Permaculture Garden Community Discussion

Strengths
- Good Food Project
- Chester Gardening Cooperative
- Arboretum
  - 100+ garden volunteers w/ mucho gardening experience
- Trico & Chester
- Space!
- Student interest
- Tri-co
- Connect curriculum and experiences
- Solidify role of gardening & sustainability as a permanent part of student body, faculty, & community
- Big endowment
- Paces
- SE PA (southeastern Pennsylvania) = super good & diverse growing environment

Weaknesses
- Students graduate and are generally disorganized
- Responsibilities to staff & faculty to maintain
- Funding for gardener position?
- Requires student body to understand goals and purpose of garden
- Clear language
- Lack of awareness of current gardening opportunities on campus
- Seasons -> no students in summer
- Communication methods
- Arboretum
  - ???? Gardeners willing to help!
- Need relationship b/t staff, faculty, administrators
- Selectivity bias
- Lack of strong ENVS dept
- Student involvement in the summer
  - Major [problem]

Opportunities
- Hands-on education
- Partnerships w/ local schools
- Growing seasons
- Draw parallels between interdependency in environmental ecosystems & human relationships/ecosystems
- Possibility of a new arboretum intern position (summer?)
- Engage more departments in env. studies/agriculture
  - Exactly! Opportunity to strengthen ENVS department
• Way to de-stress from Academic bubble
• Beautiful spaces can inspire/underline the space’s meaning/mission
• Integrating outdoor meal-eating spaces with the garden
• Tasty salad bar
• Work with existing Good Food
• Integration w/ daycare programs for faculty/staff children
• Credit or pay
• Existing fruit tours
• Real Food Challenge
• Engage with food justice issues
• Excited students
• Climate change
• Divestment
• Community engagement
• Educational, delicious, communal spaces for students, faculty, staff…
• Biochar (& oven) as education about options for permanent agriculture

Threats
• Constructions
• Financial constraints
• How do we make this garden feel meaningful if it doesn’t produce enough for us all to eat it?
• Lack of aesthetic appeal
• Will a staff-directed project be meaningful to students?
• Not including a broader cross-section of student body
• Meaningful inclusion of greater (non-student) community
• Student unreliability
• New Sustainability Framework
• Admin buy-in
• Leaving campus
• Have something close
• Campus culture (misery is good)