

ACS Fellows and Interns Conference Survey
Rollins College
October 13 – 15, 2006

1. What aspects of the conference were most helpful?

1. Pedro Bernal! Real World Change! Barry's talk was great! Exchange and conversation between interns and fellows. Environ. Resident Program Discussion
2. It was most helpful to hear everyone talk about their respective environmental activities. The face-to-face contact with like-minded colleagues was also extremely invigorating (and fun).
3. Meeting other ACS fellows and interns, Seeing old ACS friends!, Presentations and break-out/brainstorming sessions, website and other resources overviews.
4. Informal brainstorming.
5. The exchange of ideas between schools, info and slide show on sustainability.
6. ACS's covering room and board and meals. I really may not have considered attending the conference otherwise.
7. The communication of ideas. Learning what other campuses are doing and how they are resolving the challenges similar to all of our small schools. The energy of the leaders really motivated us and took us away from all of the frustrations at school... gave me hope, determination.
8. I liked talking about what green stuff is going on at the other campuses (but I feel like it went a little long). I especially appreciated Dr. Bernal's talk on water quality.
9. I group discussions about plans for the year were extremely helpful.
10. Informative sessions on projects, grants, and ideas to expand environmental awareness on campus.
11. Learning about the ER program; hearing what other people had done, Barry Allen's talk about sustainability, learning about history.
12. The resources (websites, fellows, etc.) and meeting other interns.
13. Visiting with other interns and faculty for ideas, talking about the different schools campus plans (though this got lengthy this year.)
14. The small groups session allowed us to learn from other schools.
15. So many amazing, wonderful, helpful ideas.
16. Brainstorming ideas. Hearing what programs other schools are implementing and the problems that they face! Liked the PowerPoint's and review of ACS websites.
17. I liked speaking with the other interns and faculty fellows about what is happening on their campuses. They often had insightful suggestions.
18. The PowerPoint presentations were great and informational, guest speakers were interesting, Eco resident ideas were good.

2. What aspects were least helpful?

1. Concrete planning- with others because we were not very prepared to have a meaningful conversation with others.
2. Some presentations would have benefited from giving some more background on environmental acronyms/processes.
(really, none- I enjoyed it all)
3. Details about curriculum and faculty development alliance.
4. Need to address the challenge of sustaining commitment on campus.

5. I would like to see more planning for individual campus efforts. There was some of this, but not enough to be significantly helpful.
6. Everything was useful.
7. Having long sessions of listening his interesting, but just too long to sit. I think I may not be alone on this either.
8. Charts for plans.
9. Everything was helpful.
10. The Costa Rica presentation.
11. Sometimes the sessions were long and I lost concentration along the like.
12. Personally- info on Monteverde Institute and Water purification.
13. I thought the entire conference was good, but don't have over two hours of lecture without a 30 minute break or local field trip to art show, museum, etc.
14. There was a lot of lecture, and I think it was oversimplified at times.
15. Too much unorganized speaking- by end of day, most students were completely exhausted with glazed eyes.

3. What would you change about the conference if you could?

1. More concrete planning time- to have "seeds of change" to take home. Plan by own institution to have something real to take home and then get others to discuss.
2. I would have included a break of at least 10 minutes during the Saturday 1pm-4pm block.
3. Have more fellows attend! (-> maybe give more advance notice about conference date; many of us have to plan 6 months ahead of time)
4. Have a little bit more structure on Sat. afternoon parts.
5. A more reliable hotel; constant supply of water throughout the day.
6. While communication was good, it would have been more effective had we stuck to the original schedule. It just drug on too long without a hiatus, thus losing some students' interest. I would have liked a more focused group convocation on ER programs and a separate convocation on other campus initiatives. Rather than each school saying everything they do one at a time, it would be more conversational where as each activity came up, discussion would follow. This would eliminate repetition and would also allow for development of the ideal implementation plans.
7. Perhaps the timing. Everything helped, but it was very densely packed to the point of being overwhelming at times.
8. Different hotel.
9. Breaking up talk/informative sessions and intervene with interactive sessions (moving around) and activities or exercises.
10. More short breaks.
11. I would possibly try and make more breaks in between speakers.
12. Give more time for student networking.
13. I would make it longer for greater interaction and sharing.
14. I would have liked to hang out in Winter Park a little more.
15. Have at least one more outside scheduled "fun" trip to a natural area, say the mentioned "Genius" site at Rollins. Also a campus tour would be nice.
16. I think maybe having more discussion time after lectures or during lectures would be interesting and helpful. It would also help with the "glazed eyes" look.
17. More breaks! Less lecturing! We didn't really get to spend time talking w/ Eco students or teachers from other schools.

4. What ideas from the conference will you try to implement? What steps will you take?

1. Wow! Lots. We are so pumped up 1st work on higher education on our campus.
2. We plan to get our own R.A. program in place within the next year. We will encourage faculty interested in the environment to promote our on campus activities. We need to propose our RA program to obtain funding.
3. Environmental Resident program (other ideas for student projects)
4. Some parts of Environmental Resident program
5. Eco-team to travel around local schools spreading awareness.
6. Implement an ER program on campus, working with RLO, I think I will apply for a grant for a student internship.
7. ER Program: Pilot year with a few dorms or halls and then a freshman volunteer from each freshman hall. This would be a highly committed start that hopefully could form a durable structure.
8. I think the largest idea/effort I will bring back to my campus is enthusiasm and connection to other' similar challenges and triumphs. Educating the student body about what I'm doing seems more important to me now.
9. Environmental Resident, Environmental careers fair.
10. Have more exciting env programs like food, hikes after 10 am on Saturdays (better turnout), possibly getting food from local farmers in the cafeteria.
11. ER program, finding history of our program; too many ideas to list
12. Recycling program, student discussions, gaining student involvement; contacting environmental groups on campus and trying to recruit more students.
13. Recruiting environmental conscious students for college through admissions; activities- films, local farm lunches, letter writing, etc
14. First trying to build interest among students about environmental sustainability. I will try to get a column in the school newspaper to write articles about the environment.
15. A ton! (3 pages!!!), reusable cups, the lorax, art dept using trash for art, theatre dept doing env plays, include env alums, involvement w/ other colleges in our city.
16. Start a cell phone, computer ink, and computer recycling program. Put lids on our co-mingled bins to reduce trash contamination. Start a pilot Environmental Resident program.
17. Trying to pay certain people to help us with recycling. We will probably have to write a grant to do so.
18. I got several ideas from other students, and our Environmental club may try and implement some kind of eco-resident program.

5. What challenges do you foresee in implementing the ideas? What could ACS do to help you? How could your institution help?

1. Attitudes from administration and physical plant (facilities director). Elizabeth could come to our campus for a cheerleading session! ☺
2. Our main challenge is finding funding. Continued ACS grant support opportunities would be most appreciated.
3. Challenges: Getting institutional commitment for ER ACS Help: Having ER program info on ACS website gives credibility!
4. Maintain contacts with future college need for recharging.
5. ACS could fund my internship. I foresee residence life as hindering plans for our ER program. Our institution could demonstrate enthusiasm for our efforts.

6. Continuous funding from RLO-> will also try a grant on campus and right levels of sustainable commitment.
7. Getting significant student support will be difficult, but that's why education/outreach will be so vital. ACS, I hope, will provide some accountability so that I continue my efforts.
8. Challenges: Student interest, support from a variety of organizations.
9. Incentives to get students involved and actually increasing participation. ACS could provide money for recycling center coordinator and give ideas to expand knowledge. Provide money and faculty and administrative support for programs.
10. Time, attitudes, frequent encouraging e-mails, teachers encouraging green habits.
11. Motivating students; ACS could help by providing student and faculty resources (for ideas); my institution could help with funding and support
12. Allow for more grants for environmental projects on campus- money is our big issue and we try our campus sources to no avail.
13. The reluctance of the editor to give me the column. ACS could encourage me in trying to do this job. My institution could support environmental initiatives that I start on campus.
14. Student involvement, maybe get our institution to institutionalize recycling, ACS has helped!!!
15. No major problems for recycling. ER's issue for both funding and student involvement will occur. That's why we want to do a pilot program say in one dorm. Institution help through funding stipends to ER's. ACS through giving updates about what other schools are doing.
16. We don't have facilities or administrative support, so funding is a big problem.
17. Our res life administration has not been incredibly open to the Eco resident idea, so it would take a lot of communication to get anything going. Other than that, our group is going to continue putting on env events and keep in mind that ACS has funding for many service projects.

6. Overall, how could conferences such as this be improved in the future?

1. Powerful, life changing speakers like Pedro were great! Keep this kind of element. Keep info exchange- absolutely vital!
2. It would have been useful to know in advance what information we should have prepared to share with the group. As mentioned in the conference, each school should maintain a log of activities to help ease transition of team members.
3. Instead of presentations, have more workshop-type sessions (e.g. grant writing, organizing/leadership, etc.)
4. Ice breakers would make introductions much easier.
5. Maybe include a discussion on after-college continuation.
6. I think more brainstorming could be done for future directions of campus campaigns. The students/faculty have so much creativity and passion, ideas would surely help enliven efforts (and wouldn't run short)
7. Last year, there were activities designed for student bonding. It would have been more pleasant to have more of this.
8. Have printed information with ideas to take back to our colleges and universities. Also have more information (e-mails) or additional conferences.
9. Not much really- it was a really helpful conference.
10. I thought it was great! Don't change a thing!
11. Less sitting listening to lectures.

12. The food could be better but I was generally impressed.
13. It was great!
14. Make them longer, ie. Two full days. Have a group trip to visit a related local site ie. Park, recycling center, power center, etc.
15. Again, I think more open discussion instead of lecture could be more informative. Some of the best advice/info I got was Saturday night when we were all hanging out with the faculty sponsors.
16. More env events outside the conference room.

7. Is there anything else about which you'd like to comment?

1. Great organization/ logistics/ nice location. Rollins students were great hosts!!
2. GOOD JOB!! It's always great to attend an ACS meeting- gets me energized and re-inspired every time.
3. Although the rooms were nice, comfortable, and well-equipped at the Best Western, we had terrible trouble with our key. The lock on our door was broken. She offered us a smoking room in which we had to spend our first night. The second night we moved to a third room.
4. Great enthusiasm. Also the free time at night was great b/c that is when some of the best discussions surfaced- sincere connections were made that will constructively last.
5. I will really miss ACS next year!
6. This is my first year to attend this conference, and I have gotten great ideas! THANKS!!! Look forward to working with everyone more!
7. I really enjoyed this conference and learned a lot of new info
8. Red Fox lounge was excellent!
9. Great food! Nice art show in Winter Park and the museum. Faculty were great!
10. Everyone was so nice and helpful!