

Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative (ACSEI)
Key Players Strategic Planning Workshop
Davidson College, February 15-16, 2008
COMPILED EVALUATIONS

1. This workshop was intended to help you strategize about ways to continue supporting a Fellow and Intern/s on your campus. What ideas from the workshop will you try to implement? What steps will you need to take?
 - a. Discussion w/Sust. Planning Group for ACS sponsorship – maybe have James Wilkins as ACS Fellow. . . or not –
 - b. Support for a fellow/intern position funded by BSC shouldn't be too hard to secure
 - c. Meet w/dean to strategize how to get this done
--convince dean that Fac. Fellow & Student Intern need to be compensated – for Fac., w/some form of release time {or stipend}; for student, w/work-study/stipend or scholarship/ind. Study
--eliminate redundancies in enviro-oriented campus committees
 - d. need to look at existing funding sources on campus for support for enviro programs
 - e. The workshop and the meeting with the Deans empowered us to move forward in positive ways.
 - f. Continued buy-in from the Univ.; Meet the Dean & bug the president
 - g. Lots of ideas, too numerous to mention. --we will push for establishment of Fellow, Sust. Coordinator, and an enviro scholarship. Need to convince President
 - h. *The ideas about funding an Environmental Intern were very helpful. I have already had an extended conversation with the chair of the EPC, Environmental Planning Cooperative. We have developed exciting ideas about integrating ideas from the ACS conference, and current EPC practices on our campus, and preparing a position paper to present to the Provost. It will cover ways to include several Environmental Interns into our program by dovetailing with the new campus initiative to change the method by which student scholarships are awarded for new freshman. In fact, we plan to include the 4 ACS recommendations into our proposal.
 - i. I have made a list of potential initiatives to undertake. My plan is to pursue many of them in a "buckshot" approach, determine which ones generate interest and support, and proceed from there. Included here is a kind of rough plan.
 - j. I will meet with our Provost and our President to propose that the college implement the action items we developed at this workshop: appoint a faculty Environmental Fellow, support that appointment with one or two student interns, create a campus sustainability committee, and commit to hosting an ACS-wide environmental workshop once each 16 years.

2. What challenges do you foresee in implementing the ideas? What could ACS do to help you? How could your institution help?
 - a. FU is doing things on its own already – do they want to maintain ACS ties? Are they redundant?
 - b. A greater challenge, in the absence of a central ACS conduit (live vs. a message board) is how to stay truly collaborative
 - c. -challenges: not getting enough support (esp. re: release time for Fac. Fellow)
--ACS = continue to provide listservs, websites, historical info, etc.
 - d. lots of good ideas – though the coordinating support provided by the ACS will not be replicated on our campuses – hopeful the ACS will look of [sic] support for this function
 - e. Buy-in by the entire Trinity community, including administration and faculty, is our biggest challenge.
 - f. Facilities implementation. Keep up the workshops
 - g. -set up up-to-date site showing what other schools are doing
 - h. *I think the administration will be very receptive to our ideas. ACS could help by emphasizing the importance of the 1) the Environmental Residents program and 2) the Environmental Planning Committees in advancing Environmental Initiative on campuses. Communications to the Provosts/Deans highlighting the successes of these two groups on various campuses would be helpful and would provide a context for them to envision our plans.

i. Many. Without the funding or support from administration, and with my already full schedule, I face many challenges. But I also see opportunities. One thing I plan to do is to extend my timeline significantly. I hope to adopt a greenhouse model that will take years to implement, a model that requires patience and careful cultivation.

j. The greatest challenge will be convincing our administrators to pursue the Presidents Climate Commitment. The action items for continuation of our environmental efforts will be relatively easy by comparison. The bottom line on this issue will almost certainly be the extra money, the investments in the future not already planned, it will cost to pursue the PCC.

3. Do you believe it will be possible for your campus to support, on a rotating basis, a conference for students to present environmental research and faculty/staff to share best practices? If not, what roadblocks do you foresee?

a. Yes

b. Yes! We would be happy to host the 1st or 2nd conference (BSC)

c. Yes (Davidson)

d. Yes - our administration will support our leadership on workshops and conferences

e. Trinity could certainly host, but given our location and concern over emissions, I don't think it would be wise.

f. Yes

g. Yes, I think so

h. *Yes, I think Rhodes can.

i. Yes, I think we can support a conference and I will talk to Darrel about this when we meet.

j. I believe that our campus will support this effort if I make a strong case for it.

4. As a secondary goal, the workshop was intended to help you understand more about the Presidents Climate Commitment and put your own campus into context with other ACS institutions. Do you feel this was accomplished? Please explain.

a. Yes

b. It became clear that the programs which have made the most progress had the following advantages: strong administrative support and facility management buy in.

c. yes - I know which schools have signed & what they're doing (send link for ppt, please!)

d. Yes - much better sense of what others are doing - and several resources - web & otherwise - were identified that will be useful

e. It was very informative to find out what the other campuses are doing

f. Yes

g. Yes, I really learned from what other schools like Furman, W&L, etc. are doing.

h. *Definitely. Seeing that Rhodes was at a similar stage as the other colleges was very encouraging. I also learned who I can contact at other schools if we have questions.

i. No. Clearly, our situation is much different. But I will pursue the PCC and see what happens.

j. The workshop gave me a much better understanding of the PCC and the process involved. I feel much more competent to advocate for this program with our administrators now.

5. As a tertiary goal, the workshop was intended to introduce you to two of the University of Georgia's environmental schools. Did you find anything particularly compelling about these schools? Is there a possibility your institution might collaborate with UGA in the future? If so, in what way/s?

a. Yes - the Study Away programs

b. These guys (especially the Ag guy) were mostly interested in strengthening their May semester /grad programs. I had hoped they might have focused more on grant partnership possibilities.

c. hmmm... not sure - interesting, but not clear re: collaborative possibilities

d. good opportunities for graduates

e. This was good in terms of knowing these opportunities for our students after they graduate!

f. Yes, Ecuador trips

g. I don't think so, (my plate's full, to be honest).

h. *Since our conference, I have talked with the director of off-campus programs. She is very impressed with the U of GA courses and I think there is a definite possibility of collaborating with them in the future.

- i. I enjoyed hearing about their program, but we never actually talked about how we might collaborate. I am still in the dark about that one.**
- j. I find it helpful to learn about programs and opportunities at research universities that my students may be able to pursue. Although I was aware of the College of Ecology programs, hearing about them and the College of Agriculture and Environment programs was helpful. Since this part of the meeting was after we did the much more intense work of identifying goals and action items, and presenting them to the Deans, being talked to was fine.**

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

- a. Reception of Deans was encouraging**
- b. The conference was well organized & fun!**
- c. great job as usual, E - I'm always amazed @ how much we can do on a teeny-tiny budget!**
- d. Hope this isn't the last time this group is together**
- e. I will return with a re-energized sense of possibilities. Thanks!**
- f. N/A**
- g. Great job, Elizabeth!**
- h. *The conference was extremely well thought-out and well run. By getting the key players together again to talk about their programs, it made me realize how much we have accomplished on all the campus, and how we could not have done so without the support and direction that ACS has provided for the last 10 years.**
- i. Thank you for hosting us. I look forward to future conversations.**
- j. It is always a pleasure when the environmental group gets together because many of us have become old friends, and the newer faculty who have become involved bring an excitement and commitment that is energizing to me. The commitment and passion of my colleagues for this program is always inspiring and assures me that our efforts are good for our colleges and ourselves.**