**Student Sustainability Coordinators**

*Overview:* The main goal of Student Sustainability Coordinators is to work with teams assigned to various units on campus (buildings). Student volunteers will be central to these teams. Other possible members of each team include the Building Manager, Zero Waste Contacts (i.e. people on a list of campus contacts that the ZW Coordinator will put together with a view to promoting ZW – generally one or more staff or faculty members in each building).

Potential partners for this project: Office of Volunteer Programs, iSEE, ZeroWaste SWATeam, Volunteer Illini Projects, Housing, Student environmental organizations (e.g. SECS, Engineers without Borders, Red Bison, Bee Commons …), Campus Honors Program, University YMCA.

**Initial Ideas**

The Student Sustainability Coordinator (alternative name ideas: “Illinois Student Sustainability Coordinator” or – if there were support for this from a senior administrator – “President’s Student Sustainability Coordinator” or “Chancellor’s Student Sustainability Coordinator”) is integral to the success of this initiative.

Team Objectives:

* All aspects of building/unit sustainability, with attention to the actions of people in the building.
* Include reducing waste, increasing recycling, purchasing, natural landscaping, energy use, amount of printing that is done … all aspects of what goes on in a building that is relevant to iSEE concerns.
* Student Sustainability Coordinators will speak with people who work in the building on issues they notice and about how they use the building. They will work to quantify waste/energy/resources used/etc. in their assigned building/region. They could help to inform people in the assigned building/region about all matters pertaining to sustainability including issues at the campus level.
* Provide interested students with leadership opportunities while helping the university to meet promise of Net Carbon Neutrality by 2050 through iCAP goals.

Details:

* It might make sense to develop this initially as a pilot program in a few buildings, perhaps in a number of types of buildings (e.g. residence halls, buildings with many classrooms, buildings with labs, administrative buildings) with a view to implementing it across campus.
  + 10-20 students
* A possible second part of this project: Combine this initiative with a way to assess each building for its overall success e.g. in recycling or more broadly. Perhaps combine with the existing program for rewarding energy saving though there is not the same opportunity for paying back $$ saved; so this might be more of a matter of *recognition.*

Questions:

* How to measure and what to measure? Difficulty of comparing buildings in which very different purposes are pursued.

Incentivization ideas:

* Support from administration (Perhaps naming the title “Chancellor’s Student Sustainability Coordinator, for example, to boost credibility and provide lucrative professional opportunity).
* Academic credit, preferably through iSEE.
  + Have a training/seminar course for credit. In the course students could develop ideas to tackle sustainability issues in their buildings and on campus. Students might develop a research or monitoring project for their assigned building.
    - The course could meet once a week and have a different focus each week, perhaps starting with an overview of sustainability on campus, touching on what has been achieved, current initiatives, goals and so on.
* Intern opportunities (iSEE)
* Miscellaneous Opportunities within iSEE

Academic Course Details:

* The course would focus in part on developing this initiative and working towards its future development and expansion across campus.
* The students will therefore be combining learning with organizing a new initiative and with engaging parts of the university community. This will be true service learning: serving the campus while learning a great deal about what sustainability means on a campus such as ours, learning to lead a new initiative, and learning to be ambassadors for sustainability on campus.

Funding:

* Possibly apply for iSEE course development funds, if needed.

Meeting Details

Date: 5 December 2019

Attendees: April Garrison (Office of Volunteer Programs), Maddy Liberman (Student, ZW SWATeam), Robert McKim (Faculty, ZW SWATeam)