

**iWG Meeting
April 27, 2020**

Attendees: Ximing Cai, Morgan White, Renee Wiley, Sandy Yoo, Jonah Messinger, Joey Kreiling, Brian Bundren, Meredith Moore

Edu001 Environmental Leadership Program:

- *Ximing*: Need to clarify some details, such as expectation of how many students would be in this program, do we need an additional coordinator or does this fall to Eric Green (Academic Advisor/Instructor at iSEE)
 - Does this need the approval from campus administration?
 - What is the funding situation? Will the students pay themselves or would they get supported?
 - There is currently a U of I program for students to stay in D.C. for two months to take a course and intern, with U of I subsidy though students pay the majority
- *Jonah*: There was a poll/Google Form that was circulated through iSEE, asking how much would you be willing to spend for this type of program, the results of this could help inform the decision
- Other questions: What would the application look like? What is the end goal and what are the expectations upon return?
 - Teach students how sustainability is incorporated in the legislative process
 - They could come back and write a piece to support legislation (local, state, or federal) or study specific policy area to draft policy after their trip
 - What would they bring back to benefit other students and other programs on campus?
 - How many students?
- Barbara Wilson (Executive Vice President, VP for Academic Affairs, Professor in Department of Communication) holds an annual leadership program
- Next step: Hold for now, discuss with Eric and Gillen on what this would look like, Ximing will bring up at upcoming iSEE Management Meeting and will email response to SWATeam

Edu002 Internship Coordinator:

- *Ximing*: Confusion of who would pay, it may not be possible for companies or businesses to guarantee payment, this also fits in with the Resilience team conversations to work with communities
 - Medium budget/policy impact
 - iSEE subsidy potential?
 - What is the timeline?
- *Morgan*: Is there a possibility to receive donor funding?
- iSEE could potentially assist with this
 - iSEE internship

- Ximing will discuss this at the iSEE management meeting to discuss a viable long-term solution
- *Morgan*: Cities are very interested in working with students but they do not have the funding to pay these students; maybe we could work with businesses to add internship positions
- *Sandy*: Who handles sustainability efforts in our surrounding communities?
 - Urbana has a full time sustainability manager: Scott Tess
 - Champaign has a planner who is the point-person for sustainability efforts: Lacey Rains
 - Savoy: No full-time person but they have an individual, Dennis Donaldson, Savoy Treasurer, who is trying to get up to speed
 - A lot of changes have been made because of advocacy groups (Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois Green Business Association, etc.)
 - These people would probably love to have students but most likely could not financially support them
- *Ximing*: iSEE and the Resilience SWATeam should collaborate on this
- Next Steps: Ximing will discuss with iSEE management (can iSEE find a donor to support student internships)
 - Will put on hold for further discussion and pass on to Resilience SWATeam

Edu003 Sustainability Career Fair:

- *Ximing*: A lot of coordination work will be needed with the lead of campus Career Center and career development staff at the college level. Does this need the approval from campus administration?
 - Is there an expected timeline for all the education recommendations?
- Contact Campus Career Center to discuss this possibility - they may come back and ask where the funding would come from, which would need to be discussed
- *Jonah*: Is the goal to start a standalone sustainability career fair? This would be a lot of work. We could start by having a banner identifying sustainable companies, or locate them in a particular corner.
- Engineering Career Services partners with the Engineering Council
 - Could add a sustainability “chair” to the Council
- *Sandy*: Are there other job fairs in the spring where we could add a sustainability component? This would be a good chance for learning what it takes to hold a career fair and establish platform to see if there is interest across campus. This is a safer approach.
- *Morgan*: Let’s do phase 1 (Year 1) and reevaluate
- Forward to Campus Career Center to pilot an eco-tagging system
- Next steps: forward to Campus Career Center to work with and provide some coordination with College of Business, College of Engineering, ACES.
 - Take lead in establishing Career Fair tagging system to pilot at their career fair to then be replicated at other college career fairs
 - Response to SWATeam: We will do Phase 1

Edu004 Sustainability Unit in ENG001.

- *Ximing*: Why is this not a campus wide initiative? We may need to contact the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in Engineering. Something may already have been done.
 - Unit should include Granger College of Engineering for approval.
 - iSEE staff may not be able to provide appropriate materials.
 - This can go with Engineering Curriculum Innovation funding support. (Medium)
- *Jonah*: Engineering places a lot of effort in the first year experience and effort for standardization, which is approved by a curriculum committee. Different areas within engineering itself could adapt “sustainability” into their own fields.
- There could be someone from the Education SWATeam to help move this forward (Ann Whitmer?)
- iWG to invite SWATeam representatives and Engineering Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs to August iWG meeting to discuss what this would look like and understand what we need to do before we finalize assessment
- **Next steps: Wait until August to hold meeting to discuss moving forward**

Edu005 Sustainability Scholars Program:

- *Ximing*: Should this be sent to the Provost Office or Chancellor’s Office for approval?
 - After that, iSEE can take lead in the implementation and operation. Suitable for Sustainability Council? (High impact)
- Send back to SWATeam to compare to the Sustainable Scholars Program to James Scholar program so we can understand the process and administrative staff time (especially if iSEE will oversee this, we will need to know more information)
- *Jonah*: James Scholar is across colleges, so this may have to be its own entity. There is already a program in Engineering called Energy and Environment.
- *Ximing*: What kind of requirements and who would qualify for the SSP?
- *Morgan*: Conceptually, this is a good idea. Who would implement this? Logistically, more details are needed to start the program as well as understanding how this coordinates with existing programs?
- *Sandy*: How many people do they anticipate in the program? Also, how do they plan to sustain this in the future? Grade-driven?
- **Next steps: Send back to SWATeam for additional information**

LW001 Data Repository:

- *Ximing*: Funding requirement might be higher than estimated depending on how comprehensive this data repository would be (Medium)
 - Could also include data on future work, e.g., waste, recycling
- *Morgan*: We would like more clarity on what this would actually look like. As far as the system goes, it is a good idea
- iSchool has this type of system (iSEE could potentially support compiling existing data)
- *Renee*: Christie Wiley and/or Heidi Imker do this at library

- Need to find a lead researcher; this work could be supported by iSEE as Living Lab project
 - *Ximing*: Lead person could develop this using funding (30K), it is possible from a research perspective
- How do we identify this researcher? Ximing can make some recommendations (NCSA, Information School, etc.)
- Is there additional funding from iSEE to incorporate existing data into iCAP Portal? How could we coordinate with F&S energy data historian? How can we connect to make data more accessible?
- *Sandy*: The perception is that when one entity “owns”/manages the information, it is not as accessible; how do we deal with the perception issue?
 - Important to be efficient with resources and not redundant (there is a new data science program)
 - DPI program is a great possibility; the resources may already exist
- *Morgan*: We have been working on collaborating with Rokwire for collection of water data
 - F&S is happy to participate in this but if asked to take the lead, will have to communicate with Executive Director to get final decision
- **Next steps: Hold for now while we determine who could take this on and move it forward, Ximing will do some initial work to discuss the possibility of funding this is a Living Lab Project**

Res001 Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- *Ximing*: Is this suitable for discussion at the Sustainability Council?
- *Morgan*: This is very straight forward so I suggest we support this and send it to the Chancellor via Bob Flider directly – a step that got skipped last time
- **Next steps: iWG supports this recommendation, we will move forward with completing the assessment form for iWG to write their comments**

ZW001 Student Sustainability Ambassador Program:

- iSEE as lead unit (and check with ACES)
 - Potential instructors (Meredith & Eric?), following an existing NRES 285 course outline with a field component
 - One or two semesters? (one semester course plus one semester field project)?
 - (Medium, staff time ¼ of time, or a 25-50% TA).
- *Sandy/Morgan*: Brad Klein (F&S) is in charge of deferred maintenance and employs students to investigate what is there, read building reports, etc., he could use sustainability ambassadors to help with this
- Instead of a decentralized program, students could be in contact with every facility manager
- *Morgan*: I see the benefit of doing it both ways. This is a good thing and we would like to see people within the buildings themselves to establish connections.
- Individual buildings may be interested in participating in this program
- Jonah’s Solar Decathlon team pursued similar conversations to understand what students can do

- The team modeled Engineering Hall and made recommendations to improve energy efficiency
- *Renee*: They discussed the possibility of upcoming and recommended projects
- *Morgan*: Students would focus more on recycling, behaviors, green teams, biking, meat-free Mondays, pollinator pockets, etc.; we also have the building level energy report cards and I recently hired a student to launch this program
 - This program would be less technical and instead focus on big-picture initiatives, such as making energy data more visible to users
- *Ximing*: We can move this forward. We will need to check with NRES and discuss specific form of course, hire TA to help (who would fund?), and discuss logistics of implementation but we can send to iSEE for now.
- **Next steps: Send to iSEE**
 - **iWG supports this recommendation, we will move forward with completing the assessment form for iWG to write their comments**

Energy001 Anaerobic Digester Feasibility Study:

- *Ximing*: Cost/benefit analysis should be included
 - Based on ACES's response to the past recommendation, I prefer to have a campus-level unit get involved for timely implementation). (Medium)
 - ACES could apply for SSC funding - 50k-100k with student involvement.
 - Who would maintain? Should we involve the Resilience SWATeam?
- Send to ACES, German Bollero, who has already been in communication with the Energy team in regard to this recommendation
- *Jonah*: University of Idaho recently completed anaerobic digester feasibility study (2018)
 - Renewable natural gas into Abbott should be a priority
- How would we get the feed stock? Would have to co-digest with something – from dining facility?
 - Fields are currently getting oversaturated with N
- Can ACES identify faculty to take lead?
 - Recently hired counterpart to Allen Parrish: Jonathan Mosley, farm manager, to perhaps lead this
- The feasibility study costs approx. 50-100k
 - Needed to resolve some of these questions
 - Potential to replace diesel with fleet, RNG to Abbott, etc.
 - Feasibility study must be very intentional
 - Beef and sheep facility not the best location in the past → new opportunity at the new dairy building
- List specific goals of what we would like to see in feasibility study (e.g., location, sources of waste, etc. to guide scope and drive cost), what application do we want and how would it save the most money
 - Also, how would this look like in phases: what needs to happen now vs. long-term plan
- Recommendation from iWG: ACES should coordinate with iWG to scope and implement a study
- Need to include Jeremy Guest and Roland Cusick and Agricultural and Biological Engineering individuals (Morgan also has a list of potential people to involve)

- SSC funding opportunity – they would want some sort of assurance that a digester would likely get installed, could be in the form of a letter from ACES, cost-sharing opportunity
- iSEE to provide coordinator/monitoring,
 - iWG as key stakeholder
- Next step: iWG supports recommendation, send to ACES, we will move forward with completing the assessment form for iWG to write their comments

Energy002 Building Envelope:

- *Ximing*: This would be a large funding requirement for campus wide building inspection. Does this need a decision and approval by campus-level administration beyond F&S? (Medium-High, Task Force committee)
- F&S is supportive of this project as a pilot but does not think it will pay for itself out of energy savings
- Would need to understand where the funding comes from
 - Cost less than \$200,000 estimate in recommendation
 - F&S could lead on identifying funding sources
 - Could work with SSC, iSEE (carbon credit sales fund), people in building, etc.
 - Bill Rose (ICRT) and others
- *Sandy*: This is part of new building methodology
 - What is our expectation for the inspection of these new buildings?
 - *Morgan*: To test whether our current process provides solid building envelopes and study whether it is working.
 - There is a concern on the older buildings.
 - What is the methodology for testing older buildings?
- Why and how were the proposed three buildings selected?
- iWG supports piloting this
 - Either supports these three buildings or could potentially identify other buildings
- Next steps: send to F&S
 - iWG supports recommendation, will move forward with completing the assessment form for iWG to write their comments

Energy003 Energy Master Plan:

- Wait for iCAP 2020
- If we approve it, this recommendation would go to Sustainability Council for their approval
- Where would the financial support come from? We will have to revisit this.
- Next steps: Let the SWATeam know that we will hold this recommendation for now.

Energy004 Energy Conservation Funding:

- *Ximing*: This could go the Sustainability Council after we have an assessment of cost return period
 - Does the EPC funding/benefit spreadsheet include this?
 - (High), if convinced, then the University will decide

- Energy performance contracting
- SWATeam previously told that they needed to provide more detail and clarification, this has not yet been answered
- Morgan spoke with Josh Whitson (in charge of energy performance contracts) – these pay for themselves but the money needs to come up front
 - Josh will put together list of projects and how much money is needed, how funding is brought together for existing projects, currently estimated \$100 million worth of energy performance projects
 - Savings will be realized later – who benefits from this?
 - As projects are realized, savings can be used for other projects
- *Jonah*: Why are we not approaching private entities for funding, private equities?
 - *Sandy*: They have tried but it is not economically feasible
 - There are two different groups and this is not the retrocommissioning group
 - EPC Contract Selection Team, Sarah Crane, Associate Director of Capital Financing, iWG to invite as guest at future meeting
 - There are people in the Provost Office (Andrea Hoey, Vicki Gress, Matthew Tomaszewski) who are well aware of this whole story, we are going to try and discuss with them
- A future iWG discussion will be dedicated to this topic – Josh Whitson, Sarah Crane, or someone from the U of I systems office may make a presentation to this group.
- This should potentially be an item at the Sustainability Council meeting in fall
 - Private equity or take a loan
- **Next steps: Hold this for future discussion and include members of Energy SWATeam**

Trans012 Carpool Survey:

- Ximing suggests sending back to SWATeam to clarify because this has likely been funded already
 - iSEE Living Lab fund for Ouyang’s project?
 - Who should decide the funding? (Low)
 - What is the current status of this?
- **Next steps: Return to SWATeam to clarify**

Trans013 UI Ride:

- *Sandy*: Do we have any info on when UI Ride can be reopened and how does this survey connect? With social distancing and health concerns, aspect of health should be included in survey (as well as when discussing shared modes of transportation)
- *Morgan*: We could approve/support this recommendation with the note that we want to make sure questions are related to health/safety/quarantine
- **iWG supports recommendation, will move forward with completing the assessment form for iWG to write their comments**

Next iWG meeting on Monday, May 18 from 3:30-5PM

- **Discuss the status of the iCAP 2020 and the upcoming Sustainability Council meeting, held on May 27**

iWG will send their comments on the draft SWATeam chapters to Meredith by Friday, May 1