**Attendance**
Approximately 20 students attended the forum. All of the B&G student reps, including the alternate, were present and participated in the discussion. The Finance Committee student reps were invited but did not attend. Forum minutes were sent to all B&G and Finance student reps, including alternates.

**LEED**
While attendees strongly supported sustainability in the residence hall, several were critical of LEED as a certification program. Students suggested the Living Building Challenge as a more rigorous and less expensive alternative.

Students also suggested building to a higher (Gold or Platinum) LEED level without certifying to direct money toward sustainability measures only, not toward recognition. We noted that certification is generally not an inhibiting expense and discussed the advantages of certification over simply building to a certain level: accountability throughout and after construction, as well as recognition which is actually important.

**Finances**
Students asked about the cost of the building and how much LEED at various levels would add to the cost. We told them the estimate of 1% of the construction cost for Gold and 2% for platinum, plus the $5000 for certification for a building of our size and type. We also said that LEED Gold buildings typically pay off in about 10 years based on articles, though it will probably take longer at Scripps because of our low water and energy rates. We emphasized that these are all averages and that estimates will be calculated for this building in the next design stage.

Students suggested several funding ideas: talking about sustainability with alums; targeting EA alums; seeking support from the other 5Cs, city/citizens of Claremont, or surrounding towns; giving up grass (or other) for res hall sustainability funds; creative campaigning, seeking funds from celebrities or environmental activists/groups. One student noted that adding 1% of the building cost in loans would not be a bad thing.

**Sustainability**
Students at the forum are passionate about sustainability. These are some of their thoughts about sustainability at Scripps, paraphrased because we couldn’t type fast enough:

- At this point, it shows really poorly if a college makes a new building that isn’t sustainable.
- We need to think about future students at our future school. Global warming isn’t going away, and we need people going into fields. A school that doesn’t promote these causes isn’t going to bring those people here.
- I’m an EA major, and I have to major at Pomona because Scripps doesn’t provide my track. It’s nerve-wracking, and I don’t get a lot of support. If LEED could help EA (by creating more institutional support of sustainability), I’d be in even more support of it.
● I hope LEED pushes us to do more projects in sustainability, rather than just letting us sit back. I don’t want it to make us complacent. It would be great if the certification is the start of changing the culture of Scripps to one that centralizes sustainability.

● We’d need a commitment from the administration to continue pursuing sustainability if we do get LEED, to not back off if we get one big accomplishment.

● I’m disappointed that GJW isn’t more sustainable.

● I was turned off of Scripps when I was applying because a lack of the acknowledgment of the seriousness of environmental sustainability. We pretend we’re in a bubble of exemption from addressing these issues, and I don’t know why we think we’re exempt. Having a LEED certified building or another kind of certification to reflect the students’ desire for sustainable building would help bring Scripps up to speed in terms of the state of the world. If we don’t do something now, we’ll lose other talented motivated students who could be the next environmental leaders.

● I will be hesitant to give to Scripps as an alum if we aren’t showing a commitment now.

● I was impressed by Pitzer when I was applying to schools. They are active and deliberate in pursuing sustainability.

● Building sustainably, making it a priority, that’s where the world is going, and if we don’t, Scripps is going to be left behind. We already are behind.

● We are affecting other communities, not just ourselves. In Pomona and Upland they grumble about how much water Claremont uses. Our surroundings also have issues that need to be addressed.

● Refusing to acknowledge climate change is denying a social justice framework. Climate change disproportionately affects people who are poor and racially minoritized. If we don’t do this, it shows these people--factory workers in third world countries and our neighbors in Pomona, Upland, Ontario--that their livelihood isn’t as important as our aesthetics.

*"We" refers to Jessica and Mieke except in the student quotes.*