

AAC&U Pre-Conference Symposium

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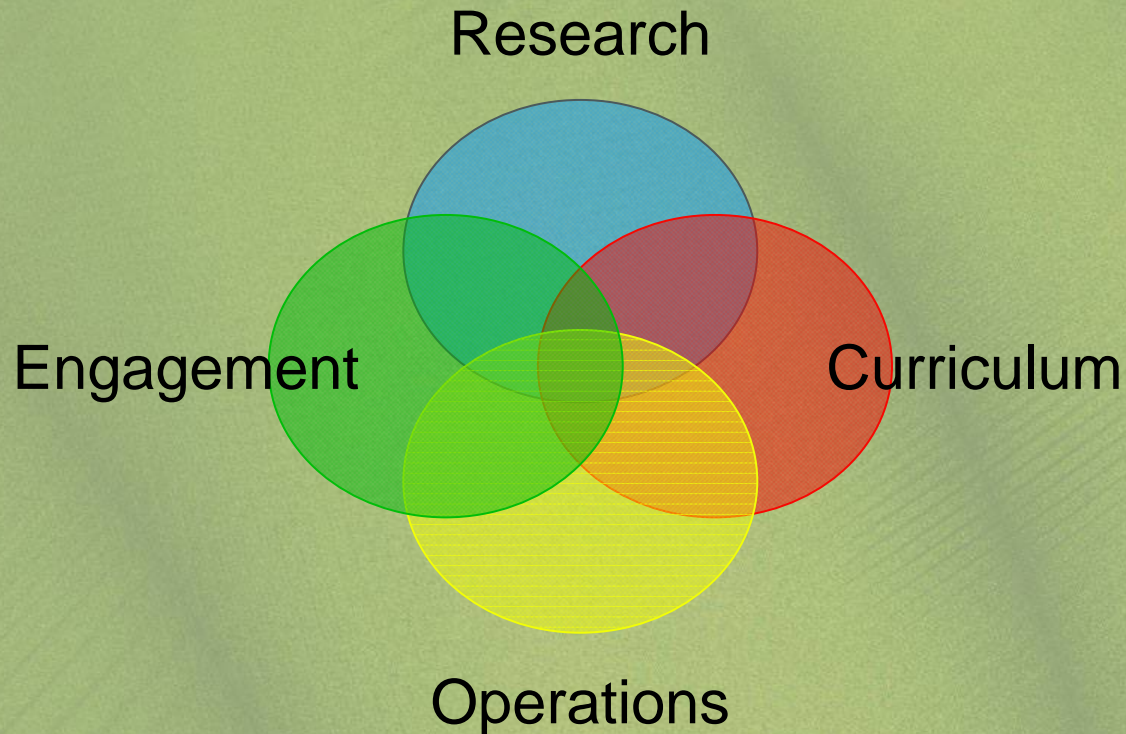
Geoffrey Chase

Sustainability: Place, Responsibilities,
and the Curriculum



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Sustainability and Higher Education



- ▣ The [sustainability] crisis cannot be solved by the same kind of education that helped create the problems.

David Orr

- ▣ Rather than being isolated in its own academic discipline, education about the environment . . . must become an *integral* part of the normal teaching in all disciplines.

Tony Cortese



Paradigm Shift

- ❑ Starting point is community issues and problems
- ❑ Context and connections, place and problems
- ❑ Focus on student learning and ways of thinking



Paradigm Shift

- ❑ Faculty in all disciplines are the experts
- ❑ Community is the defining principle
- ❑ Focus on content and pedagogy



Integration

- ▣ Multi-year project aimed at infusing sustainability issues across the curriculum
- ▣ Guiding assumptions
 - ▣ Sustainability is the responsibility of the university not just a program
 - ▣ Faculty invited to take part are the experts regardless of disciplinary background
 - ▣ Building relationships among faculty is key



Integration

- ▣ Different Projects:
 - ▣ Ponderosa – NAU (1995 - 2002)
 - ▣ Piedmont – Emory (2001 -)
 - ▣ AASHE Workshop on Leadership and Curriculum Change – 220 Participants (2005 -)
 - ▣ Curriculum for the Bio-Region – 32 campuses (2005 -)



Integration

- # Broad range of disciplines: music, nursing, English, criminal justice, philosophy, history, biology, political science, ecology, art history, psychology, anthropology, theology, chemistry, etc.



Courses

- ▣ Medieval Art History
- ▣ Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation
- ▣ Ethno Musicology
- ▣ Archeology



What We Have Learned

- ❑ Success is not always related to numbers of people involved
- ❑ Multi-level support
- ❑ Place and persistence
- ❑ Trust



