Faculty Forum Discussion Summary – Oct 7

1. What do we want our students to know about sustainability when they graduate?
   - Understand interconnections
   - Awareness and appreciation of local & global resources
   - Understand impacts of decisions
   - Understand where resources come from, have a connection to local resources
   - Aware of issues beyond their control
   - Understand carbon footprint of the university
   - Ways to incorporate sustainability into their everyday lives
   - Communicate the message of sustainability to others
   - Understand the major changes necessary in daily routine to become sustainable
   - Connection between the growth of population and resource use
   - Inequity of resource and energy use between developed and developing world
   - Causes of climate change
   - Political, social and economic consequences of climate change
   - Methodologies for gauging environmental change
   - Training in methods to analyze and observe changes in ecosystem
   - Articulate competing positions on ethical environmental debates
   - Cognizant of environmental factors on human history and human’s effect on landscape
   - Evaluate and explain motivations of actors in political debates regarding the environment and track policy development over time
   - Apply skills to work on real world problem
   - One person’s action can make a difference
   - Evaluate their impact on the environment
   - Make informed choices

2. What do we want our students to know about sustainability prior to taking courses at UAlbany? (give examples of any end products as well)
   - Environment matters in every facet of daily life, will encounter it regardless of major
   - What environmental sustainability is and what it requires
   - There is a need to pursue the idea as part of campus life (using CFL, locally grown food)
   - This is a common theme that brings the university together

3. How should we provide that information?
   - Team based learning
   - 1 credit offerings
   - Peer mentors
   - Broad base awareness of issue
   - Include sustainability facts of campus life in admissions bulletins and application processes
   - Have prospective students write an essay on sustainability
   - Gen Ed courses containing a component of sustainability within its syllabus
   - Hands on experience, conservation efforts among the quads
   - Environmental sustainability groups involving all components of the University stakeholders
   - Incorporate into the mission statement, curriculum and reflected in syllabi students encounter in at least one course
   - Colin Beavan as guest speaker
   - No Impact Man as campus book reading

4. What types of support/rewards/recognition need to be in place to create an atmosphere for faculty involvement?
- Logistic support, transit to and from locations is issue and coordination with local experts. Having funding for charters for field trip. (charters with UAlbany buses are a minimum of $300, even for a one hour trip)
- College wide curricular developments is not important for tenure or promotion so this work is harder for junior members to spend time on
- Have several well publicized University level annual awards (with/without financial compensation) for contributing to goal of institutional sustainability (2)
- Mention in school paper and UAlbany magazine
- Recognition at the Excellence awards ceremony and Earth Love event
- Overload teaching compensation/recognition

Priority ideas to move forward on:

1. Establishing a 1 credit course on sustainability – General interest in this.
   
   AENV 105 and AENV 250 already established (190-210 students per year)

2. Integrating sustainability into gen edu requirements – Maybe incorporate but not create another course.
   
   AENV 105 and 250 are gen ed requirements but courses may be discontinued if 1 natural science gen ed requirement is adopted

3. Establishing a Student Naturalist position (St. Olaf as model) – Not as much interest in creating this

4. Other?
   
   - Interdisciplinary speaker series on sustainability
   - Integrate into the World within Reach speaker series
   - Create club around sustainability and/or resource conservation, recreation (ADK chapter??),
   - Use Dippikill more, work with recreation department in student success
   - Create practical independent studies around sustainability, develop rubrics for this
   - Have deans select point person/go to person for sustainability
   - Develop working group
   - Pre-orientation activity (at Dippikill possibly)