

iWG Meeting – October 9, 2020, 1-2:30pm

Attendees: Ximing Cai, Morgan White, Matthew Tomaszewski, John Dallesasse, Qu Kim, Sandy Yoo, Joey Kreiling, Jonah Messinger, Sarah Gediman, Meredith Moore

Not in attendance: Marcus Jackson, Creen Ahmad, Joe Edwards

1. Introductions

- Qu Kim is a new member - attended one meeting over the summer.
- Creen and Marcus are two other new members who could not attend the meeting.

2. Updates

- SSC
 - Approved several micro-grants this semester; 5 or more projects will be voted on next week on October 17 to decide which projects will move on to step 2.
 - 16 voting members on SSC. The goal is to expand communication system (with new communications team this year). With the extra people, SSC hopes to get the word out on campus about the Student Sustainability Committee and funding opportunities, and the opportunity for students to attend working group meetings.
 - The SSC approved a scope change for an F&S recycling grant that allows for [mask recycling](#). If you have masks, you can put them in a sealed bag and drop off at one of the number of locations on campus.
- ISG (Committee on Environmental Sustainability)
 - Reached out to the Board on General Education several times this semester and have not heard back. One of the committee members is set to be on the Board and they are meeting on October 12, hopefully can finally move ahead with the gen-ed requirement.
 - Creen drafted a resolution about plastic waste and recycling on campus. A committee member set up a meeting with Dr. Attalla next week to discuss before bringing the resolution to the floor.
 - Co-hosting a fossil fuel teach-in with Students for Environmental Concerns on October 15th at 6pm.
- SSLC
 - Joey is working on Bee Campus with From the Ground Up to help the group form a new RSO, and they are working on two awarded SSC projects with F&S.
 - There will be future discussions to discuss how the iWG can support SSLC and the goals of the group to make sure they are well-established.
- iSEE
 - Former director, Evan DeLucia, has stepped down. Dr. Madhu Khanna is the new interim director of iSEE. She has previously been involved with

iSEE as an Associate Director.

- iCAP 2020
 - We will celebrate the iCAP 2020 at the Campus Sustainability Celebration on October 20 with the Chancellor in attendance to sign and formally approve the document.
 - The official procedures have been approved by Chancellor Jones. The Formal Procedures outline the iCAP process and includes the SWATeam and iWG roles. Updates to the procedures:
 - iSEE and F&S are officially listed as co-chairs to the iWG.
 - Gives responsibility to units and colleges to both react and try to accomplish the recommendations that they receive.
 - New sub-committee of the Sustainability Council chaired by Mike DeLorenzo (Office of the Chancellor), with standing members: Matthew Tomaszewski (Office of the Provost), Lowa Mwilambwe (Auxiliaries), Madhu Khanna (iSEE), and Mohamed Attalla (F&S). Ximing and Morgan will attend regularly and Meredith will take notes. Higher-level discussions are needed but not necessarily at the level of the Council (e.g., green infrastructure, parking, and utilities solutions). Meetings will typically occur the month before the council meeting to discuss mid-level recommendations.
- 3. Status of SWATeam recommendations (*see attached file*)
 - **Edu005:** Recommendation returned to SWATeam for clarification; team responded with additional details. This will be a future iWG agenda item.
 - **Edu004:** Conversation has been started. The goal is to expand beyond Engineering 100-level courses. This will be a future iWG agenda item.
 - **Edu003:** Jonah suggested that we need to focus on inviting more sustainability companies to career fairs. We may be missing a part of the process and need to get a better understanding of how companies are contacted and invited to attend.
 - **Edu002:** Plan to bring together the Resilience and Education SWATeams for discussion so we have a better understanding before the iWG assessment. We will move forward with this by the end of the semester.
 - **Edu001:** iSEE has started working on this and it is well underway. Gillen Wood may even hold events in support of this program soon.
 - **Res001:** We want Chancellor Jones to sign on to the final document when it is ready. We have completed the assessment and are ready to transmit it to the Chancellor. Morgan has discussed with Bob Flider - we will send the plan and recommendation together. It is likely that this will be successful with no issues once the plan is ready to be signed.
 - **LW001:** The SWATeam proposed two options in their initial recommendation but we would like some specificity to know how to move forward. In progress - identify a relevant faculty member to take a lead on this recommendation.
 - **Energy004:** This will be a future agenda item. Josh Whitson and Rob Roman will be invited to the November iWG meeting to speak on energy conservation and how the iWG can offer support. Josh Whitson said that up-front funding (\$100 million worth of projects on campus) is needed to move forward with additional Energy Performance Contracts.
 - **Energy003:** Final version of Energy Management Plan has been given to Dr. Attalla for review. We will include this as a topic in the November meeting with Rob Roman.

- **Energy002:** F&S requested money from the SSC to run a pilot based on this recommendation. Will talk with Bill Rose and F&S employees to discuss how to make it happen and move forward.
- **Energy001:** We need to revisit the status of this recommendation and discuss at the November meeting. *Update, from after the meeting: this recommendation is being transmitted to ACES and does not need further discussion at this time.*
- **Trans013:** F&S agreed to conduct the survey and work with the SWATeam to make sure the survey covers what the team is interested in knowing, and also incorporate questions on health and safety.
- **Trans012:** Recommendation was returned to the SWATeam because it seemed to be tied to a Living Lab funded project. Ximing reached out to Yanfeng and the team, who clarified that this recommendation is separate from the Living Lab funded project. iWG will need to review this recommendation.
- **ZW001:** This will be discussed at the iSEE management meeting to identify how to move forward.

4. Updates

- Solar Farm 3.0 (virtual PPA or long-term agreement for RECs with additionally with a new solar array in IL): Chancellor Jones, Provost Cangellaris, and Mike DeLorenzo reviewed presentation from Evan and Mohamed at the end of July. This will be a joint-effort with iSEE and F&S (led by F&S). Ximing will be on the evaluation committee for the RFP.
 - Request for a meeting to discuss policy issue, hopefully scheduled in next few weeks, and then meet with PEI to discuss RFP.
- [Sustainability training video](#) was released in conjunction with the annual ethics training on October 1. Everyone is encouraged to watch the video and take the follow-up survey.
- “The Role of Nuclear in Campus Energy and Carbon Neutrality Goals” and micronuclear reactor discussion was held on September 10. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opR-wDgFzq0>).

5. Discussion of SWATeam priorities (where do you think we should start?)

- Ximing: Many master plans have deadlines by FY24. It is important to have the master plans planned and developed as soon as possible.
- Jonah: Focus on decarbonization. How can we make it clear to the decision-makers that solutions exist? We need to pursue these into actual projects.
- Divestment: Need to align and help coordinate next steps with the work of SECS (Jonah and Sarah will reach out to the group).
- Morgan: Environmental Justice Plan – timely and urgently needed. Important for iWG to support; we can ask and follow up with SWATeams for progress updates to keep them on track and moving forward.
- Sarah: Divestment and the education objectives - any objective where we can incorporate sustainability into all aspects of campus, especially those who are not already involved in sustainability efforts.
- Sandy: Excited about the collaboration of this group so we do not operate independently. We know who to nudge and who is not already a part of the conversation and who should be. It is a critical time for us and future generations. Excited about what we can do in the next year to continue to strengthen this group and have a greater impact.
- Joey: Excited about the local food sourcing objective. Central Illinois has great potential to grow and supply residents with local food. Additionally, the green

infrastructure and native plantings around campus should be top priorities. The plantings are not necessarily difficult or time-consuming so it would be worthwhile to start early.

- Brian Bundren: Priority of space policy to control university sprawl, determine how we will define and measure our space, and how to more efficiently use space. We are far more successful in working remotely than we originally thought, this has potential to alleviate pressure on campus space and instead focus on how to support remote resources.
 - Morgan suggested that there seems to be a lack of understanding with how the budget reform impacts colleges (connectivity between space, budget reform, and energy conservation).
- Meredith: Priority of food waste reduction initiatives and greater outreach and visibility of our goals, especially at events (providing composting, recycling, and reuse opportunities) - culture of sustainability.
- Ximing: We should suggest to the SWATeams that they identify which projects will need the greatest amounts of funding so we can discuss and propose these as soon as possible.
 - Sarah said that we need to convince decision-makers and upper administration that sustainability needs to be a priority and is deserving of funding, even with tighter budgets.