

RES.03.35
OCTOBER 30, 2019

SENATE OF THE ILLINOIS STUDENT GOVERNMENT
3RD ASSEMBLY

Passed to floor 17-0-0.

Recommendation to pass 17-0-0.

12/4/2019 Passed on floor 26-1-1

Sustainability Education Gen-Ed Requirement

AUTHOR(S): Senator Dana Yun, Chair of the Committee on Environmental Sustainability Bugra Sahin,
Senator Jessica Nicholson

SPONSOR(S): Senator Eleena Ahmed, Senator James Kosmopoulos, Senator Deniz Namik, Senator
Nathan Poulosky, Senator John Compton, Senator Arnoldo Ayala, Senator Alissa Xiao,
Senator Sudarshana Rao, Senator Alec Navickis

ENDORSEMENT(S): Outreach Coordinator Tyese Braslavsky, Chair Sihah Reza

WHEREAS, Rapid environmental changes due to climate change that cause detrimental effects to environmental and human well-being are becoming increasingly evident; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring the well-being of our present and future generations is a large, complex and interdependent challenge that requires sustainability-based technological, social, and economic changes; and,

WHEREAS, students in all fields of study at our university can benefit from sustainability education to contribute to the improvement of our environmental state; and,

WHEREAS, the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (ISEE) lists over 500 courses across 50+ departments related to sustainability, energy conservation and environmentalism; and,

WHEREAS, several schools, including Dickinson College and the University of Vermont, a public land-grant research university similar to University of Illinois,, have implemented a university-wide requirement of a course related to sustainability; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign currently has no university-wide formal sustainability course requirement; and,

WHEREAS, General Education requirements change often to accommodate issues that arise in the changing social, economic and ecological environment; therefore,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University require students in all degree programs to take a 3-credit-hour elective that explores questions and solutions to sustainability challenges and opportunities with relation to students' respective fields of study; and,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, each academic college will list recommended courses based on ISEE's designated courses that they deem appropriate to fulfill the Sustainability general education requirement; and,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that one other 6 credit hour Gen-Ed requirement or sub-requirement be reduced by 3 hours so that the addition of a Sustainability Gen-Ed will not increase the total number of required Gen-Ed hours for any program nor eliminate any requirement; and,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, each college will have discretion as to which part of another Gen-Ed requirement to replace in order to make room for the Sustainability Gen-Ed requirement; and,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Senate requests the President direct the Executive to take any action necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

Appendix

I. Endorsement Letter and Signatures

We, signed below, fully endorse this resolution to create a Sustainability General Education Requirement for all incoming students. Given the increasing importance of sustainability for the well-being of our society, it is critical that all students at the University become more educated on topics relating to sustainability. All of us signed faculty and registered student organizations recognize the immense value of sustainability education and the long-term benefit it enables students to create. This Sustainability General Education resolution will allow students to learn sustainable practices that they can apply to their careers, their personal lives, and their circles of influence. Based on this benefit, we strongly encourage the Academic Senate to pass this resolution so that the General Education Board may implement the requirement.

Signed,

Faculty

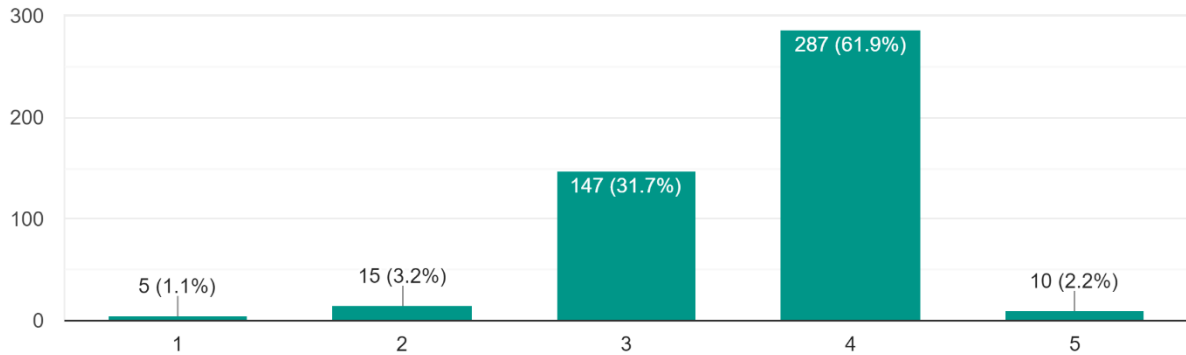
Name	Position and Department
Leon Liebenberg	
Gillen Wood	
Robert McKim	
Bosak-Schroeder, Clara Rae Marie	
Bullard, Clark W	
Deal, Brian	
Stewart, Bill	
Witmer, Ann	
Lisa Lucero	Anthropology
Zsuzsa Gille	Sociology
Mary-Pat McGuire	Landscape Architecture
Don Wuebbles	Atmospheric Science

Steve Witt	Director, Global Studies
Ashlynn Stillwell	Electrical Engineering
Sean Kennedy	Urban Planning
Rod Wilson	History
John Barnard	Comparative Literature
Dick Brazee	NRES
Sotiria Koloutsou-Vakakis	CEE
Murugesu Sivapalan	Geography
Jennifer Fraterrigo	NRES
Jim Miller	NRES
Carena Van Riper	NRES
Elif Ertekin	CEE
Brian Dill	
Scott Willenbrock	

Registered Student Organizations

You believe that you are aware of the critical environmental state caused by climate change.

464 responses

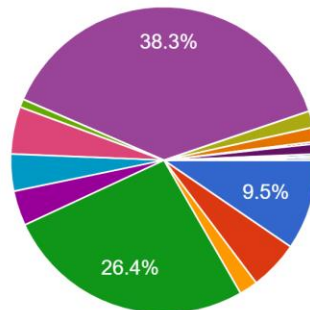


II. Student Survey and Results

We conducted a student survey to evaluate 464 Responses

College of Residence

462 responses

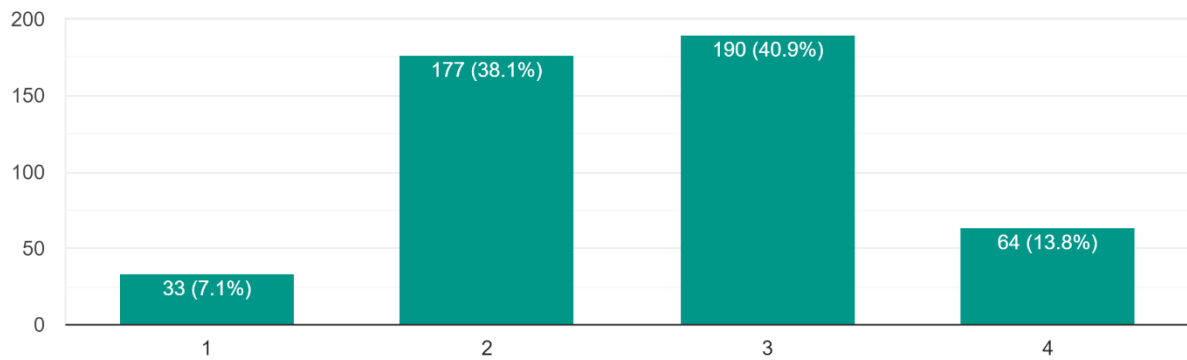


- College of ACES
- College of Applied Health Sciences
- College of Education
- Grainger College of Engineering
- College of Fine and Applied Arts
- Division of General Studies
- Gies College of Business
- Graduate College

- School of Labor and Employment Rel...
 - College of Law
 - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - School of Information Sciences
 - College of Media
 - Carle Illinois College of Medicine
 - School of Social Work
 - College of Veterinary Medicine
 - LAS
 - Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - Engineering
 - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- ▲ 2/3 ▼ ▲ 3/3 ▼

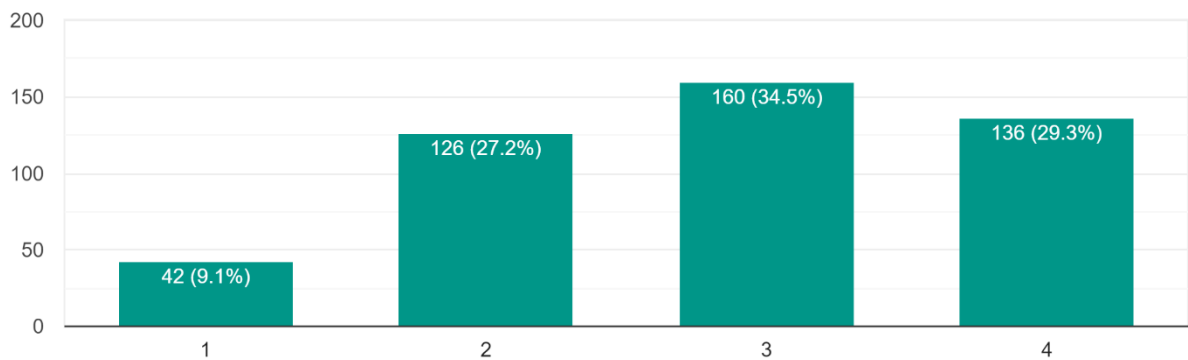
You believe that other students are aware of the critical environmental state caused by climate change.

464 responses



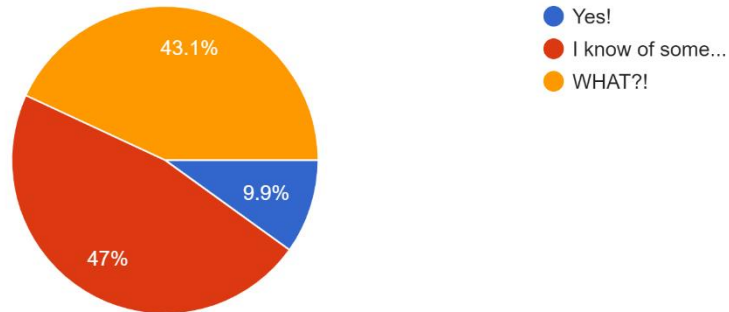
You feel educated on how you can make an environmentally sustainable impact within your field of study.

464 responses



Are you aware of the 500+ courses related to sustainability on our campus?

464 responses



You feel that a Gen-Ed requirement for a Sustainability Course (without increasing the number of Gen Ed credit hours) would have a positive impact.

464 responses

