

## Student Breakout Notes Summary

The Student Leadership working group held Thursday, July 18 from 2:15-5:00 pm was populated by 35 students. After introductions, the group split into six smaller groups to engage in discussions based on student leadership. The discussion points presented to the group as a whole are outlined below.

### **What is Leadership? Students as leaders: Opportunities and barriers on campus**

#### **Best Practices of being a successful leader:**

- Envisioning a different reality
- Enticing Action
- Adaptability
- Knowing strengths/weaknesses and acknowledging
- Leading vs. managing: Skill set incorporation
- Communication and public relations
- ONE goal
- Making sure everyone is involved
- Passionate and knowledgeable
- Understanding and persuasive
- Open-minded
- Lead by example > Team morale
- Proper delegation and boundaries
- Good follower > Trust in continuance
- Co-Leadership structure
- Accountability
- Not afraid of failure
- Problems = Opportunities
- Experience
- Goal Oriented
- Encompassing
- Trust/Training Change
- Assume Responsibility
- “Work WITH us” Not in front of or behind
- Showcase everyone
- “Love where you are and what you do”
- FUN

### **Opportunities to be a leader:**

- Student government
- Office of Sustainability
- Making relationships
- Being Creative
- Small > Big
- Collaborative/higher power/administrators/high level
- Opportunities that you gain = integrating with community and other clubs
- Creating more/new:
  - Avoid conflicting events
  - Integrating Graduate and Undergraduate relationships
  - Incentivize and creative recruiting

### **Challenges of being a leader:**

- Marketing and buy-in / getting people to care
- Lack of man power
- False interest and awareness
- Red tape
- Time constraints & Prioritization
- Urgency to make change (and the creation of the sense of urgency)
- Time management/burn out
- Lack of support
- “Reaching the unreachable”
- “Getting everyone on board”
- Lack of communication
- Making the invisible visible
- Logistics
- Getting and keeping people engaged
- Resources/budget
- Diverse student body & interests
- Internal issues
  - Delegation
  - Micro-managing
- Pre-conceptions of communities
  - Working with and for

### **Notes on Opportunities for Collaboration**

- Appalachian Energy Summit and Mid-Year Meeting
- Involve evening students
- Monthly/Bi-Monthly cross-campus Appalachian Energy Summit meeting
  - Online calendar
- Community outside of campus

- Faculty collaboration/mentorship
- Outside organizations and other student groups
  - Non-profits
  - Local companies
  - Bigger corporations-larger liquid assets/capital
- Freshman recruiting
- Career resources
- Start-up competition
- Cross-campus collaboration/competition
  - Avoid campus segmentation

**Methods to be a successful student leader: What can student leaders do to further encourage and empower all students to lead in campus energy and sustainability efforts?**

- Career management
  - Translate excitement and interest into a career “Career treks”
- Sharing and taking in information
  - Google calendar
- Give under-classmen guidance and help them make contacts
- Make things fun
- Challenge:
  - “Hitting a wall”
  - Not knowing where to start
- Accessible tool box of ideas
- Trash Apocalypse/Mess on the mall displays
  - “Making it real”
- Programming disconnected things together to make an impact
- Networking/Collective intelligence
- Tell people why and provide opportunities
- Immediate results
  - “Reach the unreachable”
- Creating and taking advantage of educational opportunities outside of the institution
- Use existing resources and collaborate

"Born leader" → Do you believe it?

35 ppl <sup>T6</sup>

Humility  
"win-win"  
between  
everybody  
everything  
every entity.

# Appalachian Energy Summit <sup>legroups</sup>

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The University of North Carolina Energy Leadership Challenge

Breakout Session Notes

## Student Leadership and Engagement

Orin Boss  
Boss oa @ Appstate.edu

Charged with envisioning how they as students will be engaged in campus energy and sustainability efforts, and further empowered to lead

Discussion Leaders: Lee Ball, Appalachian State University Building Science Lecturer  
Allison Sims, Appalachian State University Student Summit Coordinator

Please provide notes that are clear, concise, high level, and actionable. These notes will be initially forwarded to team leaders for final editing before publishing. Working Groups will utilize these discussion points as a basis going forward in taking action towards the Energy Leadership Challenge.

Groups: Food / Fossil free / Communication Database / Divestment

### Best Practices

- Envisioning a different reality
- Adaptability
- Knowing & acknowledging strengths & weaknesses
- Leading vs managing: skill set incorporation
- One goal
- making sure everyone is involved
- passionate & knowledgeable
- understanding & persuasive
- open-minded
- Enticing Action
- communication & public relations
- Accountability
- not afraid of failure
- problems = opportunities
- experience
- lead by example → team morale (positive)
- proper delegation & boundaries
- Good follower → trust in continuance
- Co-leadership structure
- goal oriented
- trust/training
- encompassing
- showcase everyone
- love where you are & what you do
- change
- Assume responsibility
- "work with us" not in front or behind
- FUN

## Opportunities

On campus

- student govt
- Sustainability office
- Making relationships
- Being creative

Small → big

Collaborate w/ higher power / administrators / high level

opportunity that you gain • interacting w/ community & other clubs

Creating more/new:

- avoid conflicting events
- integrating grad / undergrad relationships
- incentivize & creative recruiting

## Challenges

- Marketing  $\neq$  buy-in / getting ppl to care
- Lack of man-power
- False interest  $\neq$  awareness
- Beaurocratic red tape
- Time constraints  $\neq$  prioritize
- Creation of the urgency to make change
- Time Management
- 'Burnt out'
- Lack of support
- Reaching the unreachable
- Getting everyone on board
- Lack of Communication
- Logistics of making the invisible visible
- Getting and keeping ppl engaged
- resources/budget
- Diverse student body  $\neq$  interests
- Internally : delegation, micro-managing
- Pre-conceptions of Communities
- working with and for

## Possibilities for Collaboration

AES / students invited to mid-year meeting

Involve evening students

monthly / bi-monthly cross-campus AES mtg

-online calendar

Community outside of campus

Faculty collaboration / mentorship

Outside organizations

Other student groups - non-profits  
local companies  
bigger corps

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#### Best Practices

What is a leader?

- passionate
- innovative
- knowledgeable
- personable
- being open
- understanding

→ Taking initiative and responsibility to bring about a change on campus / community. Improving, implementing the system using organizational skills.  
Understanding team members in order to maximize their potential.  
Being able to network, someone has all answers, persuade people.

Opportunities

Passionate & knowledgeable  
Understanding yet persuasive  
very open minded

Qualities



## Opportunities

- ↳ After the initial 1<sup>st</sup> step, snowball of opportunities!
- ↳ meeting new people with similar interests, networking
- ↳ working with the community
  - getting out there, involved
- ↳ volunteer / community service hours

## Challenges

↳ taking the 1st step; getting people <sup>→ integration</sup> there → education

↳ getting ppl to care about what you care about

↳ marketing

↳ working with the community

## Possibilities for Collaboration

- ↳ posters w/ meeting agenda
- ↳ coreps program to encourage collaboration
- ↳ case study → longitudinal (from 1994) gethermail FSU  
(overtime)
- ↳ defined mission / purpose and clear, attainable goal
- ↳ making recycling easy (mixed) APPs  
(can be applied to any goal)
- ↳ visual engagement, water bottles to see impact.
- ↳ education of all types, <sup>engage</sup> all classes on campus, all departments as well
- ↳ encourage student projects to increase their involvement
- ↳ green fee / community service

## Leadership

- stepping up when its hard
- initiative
- how to pair people/groups to get best outcome
- navigator

- taking the responsibility
- selfless
- collaborative

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### Best Practices

Getting the right groups together from the start.

Good communication/public relations

Keep outside community apprised

-reason for coming/enticement... i.e., food!

• make it a social event

leave with at least one accomplishment

setting firm deadlines, firm structure

making sure everyone is involved

- Sustainable Outreach i.e. Documentary Events
- ~~open~~ Allow Creativity. Be open to New ideas
- Share the Lime Light

## Opportunities

Categorize meetings by interest  
to avoid conflicting events. (solar, fossil fuels)

~~Case study~~

Share information about organizations.

Use social interactions as a means to grow

Share goals ~~about pride~~

Create a sense of importance

## Possibilities for Collaboration

Staying in touch w/ summit  
student participants (rotating hosts)

Develop a sustainability  
tool box per college — up on  
each website.

Calendar of environmental  
mtgs. online ~ decrease  
competition with events ~  
raises awareness.

- inter-disciplinary, inter-departmental (Food, transport, waste, etc...)

## Challenges

Student burnt out - doing too much

Conflicting schedules

Lack of support (websites, calendar, interesting activities to draw students + maintaining interest)

No follow through

educational awareness, involvement

- Political differences?

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#### Best Practices

##### LEADERSHIP:

- KNOW YOUR OWN STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES, RECRUIT COMPLIMENTARY PEOPLE.
  - BE ADAPTABLE
  - ENTICE ACTION BY DELIGATION
  - "ENVISION A DIFFERENT REALITY"
  - ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY TO EVERYONE
- 
- CAREER ORIENTED STUDENT GROUPS



## Opportunities

- REACHING OUT TO GREEK LIFE → ALWAYS A SIGNIFICANT GROUP OF STUDENTS (INCENTIVISE)
- INTEGRATE GRAD + UNDER GRAD GROUPS. COLLABORATION
- FOR SCHOOLS STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH PARTNER W. SGA AS SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL.

## Possibilities for Collaboration

GRAD + UNDERGRAD +

FACULTY + STUDENTS X

LOCAL COMPANIES + CAMPUS. X

CROSS CAMPUS → sharing best practices

IS - SUTER 2 start up challenges

- Senior gifts = "green" funds  
(+ collaborate w/alumni)

ALUMNI \$ (FOR BRIBES - SNACKS, T-SHIRTS, ETC.)

## Challenges

- REACH THE "UNREACHABLE"
- MANY GROUPS W. SAME GOALS
- LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CULTURAL + ETHICAL BACKGROUNDS
- making the "invisible" visible

- SIZES/ OF SCHOOL HAVE DIFFERENT "SUCCESSFUL" METHODS.  
BUDGETS

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#### Best Practices

- organizing a residence hall "unplug" campaign; education, competition/fun
- have empathy, self first, humility, event admins
- SG work → having patience, working with admins to understand <sup>student</sup> concerns
- follow through, leadership ladders, tasking the right things to students
- make it worth students' while, win-win,

- a good follower too, knowing when to step back, lead by example
- co-dependent leadership structure, training next leaders (trust)
- using skills/assets to their best abilities
- empowering & inspiring → education → <sup>into</sup> action
- accountability!! → ownership, realizing stakeholders
- not being afraid of failure, re-focusing on new solutions
- problems into opportunities

animal analogies

## Opportunities

→ SG

→ office of sus.

→ enviro club - joining/forming

→ combining w/ community

→ admin! → relationships

→ internships

→ involving higher student leadership positions  
(inter-university) competition

→ creating competition btwn schools

- creativity

- toolbox of successful student ideas that's  
accessible to all schools

- ideashare for UNC to tap into

- Cleanhouse

- AASHE's info accessible to students

## Challenges

- #1 - showing students up to events (participation) consistency <sup>(keep interest)</sup>
- turnover
- differing opinions, bureaucratic/logistical red-tape,
- secularization (lack of partnering / student groups) <sup>overlap - competition no compromise</sup>
- time constraints → commitments
- emotional rollercoaster of effectiveness
- resources (funds)
- politics.
- maintaining relationships; not overloading
- leadership, approval of institutional change
- \* - creating the urgency to make change

- 
- curve ball in plan, replanning
  - plans rejected after asking for student resources
  - slave student labor
  - discouragement, distrust → broken relationship, morale
  - not knowing what to do (where to start)   
 plan implementation

## Possibilities for Collaboration

- SG
- community
- other campuses
- other student groups
- faculty

- 
- System wide case study of projects.....
  - documenting
  - hiring someone that makes this accessible
  - establishing all 500 or campuses
  - compensation, resources
  - Revolving loan funds: system wide (ASG as  
abana)  
adding a new board

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#### Best Practices

Delegation - boundaries, collaboration, ability to share movements

Beginning the habit as mandatory - instilling upon freshman

Programs/Activities - broadcasting expectations

Educational Development

Leading by example - "Practice what you preach"

Activities - Trivia, recycling bins, games

#### Leadership:

Open mind - Asking instead of telling

being selfless - putting others first

100% commitment all the time

flexibility - adaptability

reliable communication  
willingness to share  
↳ outside of campus



## Opportunities

take small opportunities, make them big

\*open door policy - include all parties

\*internships

beginning new clubs/orgs on campus

willing to offer time & services

starting a movement

take any initiative to move forward

act off interest

\*collab with other activist groups

involve faculty/administration

being aware

collaborate with higher powers

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networking

requests from administration/higher powers for meetings

continuing until job is complete

Seminars/certification

conventions/conferences - speakers

## Challenges

funding

lack of support of administration

lack of student interest

"false awareness"

lack of dedication

lack of manpower

work study / compensation

lack of internship opportunities

competition between movements

lack of collaboration

being open / stepping out of comfort zone

communication

personal connection

designated assignments

ice breakers

## Possibilities for Collaboration

Administration / staff  
student government  
public school systems

orientations  
other clubs & orgs  
chancellor / president

Resident Life

Greek Life

different educational departments

professor participation

events made mandatory - offer extra credit?

Cafeteria

discounts for being sustainable

non-profits

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Utilizing your role to the best of your ability  
calendar with schoolwide events  
↳ possibly system wide

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#### Best Practices

- Leadership is:
- A person with experience in his/her area
  - Goal orientated
  - Involving/Encompassing
  - Motivates Changes
  - Assumes responsibility for failure
  - Doesn't stand up front and pull, they don't stand behind and push, you find them in the core working together
  - Able to assess the strengths & weaknesses and work to show case each persons strengths.
  - Acknowledge the love of where you at.
  - Be willing to involve the community & faculties
  - Love what you do, do what you love - have fun

## Opportunities

Methods 1 & 2

In the beginning network  
Draw on collective intelligence

Attract freshman

@ orientation

@ convocation

@ club open house

Tell people why when asking them to contribute  
seeing immediate change is empowering

Explain how it affects & helps them  
provide opportunities

Think outside the box, be creative

Put your message in terms everyone understands

Reach the unreachable

## Possibilities for Collaboration

