**Education Sustainability Working Advisory Team Meeting**

Monday, November 18, 2019

3:15 pm at Room 358, NSRC

*Members in attendance: Carolyn Cai [CC] (student representative); Ann Witmer [AW] (Engineering)*; *David Guth [DG] (Illini Union); Fina Healy [FH] [student representative); Meredith Moore [MM] (iSEE); Alexa Smith [AS] (student representative); Ann Witmer [AW] (Engineering)***;** *Gillen Wood [GW] (iSEE, chair)*

*Not attending: Julie Cidell [JC] (Geography & GIS); Sharlene Denos [SD] (Physics); Stacy Gloss [SG] (Applied Research Institute)*

*Notetaker: Regina Cassidy [RC] (iSEE)*

1. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP 2020 Objective 1
2. Objective: Integrate a sustainability unit into each individual college’s 100-level freshman orientation class.
3. Comments by iWG:
4. “Is there potential to work with the new Med School to research public health and the environment or the potential impact of climate change on disease vectors?”
5. “A unit is one 50-minute session. A sustainability gen-ed related to each major or college is more important and useful.”
6. Further discussion:
7. This would need a lot of teacher training.
8. Perhaps we could run a pilot of it through Engineering (AW has a part in this) and through LAS (in conjunction with FYE, ask Murillo Soranso), since they both have undergraduate teacher training already in place. This could be expanded to other units after a test period.
9. We are unsure about funding for this, perhaps in-kind?
10. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP Objective 2
11. Objective: Offer a graduate certificate in sustainability.
12. No comments by iWG.
13. Further discussion:
14. There would need to be a core course to create a sense of shared experience and a cohort.
15. What would be the focus of the certificate? Humanities? Science? Engineering?
16. Maybe we could create tracks, such as Air & Water, Business Applications; Economics; Policy. We could pilot using one track.
17. There would have to be a coordinator. Perhaps this could be someone working on an existing course who would give permission to increase number of students.
18. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP Objective 3
19. Objective: Offer an undergraduate Environmental Leadership Program – including workshops, visiting speakers, experiential learning, travel, and pre-professional opportunities.
20. Comments by iWG:
21. “Why not iSEE?” [funding]
22. Further discussion:
23. Trip to DC?
24. Policy focus?
25. Check [ACE 291](http://catalog.illinois.edu/courses-of-instruction/ace/ace.pdf) as a model – class is 10 days, including Spring Break
26. University YMCA is now creating an Environmental Leadership Program [AW is involved with this]. Do we want to partner with them? GW will attend their December 6 meeting.
27. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP Objective 4
28. Objective: Fund undergraduate research in sustainability.
29. Comments by iWG:
30. “This is unclear” [referring to funding amounts]
31. Further discussion:
32. We would need to recruit faculty mentors.
33. Perhaps we could hire a person who will do this, combined with programming across campus responsibilities.
34. Some students may accept Credit Hours rather than pay if we make it curricular.
35. How to conduct quality control?
36. Panel of judges?
37. Open house presentation?
38. Connect to Master’s student research?
39. Faculty paid when projects are completed?
40. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP Objective 5
41. Objective: Hold annual Sustainability Career Fair.
42. Comments by iWG:
43. “This is a great idea! Or ask employers who are already at career fairs to highlight positions in sustainability at their companies/institutions.”
44. “This is timely important for students.”
45. “How would we avoid greenwashing? How would we verify really sustainable companies – or would this be more about a sustainability-related positions at a wider range of companies? Sounds cool! Just wondering.”
46. Further discussion:
47. How do we vet companies?
48. This would need a coordinator.
49. Can we piggyback on existing career fair? Speak w/ organizers.
50. Maybe companies/institutions could ask for an eco-friendly tag.
51. Maybe we could pilot this and get feedback from students.
52. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP Objective 6.
53. Objective: Internship program with local businesses, non-profits, local government, and cultural institutions interested in sustainability. Interns will serve as liaisons between community sustainability efforts and the University.
54. Comments by iWG:
55. “Yes! Also if we frame things as interning as opposed to volunteering, students will be more likely to do it.”
56. “This can be collaborated with Resilience SWATeam involving city representatives.”
57. Further discussion:
58. Is there enough demand for this?
59. Why would someone choose this over the Environmental Leadership Program? Are we poaching our ELP target audience?
60. Do local businesses have money for this?
61. Internships must be paid in order to be equitable. The University YMCA sponsors Fred Bailey scholarships for unpaid internships.
62. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP Objective 7.
63. Objective: Develop informational campaigns for meeting targeted iCAP goals designed to reach all of campus.
64. Comments by iWG:
65. “Connections to all other teams.”
66. “Yes, especially include the students.”
67. Further discussion:
68. This goal is too broad for our scope.
69. Review of iWG comments on proposed iCAP Objective 8.
70. Objective: Educate students about the unequal impacts of problems in sustainability and inequalities in stakeholder representation when solutions are being discussed.
71. Comments by iWG:
72. “Not flushed out.”
73. “This may be combined with the Environmental Leadership Program; internal and external speakers can provide relevant knowledge and training.”
74. Further discussion:
75. Our request for a sustainability module in ethics training was rejected.
76. We might create a module that may be accessed with a link in the ethics training video or on the ethics webpage.
77. Sustainability Living & Learning community?
78. Get students involved early in their academic careers. We should be focusing our efforts on undergraduates (freshmen and sophomores).
79. We should include a preamble at the start of our section in the 2020 iCAP stating our priority in getting freshmen and sophomores involved.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. GW will attend YMCA meeting on 12/6 to find out about their Environmental Leadership Program and how we can fit in.
2. Every group member will contribute one additional Objective targeting freshmen and sophomores by next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 4:15.

Next meeting is TBD in December.