

Sustainability and Learning Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Nov. 20th, 2008

Attendees: Devon Bonady, Susie Cousar, Jennifer Hayward and Claudia Owen

Announcements:

Claudia announced that the Science and Sustainability Shareholders meeting will be on Friday, Nov. 21. She invited others to attend. The focus of the meeting is to move forward a Science and Sustainability course of study to add to the catalog and discuss other options related to Science and Sustainability coursework. Susie said she couldn't attend but wondered if the group would consider calling the course of study Environmental Sustainability course of study, so that the work of the Sustainability and Learning committee on a transdisciplinary approach to a Sustainability Course of study using the three pillars would not be confused with the Science and Sustainability Course of Study. Claudia agreed to bring this up at the meeting.

Devon Bonady shared her interest in the committee (she is currently teaching a permaculture class through the adult education program) and wants to work toward more of a collaboration between instructors and the learning garden and working on permaculture with students.

1. Sustainability Course Approval Process-background & proposals

- a. Susie began the discussion by asking the group to consider what we could accomplish by taking the time to complete this Sustainability Course application process in a way that could potentially put Lane as a leader in this area and also from the standpoint of having the biggest impact on creating a positive future. Susie read aloud Larry's proposal and Jennifer talked about her proposal.
- b. The deep discussion started by looking at the history within our group about moving forward with creating a sustainability course application process. Our original intent was to make this process one that is consistent with our overall goals and consistent with other areas in the college that have parameters on courses that fit under specific headings such as the Ethnic Diversity, Arts and Letters, Science, Health, Social Science, Math requirements etc. This initial process, which started more than 2 years ago, began because we wanted to have a standard for Sustainability that was similar to the above requirements that could be used in the future for when we have a degree requirement in this area.
- c. As we discussed the many options that had been on the table, we kept coming back to the above history and wanting to really stick to our initial goal of creating a requirement for sustainability and having this framework in place. Both Jennifer and Susie have talked with people who work with the Board of Education about bringing a proposal to the state for this and the feedback was very enthusiastic. Attendees agreed that the sustainability course should be a minimum of three credits simply because it would be difficult to cover the content in a one credit course but also because it is a requirement of the state for courses that are required for graduation.
- d. We all agreed that the course application form was very clear and easy to understand although there were suggestions and agreement to make some changes to it:
 - i. we decided to let go of the 50% criteria and instead use the wording from Ethnic Diversity proposal - **"must be the central focus"**.
 - ii. separating out the areas of ecological, social and economic so that when faculty complete the form they can address each content area specifically for how they are including it into the curriculum
 - iii. added a part that explains the syllabus which should also have the criteria worked into the objectives and course outcomes.
- e. We all agreed that there would be at least some work that faculty would have to do if they wanted to ensure that a course would meet the requirements but that the S&L group would

extend support to any faculty who needed help in any of the following ways; creating a new course, changing curriculum to increase infusion of these areas or help filling out the course application form

- f. Jennifer and Susie plan to creating a short power point presentation for the faculty council and Learning council meetings about this proposal and hope that others will come to support the proposal.
- g. We realize that there are many opinions about this proposal and what it should be, however, we also realized when talking that somehow our initial Sustainability course requirement was designed to motivate faculty to infuse a broader idea of sustainability (E,S,E) into their courses rather than further separating out parts of sustainability. This also is why we also agreed that calling this a green stamp course was no longer appropriate. Rather, we would like to create a sustainability course requirement for our college and for the state that infuses ecological, social and economic principles and understanding into the curriculum. This seems like a better approach to reaching the goal of Sustainability Literacy.

2. AAS program updates

- Susie reported that Margaret is working with Melanie this Friday on the form that is needed for completion in the next step of the process for moving forward with the state on the new Sustainability Coordinator AAS degree.
- Susie is working on mapping but having difficulty with finding classes because of vague course descriptions in the catalog. So she will work with Claudia on this during Finals week and may be calling instructors to get more concrete information about the class. Also, Mara said she will be working on looking for online course related to sustainability that we might be able to use as well if needed.

3. Sustainability Infusion project report

- Jennifer reported that the first training happened and both Susie and Claudia shared briefly regarding the benefits and things to learn from our first training. Both agreed that there wasn't enough time to share ideas, which would have been more helpful for faculty who want practical ideas for infusing sustainability into their current curriculum. The training focused more on a broader context of being creative, but less on practical ideas. Claudia felt confident that the readings would provide more info. and provide people with a better understanding of the three pillars which will help them to more easily incorporate them into the curriculum. Susie agreed that the readings would be beneficial for faculty who want to understand the connection and interaction between these concepts better.

4. Meyer Fund Grant opportunities

- Jennifer and Susie will be working on proposals for the Meyer grant to see if we can get money to pay faculty to for their work on infusing sustainability into their curriculum.