

Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future Topical Lunch

Title: *Building Environmental Studies at Cornell.*

Host: Dr. Aaron Sachs, Professor, History and American Studies

Date: Monday April 9, 2018 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

There were two agenda items:

The new cross-college major and the collaborative teaching opportunities it opens up; and the sustainability hires under the Provost's radical collaboration initiative.

About the major: a number of humanities faculty members from the Arts College expressed their interest in possibly participating in some of the team-taught courses (one from History, two from Anthropology, one from Science and Technology Studies, two from Classics, one from Comp Lit, two from English). The next step is to set up a curriculum development workshop at a time when people could participate. It was also suggested that the Director of the new major attend a Chairs' meeting in both colleges to spread the word about these opportunities.

About the sustainability hires: the same humanities faculty members from Arts who were enthusiastic about the major were quite dubious about whether they would be able to participate in the sustainability hires. They noted that the process for proposing candidates seemed geared toward scientific disciplines, and the on-the-ground realities of how departmental hires work in the Arts College would make it almost unthinkable that any of the eight sustainability hires would land in Arts. They stated a strong preference for a "cluster hiring" model: the idea would be to run two or three coordinated searches within Arts, rather than to propose individual candidates on an ad hoc basis.