



February 15, 2012

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Student Sustainability Committee

Re: Request for funding from the UIUC Sustainable Campus Environment Fee
Project: Ensuring the Future of the Student Sustainable Farm
Applicant: Bruce Branham
Award Code: 1-629514-802050-191200-802FFP

Dear Bruce:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), we would like to thank you for responding to our call for proposals to use funds raised by the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus.

SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Office of Sustainability that your project **receive a total of \$188,750 over three years in one-year installments for the following:** Year 1) Salary for Student Farm Educator and Foreman, and funds for farm interns and labor; Year 2) Salary for Student Farm Educator and direct farm support; Year 3) Salary for Student Farm Educator and direct farm support. Each of these items are defined in the proposal.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. At least one student SSC member participates in the search for the candidate to fill these positions.
2. An annual review committee is formed and contains at least two student SSC members.
3. All funds must be spent by December 2014.
4. A final report of all work completed should be provided by January 2015.
5. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided each semester until the project is completed.
6. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC.
7. All projects are expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the SSC Program Advisor, Mckenzie Beverage, at mbeverag@illinois.edu. You will be notified when the Office of Sustainability officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.

SSC Signatories

Marika Nell
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee
Date Approved _____

Katie Kinley
Treasurer, Student Sustainability Committee
Date Approved _____

Awardee Signatory

Bruce Branham
Professor, Department of Crop Sciences
Date Approved _____

Office of Sustainability Signatory

Pradeep Khanna
Associate Chancellor, Interim Director, Office of Sustainability
Date Approved _____



Project Information

Project: Ensuring the Future of the Student Sustainable Farm

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$188,750

Receiving Campus Unit: Department of Crop Sciences

Unit Financial Officer: Sheryl Netherton

E-mail: netherto@illinois.edu **Phone:** (217) 244-4249

Primary Contact Person: Bruce Branham

E-mail: bbranham@illinois.edu **Phone:** (217) 333-7848

Secondary Contact Person: Zack Grant

E-mail: zbgrant@gmail.com **Phone:** (217) 333-9079

Project Description:

This proposal looks to further the University's commitment to local food consumption through continued support of the Sustainable Student Farm (SSF). The SSF began in 2009 with a grant from the Student Sustainability Committee to begin producing locally grown vegetables for the University of Illinois community. In the first season, the SSF produced nearly 25,000 pounds of produce and generated approximately \$25,000 in revenue, primarily through sales to University of Illinois Dining Services for use in the University dining halls. The exceptionally hot summer of 2010, combined with the high time/labor demand of high tunnel construction and farm expansion, led to a disappointing harvest for the second growing season. After three growing seasons, the SSF has achieved some of its goals, and has received considerable support from students, dining services, and the community. However, the SSF has not integrated the farm into the core mission of the university nor has it met the production goals for food delivery to Dining Services. The purpose of this grant is to develop a strategy to advance the missions of the farm, and to better align the farm with campus teaching, research, and outreach missions. As the University's only current capacity for producing local produce for campus, the SSF is an essential component of increasing campus sustainability through food production and education. Restructuring the SSF to facilitate these dual missions—food production and education/outreach—and expanding farm personnel is essential in meeting these goals. Thus, the Student Sustainability Committee is in favor of funding a grant in the amount of \$188,750 over three years.