**Academic Integration Breakout Session**

**7/15/15; 12:15-1:45; Plemmons Student Union; Facilitated by Jeff Ramsdell; Scribe: Laura Johnston.**

Welcome by Jeff Ramsdell. Dale Brentrup is back in Charlotte today. Several attendees had to leave already. 2a and 2b will be combined today as subgroup “2.” Remember, no need to conclude with deliverables, but we do want to figure out next steps forward. Please discuss these questions:

* How can we leverage the collective power of Higher Ed and the AES for the greatest good?
* How will you communicate between now and the mid-year meeting?

One attendee’s idea: for mid-year meeting, structure it so that we can mix between different groups, since some of us are interested in more than one topic. Also, some are here to learn, and others have more to contribute.

**Subgroup 1a (in detail, since Scribe was in this subgroup), led by ECU’s Griffin Avin:**

Consensus: no need to review yesterday.

One issue we’re trying to resolve: it is not sustainable when there is a disparity between faculty and PP. Some campuses seem better than others in this regard. How do we improve this at schools where it is a problem?

Each campus could do a survey about how faculty could incorporate PP, as suggested last year. Did anyone do that? Consensus: no. Incentivize participation in survey or other form of communication. What would the survey cover? Sustainability functions across campus? Incorporate with STARS collection process? Broader survey about sustainability and incorporate a couple of questions about faculty being open to work with PP / PP being open to work with faculty.

Workshops to be created by / provided by this group or by one school in this group? “Intro to Sustainability” at UNC-G—very well received. Considering offering it every other year. Lecture on Sustainability in general that Dr. Aaron Allen from UNC-G gave to facilities personnel. Online presentation that could be used by other campuses. Make sure someone from each shop is there—sometimes facilities personnel don’t know what their colleagues in other shops at the same university are doing.

Google Drive folder to keep UNC schools informed about what is going on. We’ll get Jeff Ramsdell to make sure all appropriate email addresses are included. Q: include admin, GA, etc? David Orr mentioned training chancellors / university presidents—maybe try to get on agenda once a year or so—training for CFO’s, Provosts, and Chancellors.

Put together “best practices” that we can share with other universities. For example, student internships, work study, volunteers, graduate and undergraduate students working with the Office of Sustainability—this works well at ECU. Furman’s Community Conservation Corps works with AmeriCorps—projects include weatherization for low income families in the community. Fayetteville State had a great example of a student working with a local non-profit, presenting to the BOT, and a BOT member getting energized. Universities are a resource for their communities—get students out in the community. ECU: Collegiate Recycling Coalition. One subgroup attendee found info about Yale’s Campus as a Living Lab during this break-out session—maybe we should do a literature review and get back to each other with ideas. Competition between campuses? (Like the Sustainable Design Competition.)

Handful of faculty and handful of facilities folks working together, having good interactions—throw an ice cube to start an avalanche. Good way to start? Green bag lunch; branch out—sustainability in the arts, social justice, health and wellness, diversity, etc. Share success stories. One school has a Faculty-Staff Institute at beginning of each school year; con: faculty has luncheon afterwards and staff doesn’t. If people just have the opportunity to get to know each other—then we can figure out similar interests, start to trust each other, etc.

Q: Do all UNC Schools have a Sustainability Council, Committee, etc? A: yes, and the Sustainability Alliance has members of the different UNC Schools. The Alliance works together on STARS (among other things)—formalized pathways for data collection.

Recap:

* Create survey about sustainability activities on campus / relationships between faculty and staff. Could we work on submitting questions to each other by the mid-year meeting? Scott Bradshaw with Elizabeth City State University is working on a survey for his campus currently and will share with group.
* An ECU representative offered to do a literature review of Campus as a Living Lab by mid-year meeting.
* We (Chad Carwein of UNC-G and/or others) will ask Jeff Ramsdell about email addresses to include in a shared Google Drive folder—or Miriam Tripp, who has a secure collaborative site—by the mid-year meeting.
* Chad Carwein will put thought into a ~2-hour Train the Trainer event so other schools could learn how to present Dr. Allen’s training to their own schools. Melissa Lyon with Fayetteville State suggested holding this Train the Trainer event at next year’s AES (when others are having a Leadership Luncheon, etc.).

**Big Group:**

Summaries from each subgroup.

**Subgroup 1a Summary:**

Opportunities / Solutions to issues discussed yesterday:

* Sharing successes on campuses—create a central repository (activities / student projects; community outreach projects; internships / work study programs; literature reviews;
* Bring faculty and staff together—green bag lunches; sharing workshops such as “Intro to Sustainability,” as well as chancellor / provost trainings.

Goals by mid-year meeting:

* Determine best source for creating central repository.
* Literature review; post in shared drive.
* Draft a survey to be circulated at various schools.
* Training opportunities discussed.

**Subgroup 1b Summary:**

Follow-up to constituencies discussion yesterday:

* “Students” include Student Affairs programs, clubs, and Green fund
* “Research Offices” include the Sustainability Office

Projects (“Toolbox”):

* University of Tennessee software
* NCSU Sustainability Ambassadors
* Physical Clearinghouse—need; current; past
* Signage / ads for proposals
* Event / celebration / presentation
* Filters for selecting projects / encourage those who are serious about following through on an idea; if you ask everyone who has an idea to complete a one-page form, 90% of people will not follow through—helps determine who is serious about helping with the solution

Someone will contact UT person who was here yesterday regarding Clearinghouse info.

**Subgroup 2 Summary:**

* Obstacles to academic integration—one size does not fit all. Be tolerant and stay focused on the grand vision.
* Lack of recognition by administration—encourage administration to promote/require sustainability throughout all curricula.
* Incentivize faculty—team-teaching, summer stipends, student engagement (paid), etc.
* Take inventory of what’s happening on campus—students are passionate, as well as many faculty members—sustainability is happening anyway, let’s embrace it.
* Use AES as clearinghouse for information.
* Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Ed (AASHE) provides courses, lectures, curricula, and outlines for schools—great resource.
* Example issue: a faculty member is teaching a course in new material design—materials happen to be sustainable, but faculty member isn’t aware so isn’t pointing that out to students.
* Universities exercise sustainability in different ways, but they each should know what is happening on other campuses and then help bring people together.
* Some universities are expanding minors and clusters, and “Sustainability” is an option.
* Each campus should go back and review the sustainability structure on campus and what effects, challenges, and opportunities that structure provides for academic integration. Currently, campuses range from a one-person (partial) effort to an office of several people.
* We’re having some of the same conversations as two years ago, so let’s try to make progress by the mid-year meeting—report findings from homework, so we experience continuity rather than repetition.

Conclusion by Jeff Ramsdell.