

Discussion:

**What is our role in achieving
Strategic Goal E
“Establishing a Strong Culture
of Sustainability”?**

Presenters:

Robert Ethington, Dean, Student Affairs

Alexa Forrester, Instructor, Philosophy

QUESTION 1: Should the college adopt an eco literacy requirement in order to meet Strategic Goal E?

What is 'eco literacy'?

- *The ability to understand how natural systems sustain life, and the ways human activities threaten to undermine those systems*
- *The ability to follow and evaluate discourse regarding how humanity can and should confront ecological limits*

What classes increase eco literacy?

Any classes that focus on one or more of the following:

- Environmental values, debates and/or challenges
- Scientific understanding of Earth's natural systems and cycles, emphasizing humanity's role in the continuing viability of habitats and/or application of scientific principles and techniques to study the causes of and potential solutions to environmental problems
- Analysis of human activity and its impact on Earth's livability and sustainability
- Analysis of environmental problems
- Learning the practical application of technologies or strategies aimed at curbing the adverse impact of human activity on the natural environment and/or improving the sustainable use of natural resources

QUESTION 1: Should the college adopt an eco literacy requirement in order to meet Strategic Goal E?

Our current system:

- Some of our programs (biology, sustainable agriculture, etc.) have content that inherently increases eco literacy.*
- We also have an environmental studies program that includes classes from a wide variety of disciplines.*
- If students choose 'Option A' for their gen ed requirements, they must choose either an 'environmental literacy' or 'global perspectives' class*

Perceived shortcomings of the current system:

- 1) Participation in these curricular elements are completely optional.*
- 2) There is less coordination, cooperation, and visibility than is needed.*

What more could we do?

- Eco literacy requirement for all students*
- Eco literacy as its own category for gen ed Option A*
- Better coordination and visibility of the content we already offer*
- Coordination of efforts to increase content*

QUESTION 2: Should we create a committee dedicated to Goal E?

