

Winter Education & Diversity Retreat
January 17, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Len Albright, Jane Barber, Melissa Burt, SueEllen Campbell, Colleen Cope, Scott Denning, Marcia Donnelson, Sheila Ferguson, Claire Fleming, Rebecca Haacker-Santos, Brian Jones, Jan Lanting, Heather Michalak, Indira Nair, Adam Pearlstein, Randy Russell, Dave Swartz, and Tom Windham

Agenda:

CMMAP Winter Education and Diversity Retreat CMMAP Seminar Room, ATS West 121 Fort Collins, Colorado		
January 17, 2014		
8:30	<i>Coffee and light breakfast</i>	
9:00	Melissa Burt	Welcome and CMMAP Highlight Reel
9:30	Melissa Burt Scott Denning	The Institute and Beyond - Continuation of CMMAP E&D
11:00	Little Shop of Physics	Science...Get Curious
12:00	<i>Lunch and Informal discussion</i>	
1:30	Randy Russell	Frozen Planet Virtual Lab
2:30	Melissa Burt Dave Swartz	Teen Science Cafés
3:15	SueEllen Campbell	Thinking about Feeling
4:00	<i>Adjourn</i>	

Continuation of CMMAP E&D:

Scott discussed that we are closer to the end of CMMAP than the beginning and we need to begin securing funding for the activities that we would like to continue. What is our E&D legacy? We currently fund over \$1.5 million per year for our E&D activities and unfortunately won't be able to sustain at that level. Funding is considered likely for graduate students in ATS and ecology, undergraduate courses (ATS 150 and ATS 543), collaboration with LSOP, REU Site, evaluation of LSOP and REU, public outreach, and teen science cafes. We would like to continue teacher professional development, education research proposals, collaborations with UCAR and SOARS, and social science research — but will need to look into funding opportunities and WRITE lots of proposals. It will potentially be problematic to continue building partnerships and maintain relationships with MSIs. We need both administrative and logistical support to continue our E&D activities and will need to work with the University for Institutional Support. Near-term needs: publications evaluating LSOP, negotiations on institutional support for diversity recruiting and administrative activities, and sustained fusing push for education and social science research.

Science...Get Curious: Brainstorming with the Little Shop of Physics:

LSOP has new podcasts (Show Me Some Science) which are supposed to be 1 minute quick explorations of a particular physical concept and can be integrated into class lectures.

We brainstormed on potential giveaways, podcasts, and strategies for the 2014 Open House. Brian introduced Jane Barber who is new to the “crew” and will help LSOP with administrative work and Weather and Science Day.

Frozen Planet Virtual Lab Activity:

Randy led the group through a virtual lab activity on the planetary energy balance. This lab is in the beta form but could be used to fill gaps in our Weather and Climate for Educators Course. We worked through a handout that could be used with the virtual lab and how it could be adapted in middle and high school classrooms.

Randy has 5 labs in the works: radiation budget and green house effect, simple multi-layer atmosphere model, vertical motions and buoyancy, horizontal pressure differences and wind, and the Coriolis effect.

Teen Science Cafés:

Melissa introduced the group to a new activity that CMMAP plans to host. Teen Science Cafés (<http://teensciencecafe.org>) are informal, interactive programs that promote exploration and creativity. They should create a space where teens can learn from leading experts about the science and technology that affects or interests them. Melissa has been talking with Dave Swartz and will meet with his environmental club next week. Dave has talked with his students and they were very receptive.

Initial brainstorming ideas: Partner with local Science Clubs to have Youth Leaders. Youth leaders will help design program, ensure that it will be fun for other HS students, develop skills, receive mentoring from scientists. Location/Time: In the evening (5:30-7:00 pm) at a Coffee shop or a place HS students hang out. Format: Intro or warmup activity, speaker or panel of speakers, HS students moderate? Topics: we want topics that are interesting -- give opportunities for students to think and reflect on it.

From the group — potential speakers and other ideas: Climate Reality Group could speak about climate change in the ski industry, Thomas Birner - history of science, Mike Nelson - broadcasters POV, James Balog, undergrads talk about their college experience, maybe hold an adult cafe afterwards, musical entertainment, raffle

Thinking about Feeling:

SueEllen led a discussion on the emotional side of climate change. We read a short essay from Roy Scranton which appeared in the New York Times blogs.

Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene
By ROY SCRANTON

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/learning-how-to-die-in-the-anthropocene/>

Q: How did you feel while reading this essay? Or about other bad news about climate change?

We took some time to right down some thoughts and feelings about the essay. Had a very touching and enlightening discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.