

## Education iCAP Team September Meeting

Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 – 6:00 pm

Meeting at **National Soybean Research Center room 337**

You can also join virtually at this Zoom link:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/84952958188?pwd=VENCYWI2Q2FDakRhQjZ6UDVhRC9UZz09>

*Attendees: Jessica Nicholson (chair), Eric Green (vice-chair), Kate Abney (faculty), Luis Rodriguez (faculty), Anna-Marie Marshall (faculty), Grace Smith (student), Bella Polizzotto (student), Asli Topuzlu (clerk), Meredith Moore*

*Absentees: Gretchen Forman (staff), Anna Mehl (staff)*

### Agenda:

1. Chair Welcome and Remarks - Jessica
2. Introduction - Asli
  - a. Name, pronouns, major/position, how was your summer?
  - b. Ice breaker: Environmental guilty pleasure
    - i. We will ask about a habit of yours that is NOT environmental (ex: eating meat, driving, air conditioning...)
3. Review of Education iCAP objectives – Eric
4. Project updates – Eric and Jessica
5. Brainstorming action ideas for this semester – everyone
  - a. New approaches to accomplish specific iCAP education objectives
  - b. Any unfinished projects in the iCAP portal that seem to be a valuable pursuit and align with education objectives
  - c. How can we improve sustainability education on campus?
  - d. How can we make the student body more aware of sustainability practices?
6. Next steps – everyone
7. Recurring time for the remainder of the semester (?)

### Meeting Notes:

- Objective 6.1 Broaden Sustainability Education
  - First-year student sustainability seminar
    - Haven't done anything yet
  - Sustainability general education (GenEd) credit
    - Less of a requirement, more of an option to be included to the Natural Sciences category
    - Currently moving forward with this idea, more updates to come
  - 100-level courses
    - Gretchen can talk more about it
  - Sustainability workshop
    - Can investigate this idea further this semester

- Can pair this workshop idea with the Sustainability Assessment Tool that Meredith Moore is developing
- Objective 6.2 Sustainability Course Catalog
  - Ongoing and maintained objective
  - Eric manages Course Catalog every semester, working on putting together list of courses that are sustainability-oriented
  - Course list can be found on iSEE website, underneath the Education tab
- Objective 6.3 Environmental Leadership Program
  - Ongoing and maintained objective
  - Last semester - focused on local and state governmental agencies, met with the director of Illinois EPA, and several directors of Department of Natural Resources
  - Gets students familiar with the different aspects of how decisions get made, how to interact with stakeholders, and how to build momentum of making change
  - Will expand in the future to include corporate sustainability leaders
  - Director of the Division of Natural Resources for the Department of Agriculture hires interns!!
- Objective 6.4 Sustainability Internship Program
  - Hasn't been investigated in the last year at least
  - Connecting undergraduates with sustainability internships
  - Previously looked at academic and governmental institutions, found a couple of examples locally that are doing similar sustainability work
  - Obstacles of developing this objective
    - Trying to identify what to consider as a sustainability internship
    - Funding problems
- Objective 6.5 Sustainability at Career Fairs
  - Held a mini green career fair during the ELP Spring 2021
    - Had conversation with the Career Center to broaden this
  - Recommendation last spring to have the Career Center pursue this
    - Our team can define what is green career and identify companies or jobs
  - Focus for this or next semester = reengaging with the Career Center to push this further
- Objective 6.6 Graduate Certificate in Sustainability
  - A few minors on sustainability are available for undergraduates, but nothing exists for graduates
  - Opportunity to envision and create a certificate at the graduate level
- Project Updates
  - Green Career Fair Recommendation– not reviewed by iWG
  - Study Abroad Recommendation – not reviewed by iWG
  - Sustainability Gen Ed – drafting is finished, trying to get responses from associate deans to gather support to pass this proposal this semester
- Recommendation ideas
  - Kate
    - Ensure that international exchange students understand various sustainability practices on campus
    - Understand a broader geographic reach in these practices, but also understand the context/geography for which those things exist.

- Support courses LAS 291 and 292
- Working with both incoming international exchange students and exchange students studying abroad
- Eric
  - College of Business has no sustainability classes – having conversation with them about sustainability courses they might offer
  - We should prioritize this (?)
- Grace
  - EARTH (FY-CARE/ACE IT style program) try to be in-person with required participation

Action Items:

- Check with Gretchen Forman and Anna Mehl about the availability for the recurring meeting time - Mondays 5:00 – 6:00 PM (Asli)
- Keep brainstorming action ideas and putting them into our Google Doc (everyone)
- Next meeting - picking 1-2 of our initial ideas and drafting recommendations (everyone)