

## STENZ Meeting Minutes

First meeting held on Friday, December 19, 2008

**Attendees:** Samuel Mann (Otago Polytechnic), Pam Williams (VUW), Kate Kearins (AUT), Carol Boyle (Auckland), Rex Verity (CPIT/SANZ), Hilary Branthwaite (TEC)

**Apologies:** Jonathon Hannon / Terry Kelly (Massey), Kate Hewson (Canterbury)

**Chair:** Kari Adams (SANZ)

**Meeting purpose:** To define group vision and key objectives, select a convener and prepare for the first meeting of 2009.

### Meeting Notes

#### 1. Name of Group

- Group happy to keep the name to the acronym STENZ (Sustainability in Tertiary Education in New Zealand) but would like to add a tag line that include the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.
- The example was given from Otago Polytechnic regarding "[sustainable practioner](#)".
- Suggestion: **STENZ: A working group dedicated to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development across all tertiary institutions in New Zealand.**

#### 2. Vision

- From the Forum in Wellington in November, we started with: *In 2014, sustainability is embedded into all tertiary education programmms.*
- It was suggested that we expand what we mean by sustainability, which lead to: *In 2014, the principles, values, and practices of sustainability are embedded in all tertiary education programmes in NZ.*
- However, the discussion continued that recognized that it was about changing values and behavior in graduates. After looking at the vision of the [UN DESD](#), the following was decided:

***In 2014, all NZ tertiary graduates will understand the principles, values, and practices of sustainability.***

Discussion included the following points:

- We don't want to alienate or alienate stakeholders with a dictating vision, but need to be strong in what we aim to achieve.
- Our vision as a group will not always be what we use to develop the case for sustainability education

- We considered looking at the vision of 'literacy and numeracy' projects, but realized our differences in that these skills are considered core to learning, as opposed to sustainability, which was described as 'core to living'.
- Instead, it was suggested that we review the way values like ethics and equality have been embedded throughout teaching.
- In playing the devil's advocate, one member also noted that a 'programmes' approach may alienate some faculties who don't immediately see a practical way to embed sustainability teaching (e.g. art history and sustainability practices). This discussion led onto the need to broaden the definition to include the 'principals, values and practices'.
- We need to be sure we don't eliminate 'research' but this can be dealt with in the objectives.

### **3. Objectives:**

1. To ensure graduates have the capability to embed sustainability values and practices in their lifestyle and profession.
2. To enable the embedding of sustainability principals, values and practices are into all tertiary programmes
3. To create opportunities for research into education for sustainability that enhances sustainability curriculum and pedagogy.
4. To support institutions in creating an environment that encourages sustainability thinking, policies and practices.

### **4. Selection of a Convener**

- **Samuel Mann** kindly volunteered to be our STENZ Convener and will kick off the first meeting for 2009 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January at 3pm.

### **5. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- Invitation to additional members
- How to best engage Vice Chancellors early in the process (SANZ/STENZ letter)

### **6. Actions for next meeting – Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> of January at 3pm.**

- group have been asked to review the objectives on the Wiki site developed
- group to begin to add ideas for the Terms of Reference
- Sam to extend invitation to Juliet Roper from Waikato
- Sam to send out conference call invitation and dial-in numbers.

Thank you for your support. Looking forward to taking this further in 2009!