

Minutes for iWG meeting, July 12, 2017

1. Welcome to New Members
 - a. Larry Uphoff is serving as the Student Affairs representative
 - b. Christine Ansani is joining as an intern providing support to Sean Reeder (Capital Programs)

2. SWATeam Updates
 - a. Ximing – just this morning, we sent out the entire Spring semester recommendations and assessments. There are no new recommendations but there are other things to discuss.
 - b. Ximing is getting Faculty members assigned to the SWATeams, with more than half of the past faculty deciding to return. Once the rosters are finalized, Ximing will approach the OVCR for an official charge letter.
 - c. Morgan is approaching possible staff members to replace vacancies as well. There is one unresolved opening for the Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling SWATeam. Historically, we had a zero-waste coordinator who has since left the University. While we have replaced this position, we're debating whether someone from Purchasing or Strategic Sourcing is a better fit for the PWR SWATeam. We need a staff person who can look at things from the strategic procurement policy-setting side, and may consider someone from Ethics and Compliance as an option.
 - d. Micah noted that we have almost full rosters for all the Student SWATeam members.

3. SWATeam Feedback and Suggestions
 - a. Morgan interviewed the SWATeams to get feedback from the members on what we're doing well as well as what possible areas of growth could be.
 - b. She then went through a presentation showing both the good things the SWATeams are doing well, as well as areas of growth (specifically where it comes to questions of Roles and Responsibilities / Institutional Support)
 - c. This presentation, as well as the full unsummarized feedback, is available in the iCAP Working Group Box Drive
 - d. Thoughts from the iWG
 - i. A number of SWATeam members have a lot of concerns about how much of an impact they make. It would be very good to have a charge or something more formal from higher level administrators. One approach currently underway is for faculty members on the SWATeams to receive charge letters from the Vice Chancellor for Research with copies directed to their deans.
 - ii. **At the next iWG meeting, we should discuss what to bring to the Sustainability Council in November (action item) – with a mid-September targeted meeting for iWG.**
 - iii. We should definitely have a reception at the start of the year.

4. Solar Farm 2.0 Update

- a. If we want to meet the 2025 iCAP Objectives, we'll need 50 more acres of solar energy on top of the 20 acre solar farm we already have. A meeting with the Dean of ACES was held to discuss the access of the 50 acres, including iSEE Director Evan Delucia and Provost's Fellow Scott Willenbrock.
- b. There are distinct challenges with building off-campus because once you add in transmission and distribution fees, our solar energy cannot be competitive with grid electricity. If it's generated on campus, we bypass transmission fees by tying into our campus grid.
- c. How far away can the Solar Farm be without paying to Ameren? As long as it's somewhere on the campus grid we don't pay fees and the costs remain competitive, but if we go off campus at all, we have to pay Ameren for distribution.
- d. If the solar electricity costs us extra money, it is a much harder sell than our hope to produce electricity at a cost that is competitive to the grid.
- e. What is the reinvestment cycle for the Solar Farm process? We have faculty that are experts in solar, and they say there are solar panels from as far as 50 years ago still generating electricity. While our cost models are based on a 20-year life, we expect to continue to receive electricity well after that.
- f. The group discussed possible things we could plant between the rows of solar in order to utilize the space and improve revenues, such as ginseng or pollinator pockets.
- g. Rooftop solar is a significantly more expensive option than solar farms, so while finding the space for ground-mounted solar has political challenges, it promises to be more financially feasible than rooftop.

5. iCAP Goals and Objectives Status Update

- a. The group reviewed the PDF presentation in the Box Drive related to iCAP Goals and discussed how to move forward with the ones currently pending.

The next meeting of the iCAP Working Group is tentatively scheduled for mid-September.