**SWATeam Recommendation**

Name of SWATeam: Education

SWATeam Chair: Gillen Wood

Date Submitted to iWG: 4/2/2020

Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences): Establish a sustainability unit for piloting through ENG100, which provides freshmen with initial exposure to the relationship between sustainability actions and their own course of study. Unit will consist of one week of lesson plans, taught by course undergraduate teaching assistants, including a variety of learning activities and discussions. iSEE will offer training to undergraduate teaching assistants through a short workshop on sustainability, and lesson plans/learning objectives will be developed by iSEE faculty to ensure appropriateness of material. After the pilot period, freshman sustainability units could be extended to additional colleges for incorporation into their own freshman programming.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences): The goal is to teach students how to apply practical sustainable practices into their lives as well as their education. This unit will propose interdisciplinary action that encourages environmental awareness.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences): This unit would be an interactive discussion that strives to build awareness and expand our capacity to ensure a greener way of living. In regards to iCAP goals, this unit will introduce students to sustainable-related topics of education, energy, transportation, land & space, water, procurement and waste, outreach and research opportunities.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences): ENG100 is a six-week course with a tightly-managed curriculum. It will be imperative to provide persuasive evidence of the value of sustainability learning for freshmen. The curriculum of this course is currently undergoing changes to include more substance, which provides an opportunity to incorporate sustainability as a learning objective. The material could possibly be adapted from an existing introduction to sustainability elective currently offered for engineering students. The goal is to demonstrate proof of concept of a sustainability unit in ENG100, then apply this unit to all first-year orientation courses. Once this is on a campus-wide scale, an individual from each college will be needed to develop each college’s unit. Each unit must be adapted to each college, as students across disciplines are going to have different perspectives on sustainability.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: iSEE should lead implementation by providing training workshops for student teaching assistants and appropriate lesson plans. Management of classroom learning will be the responsibility of individual college freshman programs.

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high): Low budget cost (workshop materials and staff training time), policy impact is low as long as initiative is incorporated into existing courses. There will be a high impact on students, as every student eventually will be learning about sustainability in their program.

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Team Member Name | Team Member’s Comments |
| Gillen Wood (Chair) | I support this recommendation. |
| Ann-Perry Witmer (Faculty) | I support this recommendation. |
| Stacy Gloss (Staff) | I support this proposal. |
| Julie Cidell (Faculty) | (Unavailable for comment) |
| Sharlene Doss (Staff) | (Unavailable for comment) |
| Dave Guth (Staff) | (Unavailable for comment) |
| Anna Riedel (Student) | Other than the immense benefits of exposing freshman to the value of sustainability, it will allow for them to learn more about what the university does to support sustainability. I did not know that the ISEE existed until my sophomore year. This would be a great opportunity to spread awareness as well as teach freshman valuable lessons. |
| Carolyn Cai (Student) | (Unavailable for comment) |
| Alexa Smith (Student) | I am wondering if perhaps it would be helpful if all colleges implemented this "unit" at the same time, perhaps during sustainability week or Earth week on campus (depending on the semester). This way, we could encourage students to explore sustainability outside the classroom as well. |

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous): (Will solicit input from ENG and LAS freshman program coordinators)

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment):