

Integrating Sustainability and Energy with the Academy
Friday, July 19, 2013

Ideas

Aaron – from academics side

UNC-G:

- commitment to sustainability
 - UNC system doc
 - acupcc
 - STARS
 - App Energy Summit signatory commitment
 - University committee on sustainability (now a council)
 - Fac and Staff Senates
 - Chancellor's office
 - Operating papers outlining principles
 - Fac senate, staff senate and student government officially endorsed
- Created a sustainability director position to foster integration
 - 4 or his 6 courses bought out by chancellor's office so relatively cheap
- Sustainability a "core value" in strategic plan
 - Definition: "Academics, operations, and outreach are conducted with careful attention to the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, the economy, and aesthetics."
- Existing activities in integration
 - Reports about campus (Climate Action Plan, STARS)
 - UNC-G recognition such as "Bike Friendly Campus," "Tree Campus USA," etc.
 - Activities for faculty/staff/students such as vampire-slayers energy program, Earth Day, etc
 - Aesthetics – a way to reinforce existing cultural activities that are historically strong on campus, so they stayed within their existing culture. Sustainability and the Arts symposium, sustainability film series open to public, a short-films competition, etc.
 - Elements for scholars, such as a fair to share what folks are doing on campus. Great opp to network. Work with library to create a sustainability reference center, supported by two librarians with that focus.
- Planned activities, ongoing, too.
 - Will teach two courses (one fall, one spring), "Intro to sustainability studies". Will focus on energy/climate, with students doing campus-based project proposals, etc.

- Faculty programming along the lines of the Piedmont Project, each faculty will work on a syllabus to integrate sustainability, with \$250 stipend attached. Sustainability fair
- Developing programs across campus, especially with programs such as environmental studies program, etc.
- Sustainability network – beer/wine monthly to share ideas
- Web presence – to improve that image. Looking at SuMo (Sustainability Momentum) software program. It's expensive!
- Preparing for his successor, who will come in after two years. He will work on funding opps, too.

Mary Ann – comes from operations side.

A&T

- As director of energy services and sustainability, charged with reducing costs. Her focus has been on the energy side and on working with faculty to help them modify their learning outcomes to create research activities, etc. She does focus on her campus. Targeted activities to help reach her goal.
 - She does have slides she might be willing to share..
 - Opportunity to teach the four Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, and re-purpose.
 - Center for Energy research and Technology – existed when she got there, but she's pushed them to work more fully on campus projects by engaging students, too.
 - Focusing on social aspects, not just the science
 - Interdisciplinary; working on a first-year emersion seminar for all incoming students. Then have a capstone course, too. Will allow them to measure.
 - 1st capstone project that was interdisciplinary'
 - Net Zero Homes
 - Get to know faculty to create working relationships

Discussion

- A&T does use students for some building commissioning activities. Some Level 1 and Level 2 audits are conducted by students.
- Hasn't done a lot of collaboration between UNC-G and A&T. At least partially a function of each trying to get its own programming up and running
- Class projects should be exceedingly focused. Faculty will provide focus for projects. Freshman are mostly enrolled in Aaron's new course.
 - Will create a data base of these projects, post on web, open to subsequent classes

- Barrier has been to get faculty to teach these. And to get students enrolled in it. Business school there does have a requirement for its incoming students to take a sustainability course.
- At A&T, all incoming freshman will take class in sustainability, so this is a separate course. Will be embedded in first-year seminar, but will be based on student interest. Will include faculty from across campus, as well as campus staff and industry experts,
- How are others incorporating issues of environmental social justice.
 - On one campus, the art department lead the effort
 - A fund at A&T to help those economically disadvantaged (couldn't capture all Mary Ann was saying about this)
 - Sustainability network at UNC-C, social sustainability. Has a web site.
 - At App, social justice piece is well connected and integrated, using ACT office. But also research projects that are directed at low-income housing.
 - Service Learning activities that foster student reflection on working With people, not FOR people. Students come to understand issues better.
 - We have to think globally, too. Students have to get out in other places in the world and see what it means to be sustainable in other places
 - Question is how do we capture what we already have going on campus, so that we can share with one another's campuses. Where do we have that database?
 - Team taught course on coal at Warren Wilson: English, App Studies, and geology. Web site created as outcome of class. Shared pedagogy.
 - Coal musical is starting a tour of region.
 - Help students develop a sense of place, by working through this is class and service learning. Environmental and social realities.
 - Discussion @ how to get others on campus (Pembroke) to buy into sustainability efforts, such as a campus community garden.
 - Suggestions about using wording of state policies to force administrators hands
 - Talk to others in the system who are already doing it
 - Make the academic arguments

Lauren ??, Energy Manager at Western Carolina

Alliance for Safe Energy – nonprofit located in DC

- POWERSAVE campus project.
 - 2-4 interns/campus
- Want to move into Southeast & NC in particular

- Want Duke Energy to fund (\$3 mil)
- Students are employed by Alliance through competitive process
 - Twice a semester, students write reports,
 - Students are selected for their own campuses
 - Twice yearly all interns in area get together to get together
- Jeff Ramsdell suggested we all participate, then have students come together for future App Energy Summits.
- It's a part-time internship for 2 years.