

iWG Assessment

SWATeam Recommendation Ref #: Engagement 001 General Education Board Sustainability Sub-group

Date of iWG Assessment Started: 3-30-21

Assessment Completed: 4-2-21

iWG Recommendation: The iWG supports the creation of a General Education Board task committee to discuss feasibility and implementation of a sustainability gen-ed requirement as soon as possible. This is in support of the ISG resolution, which was approved February 2020.

iWG Routing Direction (*department name, SWATeam, or Council*): Sustainability Council and then to General Education Board, Education Policy Committee, Senate Executive Committee, Office of the Provost

Individual comments from each iWG member:

iWG Member Name	iWG Member's Comments
Ximing Cai (iSEE)	I support this recommendation. The proposed change to curriculum at the various Illinois department is urgently needed for enhancing sustainability education at Illinois. This recommendation reflects the engagement of the iCAP communities to an important education activity at campus.
Morgan White (F&S)	This is my personal comment, and not the official views of F&S leadership. I, personally, support this recommendation. An important aspect to our Climate Leadership Commitments is our responsibility to education future leaders of the world. We need to both support sustainability-focused graduates and help all UIUC graduates understand the implications of climate change in their future careers and lives. No matter what future our graduates choose to pursue, they need to be aware of the global issues related to climate change and how they can be involved in the solutions. A general education requirement about sustainability is one potential option for exposing all the undergraduate students to this urgent societal issue, so a committee should be formed to consider this possibility
Sandy Yoo (System Office)	UOCP/System Office supports creating this task force to explore feasibility. Apologies that this was not discussed at our monthly meeting... knowing that the level of preparedness, aside from core classes, may vary from student to student, so may the level of understanding sustainable practices and enrollment of students "living" it. As part of the community outreach program, our recommendation should include outreach to neighboring schools. I am a parent of the Mahomet school system and I know that the young folks thirst for sustainability practices in their schools. Rather than a knee deep or waist deep program or programs, we are in the baby stages at Mahomet and only "toe deep".
Matthew Tomaszewski (Provost Office)	This is an admirable recommendation, but we need to acknowledge John's concerns and note that these issues need to be carefully considered before support can be offered.
Qu Kim (College Facilities)	I support the recommendation addressing and supporting the implementation of a sustainability general education requirement proposed by the Illinois Student Government.

John Dallesasse (Academic Senate)	I have concerns about this recommendation. While I support the idea behind sustainability education, I believe that additions to the general education requirements need to be fully vetted by stakeholders across the entire campus. We cannot add without taking away, and what will we remove as a general education requirement? In some departments, such as Electrical and Computer Engineering, the students only have 6 hours of free electives. There is no room to add more requirements. If we take requirements away, what departments will that impact? There are also implications with regard to unit budgets, as those are tied to instructional units in the new campus budget model. All of these issues need to be fully and completely examined before proceeding.”
Marcus Jackson (Auxiliaries)	I support the recommendation to provide exposure and education on sustainability through the implementation of a general education requirement.
Joey Kreiling (SSLC)	I support this recommendation. A sustainability gen-ed requirement is a great way to increase awareness and improve understanding of how sustainability can relate to any field of study; having a general education requirement about it will ensure that at least some sustainability-focused curriculum reaches all Illinois students.
Jonah Messinger (SSC)	I support the campus instituting a campus-wide sustainability 3-credit-hour general education requirement. The Illinois Sustainability Council should approve this resolution and propose this initiative to the education policy board and other relevant campus education committees.
Creen Ahmad (ISG)	The Illinois Student Government Environmental Sustainability Committee fully supports this recommendation as it supports the committee’s efforts of trying to create the requirement. We believe that this requirement is imperative to prepare students from all disciplines to have knowledge about sustainability as most companies and institutions move in that same direction. We are aware and concerned that many students do not feel confident in their knowledge of sustainability to aid in problem solving and innovation, but we are hopeful this requirement will better equip these students. We also support a prioritization of this recommendation within the respective offices.”

Original SWATeam Recommendation:

The Engagement Team proposes that a working sub-group be formed within the [General Education Board](#) of the University to address and support the implementation of a sustainability general education requirement proposed by the Illinois Student Government.

iWG Assessment of budget and policy impacts (*check one*):

moderate budget and/or policy impact OR major budget and/or policy implications

iWG Routing Need (*check one*):

more detailed study OR transmit recommendation OR forward to Sustainability Council