December 23, 2010

School of Earth Systems, Society and the Environment

Re: Response to Letter of Inquiry

Project: Sustainability Studies in the Humanities Initiative

Dear Gillen,

On behalf of the Student Sustainability Committee for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I would like to thank you for responding to our call for letters of inquiry to use funds raised by the student Clean Energy Technology and Sustainability Fees to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. Each letter was evaluated based on its sustainability impact (i.e. energy or sustainability impact, campus presence, project longevity, and budget) and broader impact (i.e. education and creativity). The Committee has adopted a focus of supporting projects representing technology diffusion or capacity development in campus sustainability. Within this round, the Committee over 40 letters requesting a total of $3 million – several times our annual budget.

The Committee is pleased to inform you that your letter was selected to advance to the second stage of project consideration, and requests that you submit a proposal for funding of this project. Please use the provided template while preparing your proposal to the Committee and submit your proposal to us by January 30th. We encourage you to communicate with us during the proposal development process so as to create the best possible project, and to ensure that the goals of all stakeholders are met. Please note that the total dollar value of projects proceeding to this stage is over $700,000, and so all projects cannot be funded during this fiscal year. Based on received proposals, the Committee may choose to provide funding this fiscal year, to defer your project to the next fiscal year for reconsideration, or to deny funding. Examples of past proposals may be found on our website. All implemented projects will be expected to follow the relevant campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.

The Committee is willing to invite a proposal to award up to $10,000 this year as a 50% match toward the Initiative’s $20,000 in funding from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and contingent on receipt of such funding. We recognize the need for sustainability initiatives directed toward the humanities and social sciences and are happy to play a part in providing additional sustainability curricular education opportunities. Please look to include letters of support for the Initiative from the Dean of LAS and from the Director of the SESE as part of your proposal.

Your proposal should detail the current budget and scope of the initiative, and how additional SSC funding in support could enhance the initiative, especially directed toward creation of additional new coursework or substantial modifications of existing coursework, as well as the Committee's role in offering input into selection of such courses or in advising the initiative. If successful, the Committee would seek to work with you on other ways to expand the scope of the Initiative in the future.

Thank you again for your work to make the campus more sustainable and we hope to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Suhail Barot,

Committee Chair