The faculty forum in 2015 consisted of an informal conversation between the Director of Sustainability and faculty from a variety of departments, pondering various questions related to curriculum. Below is a synopsis of the input.

Faculty Forum input 2015

1. How do we scale our academic efforts to reach a broader student base? Through a three-pronged approach: Teaching courses that have a broad appeal and lead to jobs, including students in research projects, and encourage students to get involved with community efforts.
   - Engage them in defining sustainability instead of having faculty doing that for them.
   - Explore how sustainability can be integrated into the Gen Ed platform, which will in turn require some creative thinking about how sustainability plays a role in a variety of academic areas.

2. How do we coordinate our efforts under a strategic umbrella and capitalize on opportunities?
   - The undergrad minor for starts, more such initiatives
   - Establish an actual or virtual "center" or "institute" at the institutional level which may cross into a number of academic units.

3. What are we teaching collectively about sustainability? What should we be teaching? How should we be assessing this?
   - Planning processes, plans and the design of communities
   - Rethinking global urbanism and culture
   - Urban community development
   - Bring in sustainability either through reflections on assigned materials or through class discussions / group activities.
   - Survey the students and find out what other courses they would like to enroll in.
   - Learning outcomes on a multitude of topics seems to be the standard approach in other universities.
   - A smorgasbord of identified courses now has the potential to build a comprehensive knowledge base, but there is a lack of cohesion, and more fundamentally, not much intellectual or lifestyle challenge.
   - Send an inventory of courses to advisors

4. How do we incorporate campus buildings/operations/processes into our classrooms and encourage student research?
   - SUNY has ongoing research initiatives for both faculty and students.
   - Philanthropic organizations are usually interested in sponsoring good projects.
   - One glaring hole is the Coca Cola contract. It sets a poor precedent and give students mixed messages. Other issues could include investment policies of the UAF, the Bookstore's monopoly, and the difficulties navigating on a bicycle. And the endless parades of gas- and diesel vehicles polluting the podium with noise and fumes. Students could study any of this and maybe effect change, giving them a sense of deeper accomplishment.
   - Has the Honors College offered a course in sustainability?
   - An appropriate department could develop a course (or sequence) related to "sustainability of the built infrastructure" and include personnel from the Physical Plant and Facilities Management. The potential of cost savings could be an incentive for institutional support.