable for implementing its duties and responsibilities as defined in this regulation.

1.5. The Unit operates within the following areas:

- Integration of community engagement into teaching, research, innovation, and University management.
- Establishment and strengthening of partnerships with external communities.
- Support for engaged scholarship and community-based research.
- Promotion of student and staff civic involvement and volunteerism.
- Coordination of community-oriented mobility, mentoring, and internships.
- Dissemination of information on community engagement activities.
- Capacity building for University staff, students, and partner communities.

Article 2. Structure and Management of the Unit

2.1. The Unit is part of the University's administrative and outreach framework and functions in close cooperation with other academic and service divisions. Center is a structural unit of the University of Georgia, which represents one of the units within the quality assurance center;

2.2. The Unit is integrated within the Quality Assurance office. The Head of the Quality Assurance Office acts as the head of the unit until the position is filled.

2.3. When matters related to Community Engagement arise, the assigned staff are responsible for receiving, classifying, and evaluating incoming information, determining which projects or initiatives should be implemented, and identifying the necessary human and financial resources. The same employees coordinate the implementation of community engagement activities and projects and subsequently carry out the monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness.

Article 3. Goals and Objectives of the Unit

3.1. The core goals of the Unit are:

- A) To promote advocacy and contribute to community-related policy development;
- B) To foster local and international partnerships for sustainable engagement;
- C) To build capacity within the University and partner communities;
- D) To develop and support community-focused projects and secure relevant funding;
- E) To engage in national and international networking for knowledge exchange;
- F) To raise public awareness of community engagement efforts and outcomes;
- G) To coordinate multidisciplinary university activities aligned with community needs;
- H) To support research and evidence-based practices in community development.

Article 4. Functions of the Community Engagement Unit

- 4.1. Coordinate and implement advocacy initiatives and policy input related to social development and civic engagement;
- 4.2. Identify, initiate, and maintain strategic partnerships with local and international institutions, NGOs, governmental agencies, and communities;
- 4.3. Organize training, workshops, and mentoring for faculty, students, and external stakeholders on community engagement and civic responsibility;
- 4.4. Facilitate project planning and fundraising, including proposal development, donor engagement, and grant management;
- 4.5. Represent the University in national and international networks, forums, and coalitions that focus on community engagement;
- 4.6. Develop and implement public campaigns and communication strategies to raise awareness on social issues and the role of the University in addressing them;
- 4.7. Act as a coordinating hub for community-focused activities across various university departments;
- 4.8. Promote and conduct research in the field of community engagement and evaluate the impact of University-community collaborations.

Article 5. Responsibilities and Authorities of the Unit

- 5.1. The Unit collaborates with all university entities, academic and administrative, to fulfill its mission.

5.2. The Unit is responsible for integrating community engagement practices into the academic, research, and service missions of the University.

5.3. The Unit is obligated to comply with the University's internal rules and national legislation.

Article 6. Management & Reporting

6.1. The Unit systematically collects, analyzes, and reports qualitative and quantitative data related to community engagement.

6.2. Reporting may include:

- Number of partnerships established
- Number of community-based projects
- Hours of volunteer service
- Participation of students and staff

Article 7. Funding & Project Management

The Unit:

- Supports development of project proposals.
- Identifies local and international funding opportunities.
- Manages donor relations.
- Monitors and evaluates funded projects.
- Ensures budget transparency and accountability.

Article 8. Transitional Regulation

8.1. Amendments to this regulation, changes in the Unit's structure, or revision of its functions are subject to approval by the University Academic Council.

8.2. Additional matters regarding the operation of the Unit are regulated by internal policies of the University.