

Statement of Service Philosophy

In my opinion, service is an opportunity to build robust relationships and partnerships – both within the department and between the department and the university and community. Service is a vehicle for collaboration, learning, knowledge-sharing and creativity. I strongly believe that my commitment and willingness for service were established and developed due to my cultural background and through my extensive experience in volunteer and professional work. In that respect, service comes natural within my personality – especially when it comes to introducing initiatives, leading change and projects and collaborating within teams. I believe that any committee should be focused on achieving incremental targets that lead to its goal. Moreover, committees or teams should be viewed as vicinities for building networks and increasing personal development and exposure.

Departmental service: my previous departmental formal service was mostly focused on developing courses and curriculums. Also, I was active in representing my department at conferences and advising students on their academic and career advancements. Additionally, I always made myself available to contribute to the work of other committees, especially when the help request falls within my area of expertise or when the committee is overloaded with work. I believe that the key attributes for successful service are willingness to help, share knowledge, collaborate and be involved with collective concerns and institutional development.

Departmental service is integrated within my everyday work, so I do not consider it as an independent pillar when it comes to my personal performance. Although teaching is not usually considered under service, I believe that assisting others within the department to accommodate their teaching load with their personal and professional lives is a major service aspect. I always made myself available to substitute tutors, especially in cases of emergency and strong personal commitments. Such help provides the team with flexibility and, most importantly, increases cohesion and trust among the department members.

University service: I always looked at the university service as an opportunity to build cross-sectional networks and increase the department visibility. It is a great area where we can raise our voice for pressing needs and wants. Moreover, it increases the strength of the organizational culture and raises appreciation of other disciplines and units.

Community service: I strongly believe that one of the main roles of academics is to have an impact on their communities – especially when the community initiatives fall within my area of expertise. Partnerships with schools, colleges, other universities, governmental bodies/agencies and community organizations and influential individuals, help in strengthening the community, increasing the university visibility and elevating intrinsic rewards of academics. My previous volunteer experience highly supports my high interest in engaging with the community to create a better future through incremental civic services.

Professional service: Another important area of academic impact is contributing to the professional community. I have been an active member of several professional organizations such as the Center of Employment Relations, Innovation and Change and the British Academy of Management. Professional organizations provide the opportunity to present your work, get feedback, interact with other academics and professionals, share knowledge and – most importantly – exert an effort to better the profession and foster creativity.

To conclude, service should be looked at holistically – taking into account its various facets: departmental, organizational, communal and professional. It allows academics to impact their environment. I believe that my active involvement in service provides a continuous opportunity to learn, share knowledge, build networks and relationships and add to my intrinsic job satisfaction. I look forward to continue and develop my effort in service within your institute. For further information on my academic and community service, please check my personal website at www.hadielfarr.com. Thank you for your time in reviewing my service philosophy.

Sincerely,

Hadi El Farr
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