

**ACS-Furman Conference on Sustainability and the Environment**  
September 11-12, 2009  
Furman University  
**SUMMARIZED EVALUATION RESPONSES**

1. What did you expect to gain from attending the conference at Furman?

- I did not know what to expect.
- I expected to learn more about sustainability issues and about the other ACS members' efforts. I also hoped to meet and network with colleagues from other campuses.
- A. To meet the other post doc, their mentors, and the ACS team B. To discuss about what is a good curriculum in environmental studies. C. To share experience about sustainability
- A feel for what the post-docs were doing, and a feel for where the ACS enviro stuff might go in the future.
- Learn about sustainability progress at Furman and how we might emulate their programs and successes.
- Learn what other schools are doing. Benchmark. Bring home ideas. Brainstorm
- Concrete ideas from Furman and other campuses
- Honestly, I didn't have any expectations
- New connections to fellow post-docs & enviro-minded faculty; an overview of Furman's sustainability initiatives
- 1. Update on ACS post-doc contributions 2. Learn more about Furman's green campus initiative 3. See if Barry had learned how to open a wine bottle
- Background on how other campuses are approaching the CAP.
- I expected to get to know some of the folks at ACS institutions and to learn about their programs; and of course to get to see Furman's campus and "green features"
- new knowledge of sustainability practices; new contacts with professors at other schools
- 1) Networking 2) Visit to Furman as an example of a campus that is doing a great deal.
- I expected to learn more about the ACS Environment program and the other post-docs, and a bit about Furman's sustainability efforts.
- network, exchange of ideas, opportunity to see sustainable buildings and practices

2. Did you gain anything above and beyond your expectations?

- Absolutely! Mostly getting to know like-minded folks. It can feel pretty isolated in these types of schools.
- Yes. I learned more about what Furman is doing - very inspiring! I learned a lot about the ACS initiatives. I really enjoyed meeting new colleagues.
- No
- comraderie
- Yes, I found David Shi very inspiring and his observations on working with conservative constituencies very helpful. The tour of the new science building was excellent.
- Very impressed with Furman
- Yes, the presentations were more beneficial than expected, and I enjoyed the fellowship/contacts.
- Yes
- I came back w/a set of questions (for example, about the pres. climate agreement) to ask my insitution that I hadn't considered asking before
- Yes, input from Furman's administration was especially helpful
- Meeting people is always a big benefit.
- Yes--informal discussions with other faculty from ACS institutions were lively and helpful in many ways
- Loved South Carolina
- I was gratified to see that Furman is focusing not only on campus sustainability but also on sustainability curriculum. I gained a lot of insight into their approach, and some contacts at Furman to continue working with.
- renewable energy can be artistic and aesthetic

3. Was there anything you felt was missing from the conference that could have improved your experience?

- More time to chat and tour. Perhaps more tightly packaged informational sessions but overall it was VERY informative.
- Not really.
- Yes: point B in question 1 above
- I thought more time for the post-docs would have been better. It seemed a bit odd to have the faculty sponsors describe the work of many post docs when they were sitting right there...

- I would have liked more time to interact with the new postdocs and discuss the challenges that they will be facing. I know that they will be the focus of the June meeting, so the opportunity will come. The ACS network is an opportunity for the postdocs to become part of a larger community and we should foster that.
- Would have liked more information on products utilized on Furman Campus. Information on how they chose which products/technology to use vs others. It is nice to look at things, but is even better to understand why they chose what they did.
- Perhaps more time to discuss each campus's programs/challenges
- A little more on pedagogy
- Asking a couple of Furman students to participate/share their experience w/Furman's sustainability programs, or sharing student work/portfolios in sustainability studies could have added an add'l perspective
- 1. ACS funding, so it didn't have to come out of my pocket 2. Barry still doesn't know how to use a corkscrew
- I would have liked to learn from more campuses. We got good information on the Furman approach, and their organization is excellent. But there are several more institutions that we did not hear from.
- Some kind of open bar (even with cheap beer) or an activity that forced people to interact with one another on the first night...rather than the regular old uncomfortable and awkward social gathering of folks, 30% of whom knew others and the rest of whom did not.
- group activities in the field, out in a natural setting
- Less presentation time, more group discussion with q and a from the group. These people have common problems and great ideas about solving them.
- Not particularly. Since I didn't get there until Sat morning, I missed out on a lot on Fri evening that may have put things into context for me a bit more.
- more time to see and experience the sustainable Furman campus

#### 4. Did you find the carbon offset opportunity useful/satisfactory?

- I was not in a position to take advantage but I'm really glad that it was there to raise awareness.
- Yes. Loved the carpooling too. Thanks for organizing airport rides, etc. Sharing rides encouraged interaction among participants.
- Not sure. Carbon offset is a tricky issue. I need more information to have an opinion.
- I walked.
- Duke Power is attempting to be a good citizen, and that is great.
- so so
- OK
- Yes
- This was an interesting & eye-opening conversation. Some documents/case examples of locally-based offsets options would be great, if available.
- Yes
- I don't remember a carbon offset opportunity
- Yes
- yes
- NA
- I didn't know about it.
- certainly

#### 5. If you could name just one event or presentation that you found most inspiring, what would it be?

- Touring and chatting!
- David Shi keynote was very engaging.
- Furman University President's talk on Friday evening
- the art
- David Shi talking about sustainability as another form of institutional endowment. This is the most compelling way to talk about the up-front investments that sustainability progress will require.
- Dr Shi - engaging
- Furman discussion of how things have gotten done
- The artists' presentation
- Furman's Approach. . . Session II Saturday
- Tour of science building
- Jeff Redderson, David Shi
- Most anything that Angela Halfacre did
- the talk on simplicity was very good
- Introductory speaker
- Session Three: Presidents Climate Commitment & Climate Action Planning. I appreciated Angela's audience-interactive approach.

(Continued next page)

## 6. What activity/panel/presentation most needed improvement, in your opinion?

- I thought it was all very informative. The panels could have been a bit tighter and more directed but, again, they were very informative.
- The final wrap up did not really work - probably because everyone was too tired from a very full day.
- None of them in particular. But I think there was excessive focus on Furman's experience. It would have been good to compare the experiences of various ACS colleges, as a basis for discussion.
- I thought that all the presentation were very well focused and did not need improvement. Time was the big limiting factor. We just could have used more time to talk to each other.
- Tours. Again, I would have liked more technical information, as well as why Furman chose what they did
- None, they were all great
- None
- The Friday night social gathering (see above)
- Panel of Furman people who talked sequentially, then there was little room for q and a.
- I loved Session Six on Green Art, but it wasn't integrated as well as it could have been. Including artists on some of the other panel discussions might be one way to try to integrate in the future.
- more time to tour

## 7. Were there ideas from this conference that you might be able to apply at your own institution? If so, please tell us about them.

- Absolutely! Curricular development and physical plant! Opening up more options to reach students in their campus life.
- In general, I hope that my institution can prioritize sustainability like Furman has. I am inspired to work towards integrating sustainability into my dept. curriculum, and to following up with colleagues on my campus about ways to work together. I intend to work with our Mellon fellow on a course for next year. (I had not even met him prior to the conference).
- I don't think so, but I need more details to have a clear ideas. It seems that the solar energy generator has a low cost efficiency (40x the cost of ordinary electricity!) There are more efficient systems.
- Yes, the newest efforts to improve building energy efficiency could, and should, be applied to my campus.
- All would be considered.
- Yes--more academic activity related to sustainability
- Sustainability as a whole. It's rarely discussed. Also, the composting and wastewater treatment ideas.
- Involve Board of Trustees in green initiatives
- Furman's approach of a sustainability council is a good one for their campus. At Centre we should re-target our PCC Advisory Committee to address this larger task.
- Ways of motivating faculty to collaborate; the importance of cultivating committed environmental "believers" at various levels; and just how different ACS schools are from one another in the context of their endowments, physical locations, and social/political atmospheres.
- Science building offered many
- Not sure yet, being a new post-doc. I'm still figuring out where my own institution stands.
- create a broad base of supporters

## 8. Do you believe collaboration between and among ACS institutions was enhanced by the conference?

- Sure. You have to meet people to collaborate.
- No question about it.
- Yes
- possibly
- Yes. In particular, having met Jeff Redderson from Furman, will permit me to put our facilities and operations people in touch with a valuable resource.
- The conferences are very enjoyable and making contacts is helpful,. I do utilize the contacts I make there and benefit from their experiences.
- Absolutely.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes. In some cases, the institutional representatives were the new sustainability post-docs and since they were new to campus they really didn't know much about their institutional progress. (e.g. the Sewanee reps)
- Yes
- yes
- Yes definitely, it was the most valuable part for me.
- A qualified yes, because no one from Furman has responded to my follow-up emails yet, but I hope to collaborate with my colleagues there.
- yes

## 9. Can you suggest ways in which ACS could further support inter-institutional collaboration in the future?

- More of these types of get-togethers, funding innovation by supporting travel and pow wows.
- ACS might host similar conferences at other campuses. (This is the second one I have been to at Furman).
- Discuss about curriculum development during the next ACS meeting, and ask all participants to present their experience and thought. B. Create an e-mail list for ACS fellows and their mentors and partners. C. Suggest to share syllabi, draft papers for friendly review, draft grant applications and other relevant information (conferences, realization...) on this e-mail list.
- I think the most difficult thing is knowing what expertise is out there (in our colleagues) at the other ACS colleges. These periodic face-to-face meetings are absolutely essential for fostering the collaborations that are the foundation of ACS.
- I think it would be of help if the ACS could reach out and enable collaboration between the ACS Schools and non ACS schools. Perhaps set up a group tour of some of the more advanced programs for sustainability. I think if we stay too internal we miss out on a group learning opportunity and may find ourselves behind. Better to learn from others mistakes as well as take advantage of their successes.
- similar programs
- Facilitating more exchange of ideas for research
- Fund intra campus travel
- The ACUPCC will be entering a new phase in the next several months. We (the ACS institutions) will need to draw inspiration from each other.
- Invite administrators and faculty to workshops on greening the campus; also, if these do not already exist, establish consortia for purchasing and testing of new equipment--share lessons learned for example, from solar panels
- funding to allow post-docs to collaborate on research with another institution (travel funding if needed to do work in the field with a researcher at another university if there is no one at their institution doing work in their field) This would help to allow the post-docs to meet their goals of publishing, and this project would be in addition to the other research that the post-doc is conducting on his/ her own campus or another site.
- Wow, I think you guys (and gals) are ahead of us on this.
- I think we need to be thinking about how to use internet conferencing tools better. For one, it's an obvious way to reduce carbon emissions from travel. For another, email lists are rather old-fashioned at this point. How about bi-weekly, interactive, e-live sessions with the post-docs, for instance? I'm not suggesting that we replace conferences such as the one at Furman with all twitter all the time, but such tools could be a good supplement. Also, we could be recording some key pieces of in-person conferences to post online for wider access later. For instance, I was disappointed to miss Dr. Shi's keynote address. I wish there were some way I could view it online.
- Let's do some virtual collaboration

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

- Great job! Thanks so much.
- I really enjoyed the company of this diverse, smart, creative group of people. The conference was well organized, interesting, and enjoyable.
- It was suggested that the issue of sustainability has to be addressed transversally in all courses of the curriculum. I agree but think that we also need to develop a specific corpus of courses about environmental sustainability. Otherwise, there is a risk to confuse environmental sustainability as a subject of knowledge with sustainability as a political agenda. Both are important but these are distinct subjects, although they are obviously linked.
- I was initially skeptical about attending a meeting at which Furman would be showcasing (boasting) their successes, but I was wrong. This was a very good productive meeting. I enjoyed the artists presentations at the end of the meeting too.
- Introductions were at times too redundant
- beautiful campus
- Loved it!!
- Thank you!
- Thanks for organizing and hosting this event
- Elizabeth -- You have a copy of my trip report?
- Thanks--it was an eye-opening experience
- These conferences take great effort for Elizabeth and host campus staff (and others I am sure). They deserve a real round of applause for pulling this together.
- Kudos to Elizabeth!
- Delighted to see the competence and encouragement of Wayne Anderson