

Working Group 3: Day 1

Objective of WG3: Better understand approaches to *integrate research, education, facilities and community engagement for sustainable development.*

Four areas of work for WG3:

- Case studies for exchange
- Conceptual work on
 - living laboratories fostering societal transition
 - joint knowledge production & interdisciplinarity
 - connecting research & education to practice on and off campus
- Discuss and experience processes for joint learning across boundaries
- Develop tools to make change agents more effective at home.

Session Format: Presentation of two approaches:

- A needs and project-driven approach at the University of Orgeon
- A Course-syllabus driven approach at the University of Gothenburg
- Identify a World Café issue emerging from this session

Working Group 3: Day 1

Key Outcomes / Observations

- Experiential learning & change projects can work well in smaller groups of 6-8 students
- Definitions of sustainability are strongly context dependent.
- Guiding students on experiential learning projects is hugely time intensive and can present a strain on time management of engaged faculty but is also hugely rewarding if change is the result. Care how to organise this sustainably.
- Experiential learning across boundaries can but must not benefit from more structured processes for guiding social interaction on complex issues.

Lessons Learned

- For defining 'integration projects a needs-based approach based on existing projects in cities that may be 'stuck' or face particular challenges followed by a matching to capacities and courses in the University can ensure full engagement of the city.
- Best practice may be very context dependent.
- Current reward and incentive structures are not well aligned.

Next Steps

- More structured exchange with more time spent on each case is beneficial – continue next year.
- Complement case based discussion with comparing University level strategies to institute interdisciplinarity and connection to practice in education.

Working Group 3: Day 2

Agenda: World Café Experience (full session time)

Topic 1: *Competing priorities & tensions in the pursuit of excellence and sustainability*

Topic 2: *Innovative learning: social interaction towards sustainability*

Objectives:

- Discuss integration of teaching, research, facilities and outreach as it relates to the two topics.
- Gain new insights from this interactive experience that would go beyond the simple “sum of the parts” towards a “third eye” solution.
- Demonstrate an experiential learning process to all that could be used in other settings as a tool for collaborative change processes.

Session Format – World Café (Participation of all – see slide deck)

Introduction to world café and the world café format

Round 1: Framing the two topics

Round 2: Tensions and challenges

Round 3: What to do next: short term and mid-term

Synthesis and closing

Working Group 3: Day 2

- **Key Outcomes / Observations**

Disruptions as essential. We need to start with fresh perspectives, asking institutions to think about values and then aligning practices around that. There are many entrenched practices that have grown for important reasons but that likely would not be continued if one started from scratch and built practices off of value propositions.

- **Lessons Learned**

Two main lessons learned: 1) the charge of the working group as we begin to dig deeply into it, is even more complex than imagined given the diversity in the types and locations of schools and the perspectives and roles we represent. 2) the variety of topics across groups suggests that with more time and iterative process this group has much capacity to piece together creative next steps for the issues.

- **Next Steps**

Process is central. Next year the main suggestion towards working on process is the idea to provide leadership training (along lines of Sharp's talk) for sustainability leaders in higher ed. In our working group and tools for others.

- **Concluding Remarks** – The audience was quite adaptive to the world café format and discussion was extremely lively.

Outlook for WG3

The ISCN book – LAUNCH expected June 2013 - presents:

- 12 case studies
- conceptual work

The tools for change agents to be developed at the next ISCN meeting by comparison of :

- a leadership course with Leith Sharpe and Jack Spengler
- a course for reflexive learning

Work at the level of both projects and the organisational strategies is required.