

SWATeam Recommendation

Name of SWATeam: Education

SWATeam Chair: Gillen Wood

Date Submitted to iWG: 4/2/2020

Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences): Develop a **Sustainable Scholars Program (SSP)**, on the model of the existing popular and prestigious James Scholar program. Student recipients would enter the program as freshmen, choose a pathway of sustainability-themed courses across campus comparable to a minor, be eligible for priority registration times, and undertake extra honors-level assignments in these courses mentored by their professors-instructors. Oversight of the program to be provided by the Associate Director for Education at iSEE.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences): Sustainability course offerings, as well as major and minor accreditation pathways, have proliferated at U of I in recent years. To supplement this important evolution, the SSP offers extra accreditation to highly motivated, honors-level students, who are committed to sustainability education from their freshman year (and in the application process). As a prestige program, the SSP would offer greater visibility to sustainability education at U of I, and be a gateway attractive to elite students.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences): Developing a Sustainable Scholars Program will provide many courses covering a range of topics to engage students in this field while providing sustainability knowledge and concepts, a primary goal of the iCAP. This will provide opportunities and information necessary for students to apply these skills both on campus and in their future endeavors.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences): The SSP would require significant administrative co-ordination between iSEE, participating colleges and the Provost's office, with commensurate staffing. These costs, as well as financial incentives/rewards for participating students, should ideally be offset by an endowment. Development of the program should thus run parallel with cultivation of a major donor whose name could be attached to the program in the manner of the James Scholar. There will also need to be a significant amount of marketing and advertisement of the new program.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: iSEE (with participation from colleges and Provost's office)

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high): High level of impact; medium budget only in the beginning

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

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Gillen D'Arcy Wood (Co-Chair)	I support this recommendation.
Ann-Perry Witmer (Faculty)	I support this recommendation.
Stacy Gloss (Staff)	I fully agree with the Sustainable Scholars Program recommendation. I believe that programs designed with extra support for students, that additionally provide pathways for successfully navigating courses in sustainability in such an interdisciplinary and multi-major field will enhance students experience in college at UIUC.
Julie Cidell (Faculty)	(Unavailable for comment)

Sharlene Denos (Staff)	(Unavailable for comment)
Dave Guth (Staff)	(Unavailable for comment)
Anna Riedl (Student)	Dedicated and highly motivated students who are committed to sustainability education deserve to be recognized and incentivized.
Carolyn Cai (Student)	(Unavailable for comment)

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous):

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