

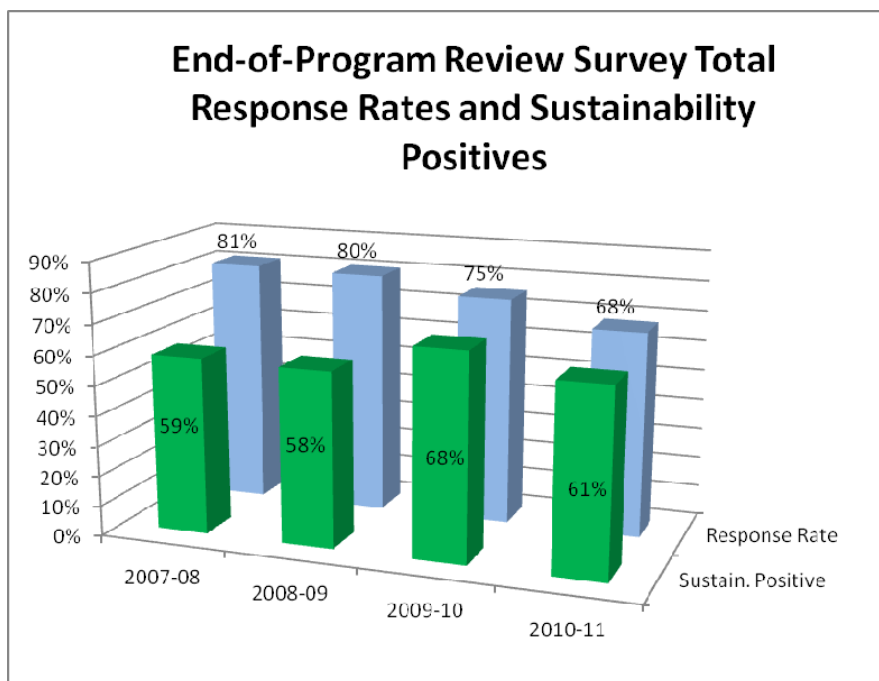
**End-of-Program Review Workshop June 2012**  
**Sustainability Across the Curriculum 2006-11**  
*By Steve Scheuerell, Matt Smith Scott Morgan.*

Analysis of academic years 2007-08 to 2010-11 End-of-Program Review responses to the question:  
**“Did your program include sustainability?”**

*Sustainability can include:*

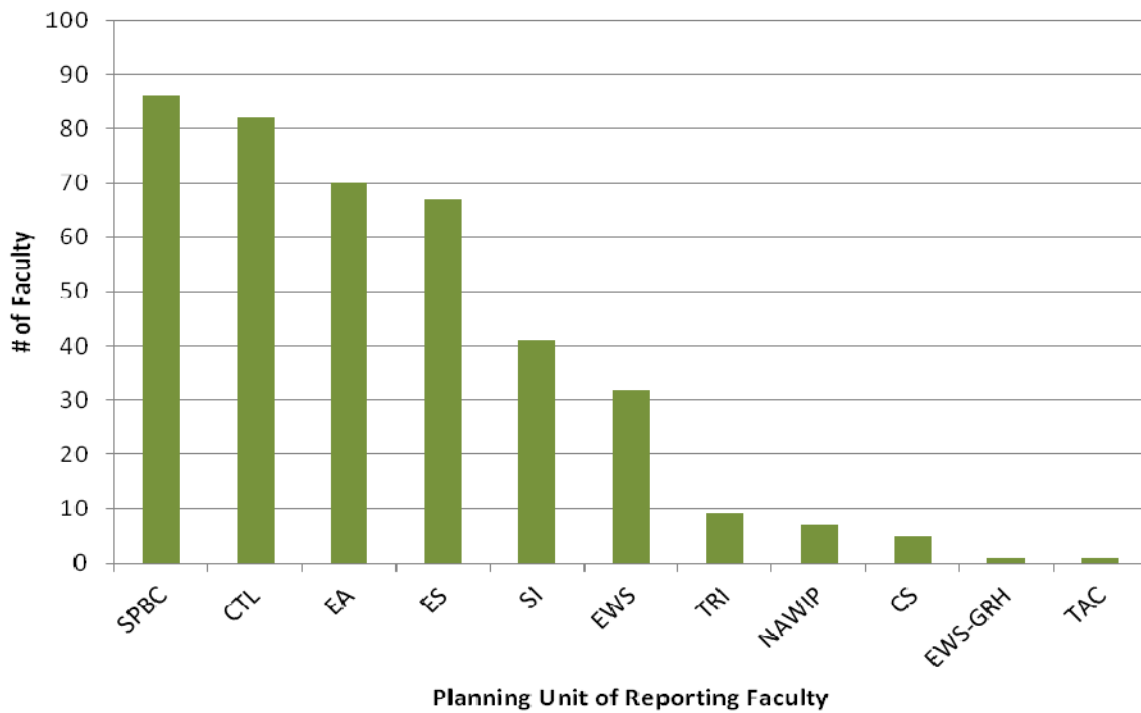
- *Living within the limits (for example, reducing consumption)*
- *Understanding the interconnections among economy, society, and environment*
- *Equitable distribution of resources and opportunities”*

Total survey response rates varied somewhat across the years, but the relative number of positive responses to the sustainability question remained consistent, which seems to indicate a persistently high level of engagement with the issue.



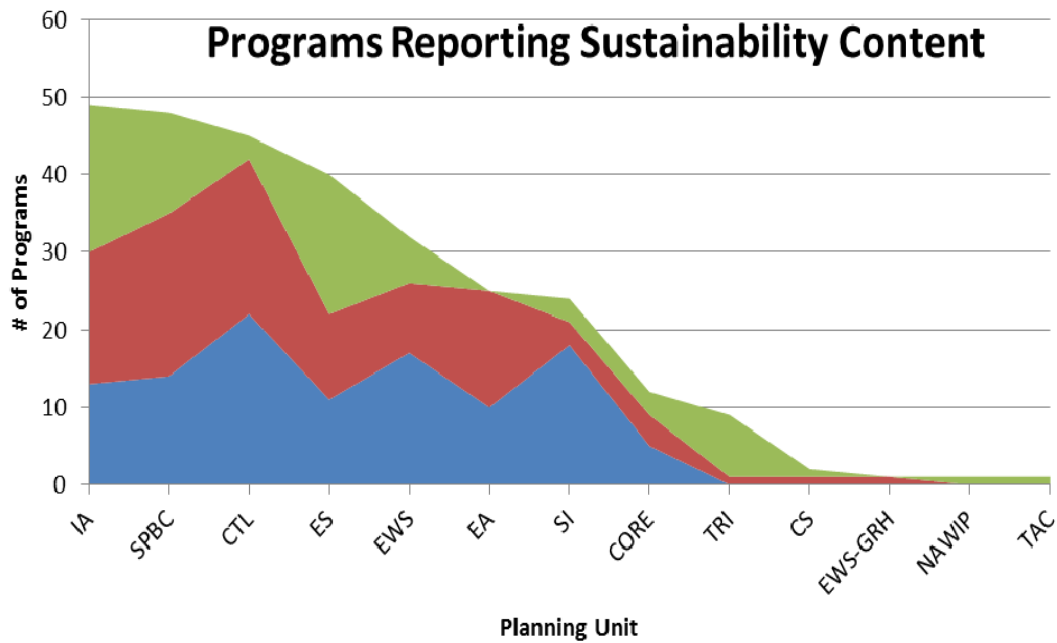
During the 4 year period, survey responses indicated that 289 programs included sustainability content (30 responses were rejected for insufficient or uncodable information). Faculty from the planning units SPBC (Society, Politics, Behavior, and Change) and CTL (Culture, Text, and Language) reported the most inclusion of sustainability in their course work. The chart below reflects the planning unit associations of all faculty involved in teaching the programs that reported sustainability content.

## Reported Programmatic Inclusion of Sustainability by Faculty Planning Unit



## Programs Reporting Sustainability Content

Count of Program Name



Plan Unit

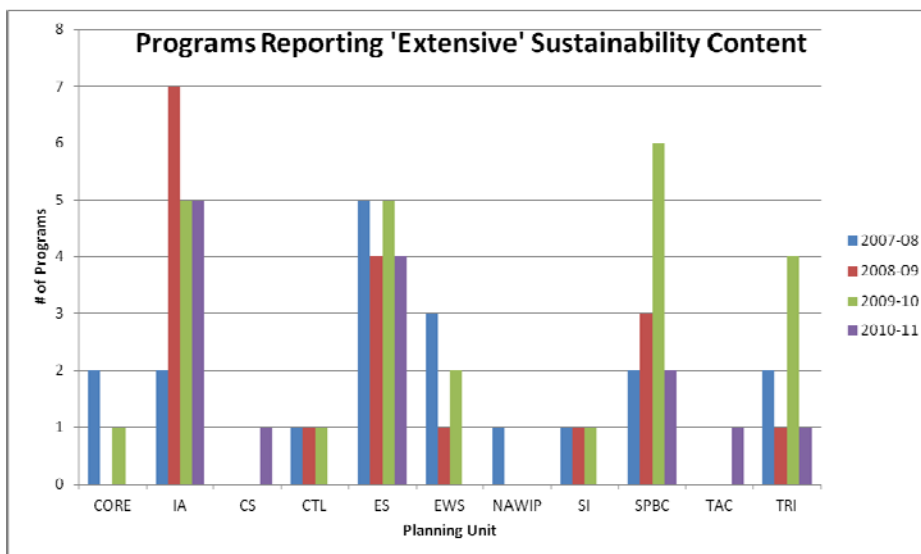
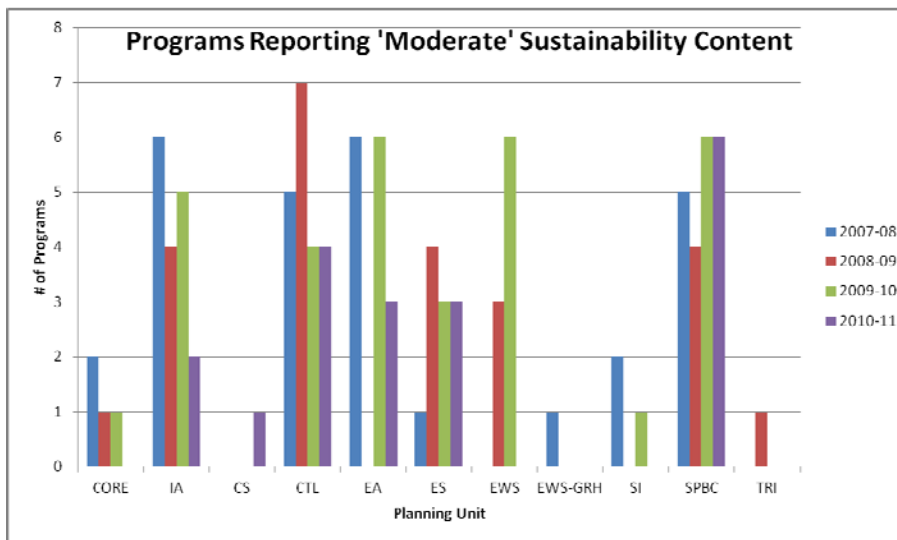
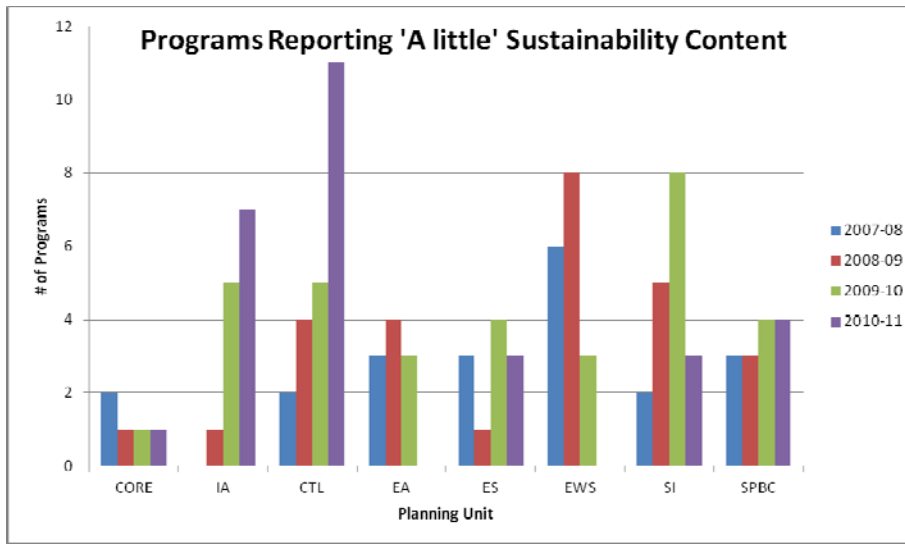
Five Year Summary of programs reporting the inclusion of Sustainability content by Planning Unit:

Planning Unit	Extent			
	A Little	Moderately	Extensively	Grand Total
<b>CORE</b>	5	4	3	<b>12</b>
<b>CS</b>		1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>CTL</b>	22	20	3	<b>45</b>
<b>EA</b>	10	15		<b>25</b>
<b>ES</b>	11	11	18	<b>40</b>
<b>EWS</b>	17	9	6	<b>32</b>
<b>EWS-GRH</b>		1		<b>1</b>
<b>IA</b>	13	17	19	<b>49</b>
<b>NAWIP</b>			1	<b>1</b>
<b>SI</b>	18	3	3	<b>24</b>
<b>SPBC</b>	14	21	13	<b>48</b>
<b>TAC</b>			1	<b>1</b>
<b>TRI</b>		1	8	<b>9</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>289</b>

Programs reporting Sustainability content by Planning Unit and Academic Year:

Count of Program Name																
	A Little					Moderately					Extensively					
	Academic Year					Academic Year					Academic Year					
Plan Unit	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	Tot	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	Tot	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	Tot	4-yr Total
CORE	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	1		4	2		1		3	12
CS									1	1				1	1	2
CTL	2	4	5	11	22	5	7	4	4	20	1	1	1		3	45
EA	3	4	3		10	6		6	3	15						25
ES	3	1	4	3	11	1	4	3	3	11	5	4	5	4	18	40
EWS	6	8	3		17		3	6		9	3	1	2		6	32
EWS-GRH						1				1						1
IA		1	5	7	13	6	4	5	2	17	2	7	5	5	19	49
NAWIP											1				1	1
SI	2	5	8	3	18	2		1		3	1	1	1		3	24
SPBC	3	3	4	4	14	5	4	6	6	21	2	3	6	2	13	48
TAC														1	1	1
TRI							1			1	2	1	4	1	8	9
Grand Total	21	27	33	29	110	28	24	32	19	103	19	18	25	14	76	289

**Note:** The sustainability question was first added to the End-of-Program survey in academic year 07-08, so there is only four years' worth of data in this five year review.



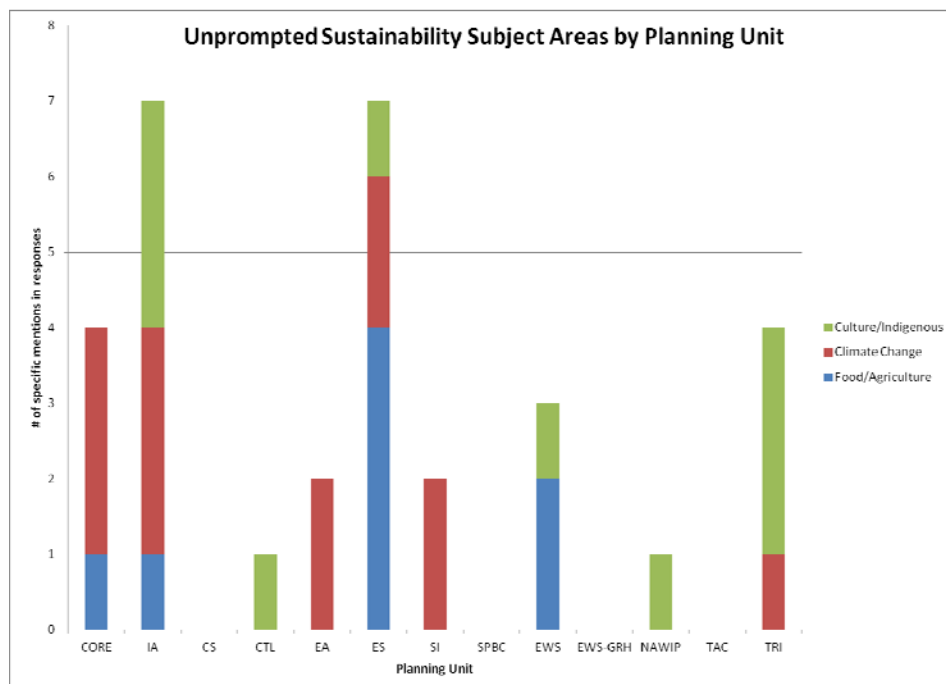
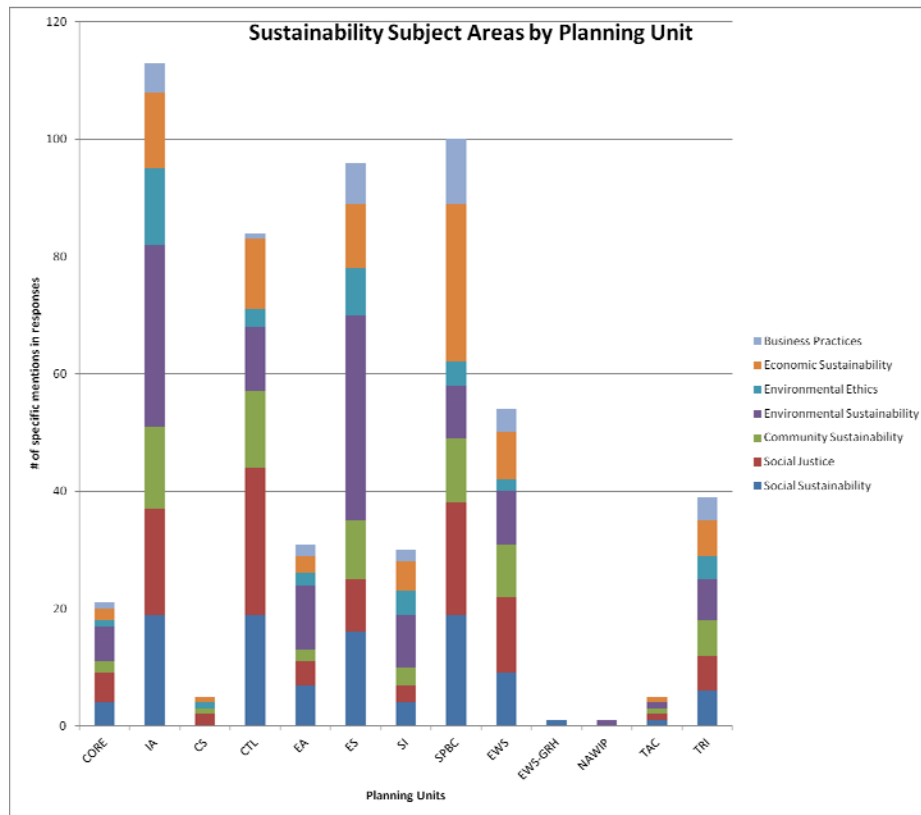
The follow-up question, “Please list the areas of sustainability studied in your program. (e.g. environmental sustainability, social sustainability including social justice, economic sustainability, sustainable business practices, community sustainability; environmental ethics)” yielded the following general responses (the larger the word the more frequently it was mentioned)



Keyword analysis of the narrative responses indicated a strong bias towards the prompts included in the question with only a few other specifically named subject areas (31 unprompted responses v. 580 prompted responses).

Keywords: Prompted areas of sustainability	COR E	IA	CS	CTL	EA	ES	SI	SPBC	EWS	EWS - GRH	NAW IP	TAC	TRI	Grand Total
Social Sustainability	4	19		19	7	16	4	19	9	1		1	6	105
Social Justice	5	18	2	25	4	9	3	19	13			1	6	105
Community Sustainability	2	14	1	13	2	10	3	11	9			1	6	72
Environmental Sustainability	6	31		11	11	35	9	9	9		1	1	7	130
Environmental Ethics	1	13	1	3	2	8	4	4	2				4	42
Economic Sustainability	2	13	1	12	3	11	5	27	8			1	6	89
Business Practices	1	5		1	2	7	2	11	4				4	37
Food/Agriculture	1	1				4			2					8
Climate Change	3	3			2	2	2						1	13
Culture/Indigenous		3		1		1			1		1		3	10
Grand Total	25	120	5	85	33	103	32	100	57	1	2	5	43	611

Keeping in mind that the prompts (environmental sustainability, social sustainability including social justice, economic sustainability, sustainable business practices, community sustainability; environmental ethics) had been defined by the Sustainability Task Force in 2006-07 to reflect campus ideas of key sustainability issues, we were still intrigued to see the high level of correlation between the write in responses and those prompts, and the distinctive lack of responses related to science-based exploration of sustainability issues, which does not reflect our anecdotal understanding of the science curriculum.



### **Summary Recommendations for future questions:**

Three observations became clear from looking at the data:

1. There was very little in either the prompts or the responses that dealt with ecology, ecosystems, or scientific understandings of the meaning and mechanisms of sustainability.
2. The understanding of sustainability that appeared to underlie the question is based on a social scientific and social activist perspective of problem solving, social institutions, and redistribution. It fails to speak to Einstein's observation that one will not solve problems with the same level of thinking that got one into them. Nor did it provide for the possible discussion of very different understandings of sustainability.
3. The question and prompts seemed to end up getting in the way of helping people to provide specific examples of subjects or issues taught or speaking directly to how these ideas were incorporated into the program.

Beyond this, there is a serious issue about what we mean by sustainability as we move from type to type. It is not at all clear that economic sustainability means something actually analogous to something else called social sustainability. Nor, in fact, do differing understanding of economic sustainability, e.g. meaning something like maintenance of economic institutions as we have come to know and love them, is the same as the idea of economic sustainability as the continuity of the production of necessary goods and services by whatever institutional reality, or the production of goods and services without damaging other systems.