

Candidate's Statement on Service

Jim Dawkins

In the 20 years I practiced professionally as an architect, designer, and corporate leader I found that it was good economics to provide great service. A client invested money in design services and received a return on their investment in the form of homes, hotels, business offices, or other building types. The exchange of ideas and implementation of their solutions was mutually beneficial. The output from the input was always doubled. In my career as both practicing professional and educator, service has constantly centered on both the transfer of goods and the use of expertise – both tangible and intangible at the same time. In the design profession one does not exist without the other, and their individual successes are the result of their co-dependency. The same notions apply to higher education wherein service to and on behalf of one's coworkers creates a rich collegial community supportive of growth and success. It reminds me of a framed needlepoint in my mother's kitchen when I was growing up: "joy shared is doubled; sorrow shared is halved."

At The Florida State University I serve my 'clients' – faculty, students, staff, and administrators - by providing timely, effective, and creative solutions to various 'investment' scenarios. I serve the faculty of FSU by serving on numerous university and departmental committees including past member of Faculty Senate and current member of the Undergraduate Policy Committee and two additional sub-committees, ensuring that the College of Visual Arts, Theatre & Dance is well represented, spoken for, and informed. Within the Department of Interior Design I have been chair and member of two Faculty Search Committees and served as the Faculty Advisor for the Interior Design Student Organization which, during my tenure, had a student president who received the national 2013 American Society of Interior Designers Student Chapter Leader Award. I currently serve on the Graduate, Curriculum, and Technology Committees as well as co-lead the department's student internship program.

Working closely with representatives at the College of Education, I helped develop and design better uses for the poorly utilized Robert Morgan Studio so it functions more appropriately for students and faculty alike. My assistance was highly appreciated and has resulted in their solicitation of my help for other work. Research resulting from this design-related service was the subject of an invited journal article subsequently published with my co-author, Dr. Val Shute, in the International Journal of Designs for Learning. Additionally, I have provided design services for the Florida State University Research Foundation at two of their facilities; one the transformation of a loading dock into a semi-covered, multi-use outdoor space; the other an interior renovation of the public areas of a research office building. All of this work was of a scale that easily (and understandably) eluded the various representatives ability to 'see' what it was they wanted to accomplish and even harder to communicate their wishes verbally, much less with drawn imagery. My expertise in two-dimensional space planning and three-dimensional form giving coupled with quick sketch brainstorming proved to be a valuable tool in meetings where the teams organized, proposed, evaluated, modified, and finalized design decisions and, in the case of the Morgan Studio, guided the installation of a very successful product.

My work with the Master Craftsman Studio similarly underscores my commitment to the integration of research and teaching with service and the importance and vitality of an interdisciplinary approach to service. My career as a practicing design professional was

underscored by a collaborative approach to design wherein each project team member possessed a particular expertise and ability necessary for providing a unified solution. I believe it is critical to mirror this professional behavior on campus. To that end, and in conjunction with FSU's Master Craftsman studio (fabricator and installer) and the FSU Women's Basketball team staff (client), I designed a wall-mounted, backlit glass sculpture for the FSU Women's Basketball team's player facilities. This work explored the opportunity to link athletes with artists and artisans on a university campus. The team's coach intended to create a piece that spoke to her team's strength, unity, and diversity. Drawing on my drawing research and teaching processes, I developed early sketches centered on representing the explosive nature of the team's athletic energy and the coach's notion of the team as family – individually unique but group strong. This installation later became the subject of a presentation at the 2014 Interior Design Educators Council Conference in New Orleans. Further iterations of this design will be pursued in the fall of 2014.

Service is an integral component of my performance as a faculty member at The Florida State University. While pursuing this objective throughout my career, I have become valued for my professionalism and ability to add to the total team effort. I have served clients, consultants, staff, faculty, university administrators, allied colleagues, and students alike with expertise in expanding design vision, exploring form and function, and maintaining design intent throughout a project's lifecycle. It is my position that all of these add philosophical, emotional and financial value to my role as a colleague, professor, mentor and service provider at The Florida State University.