

**Notes from SACS QEP Workshop
1/21/11**

QEP # 6: Sustainability (David Jones, facilitator; Cindy Wolf Johnson, note-taker)
First round (4 people): graduate school (2); political science; architecture

- Intergenerational equity connection.
- Environmental Sustainability, Resource and Fiscal Sustainability of western countries – all of these have very serious policy implications.
- Political Science and Public Administration highly interested.
- Graduate programming.
- Likely to have lots of content already in our courses; this could help to coordinate what exists.
- Group of faculty are now working on defining “sustainability” and seeing what is already out there.
- College of Education – it would be good to have ‘teaching the teachers’ about what this means; institutions with strong sustainability content already do this (ex. Ball State University).
- How do we integrate this into the curriculum? Perhaps through a scenario approach, like Crossroads.
- It is important to define first; how to implement such a broad topic is essential yet this is not clear yet.
- Could this tie into the QEP on globalization? Yes. Several areas, especially environmental sustainability.
- This QEP is more focused on “knowledge” whereas others focus on “skills” and/or “attitude.”
- Because of the need for assessment, there is concern about the ability to assess anything too broad such as this. It needs to be focused.

Second round (4 people): English, education, architecture, librarian

- This proposal seems clear and is a topic on the minds of all students.
- Much of this exists already in different departments; just needs to be brought together.
- Very broad term so how do you bring this together? Group of faculty coming together now to discuss this (~ 7-8 faculty from Geography & Earth Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, etc.) and a few students.
- What is the meat on the bones? Certificate? Freshman Seminar? Competency across the board for all? Certain stages? No answers yet; now gathering a sense of interest on the part of faculty.
- Needs a definition first before a call for interest.
- Could this be a theme within the General Education proposal? That would get at the broader student population.
- Overlaps with so many of the other proposals.
- Sustainability and Globalism are more themes and too broad. Digital is more of a means to an end.
- Maybe have a sustainability minor or certificate because “sustainability” is so huge it’s hard to understand how to organize it. Seems like the idea was for non-majors rather than majors, thus Gen Ed may be a strategy.
- Themes/Ideas are what we need students to focus on. Digital could link with democracy and public discourse.
- Could merge aspects of the different QEP proposals into one robust one.

Third round (4 people): CLAS dean, psychology, library, graduate student

- This is the one QEP that focuses on content. E-Portfolio could go across all the proposals.
- How do you envision the extra-curricular aspect? Now students are involved in Earth Day, Campus Clean-Up Day, related student organizations (3), etc. It’s informal. We’ve spoken with Volunteer Services. Not much is happening with Residence Life but there is great opportunity there and possibly with Learning Communities.
- Seems like sustainability cuts across 4 of the other proposals: Community Engagement, Globalization, General Education, Public Discourse

- CLAS dean asked for white papers, from all departments, on how sustainability contributes to their curriculum and research.
- Several of the colleges have talked about how this fits; seems like the biggest gap is in COB but it might exist in a particular department like Economics.
- This proposal would allow us to do studies, as a discipline, about why students do or do not value sustainability.