

iCAP Education Team 09/23 Meeting Notes

September 23rd

8:00 – 9:00 AM via Zoom:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82056648867?pwd=eUhQTFk3L2FTY0xLMnJhU0ZlVlhPd09>

Attendees: Anna Mehl, Kate Abney, Jessica Nicholson, Eric Green, Luis Rodriguez, Grace Smith, Asli Topuzlu

Absences: Gretchen Forman, Anna-Marie Marshall, Bella Polizzotto

Meeting Notes:

Updates from Kate about Edu_006 Sustainability in Study Abroad recommendation

- The recommendation is based on Kate's LAS 291/292 course
 - LAS 291/292 classes – multi-semester ongoing course with max 1500 students per year
 - Different cohorts that are in country, returning, etc.
 - Mostly domestic inter-European travels creating a lot of CO2 emissions and other environmental concerns
 - Trying to spread sustainability considerations through the syllabus of the course
 - A student applying to an LAS program must give an environmental impact statement about their travel (emissions, consumption, etc.) – a new system
 - Students will also have a final project – may or may not have an environmental focus
 - Making environmentally focused projects available to the wider public – not yet done (first cohort of students traveling post pandemic just returned!)
 - Sustainable Education Abroad Scholarship for LAS - \$50,000 (just released)
 - Only for semester-long or all-year applicants of Spring 2023
 - Trying to expand this for applicants to diverse places, not just Europe
 - Kate hosting a resident-director meeting once or twice a semester with partners all around the world
 - Kate suggested them to tell what they are doing in their countries in terms of public engagement with environmental/climate justice initiatives
 - Wants to build this out to students who will be out for semester or year long educational programs AND incoming international students
 - Scholarship recipients will be working with people to identify different initiatives/actions for climate justice and international interrelated environmental concerns
 - The next resident-director meeting is next Monday
- Important focus – how do we approach this when it comes to short-term faculty-led programs (Luis has a course entirely focused on this)
 - How do we balance out this type of educational experience with climate impact and sustainability? Planting trees?
- What is our main focus with this recommendation? Continue to support Kate's program? Export Kate's program to other colleges? Both?
 - Kate's program does not need support at this entry stage (focusing specifically on student travel), not sure about the outcome of the new changes that have been made

- Thinking beyond the student travel, the changes that need to be made are going to require an extensive contribution and commitment from the university
 - Ex: interrogating faculty travel for conferences
 - Luis – let's get rid of the faculty conference travel, communication can occur in many different media virtually
 - Scientists and educators of the campus can exchange their notion and hold their educational programs/projects virtually as long as they can substitute that face-to-face interaction
 - Identify what can truly be accomplished in virtual environment vs essential face-to-face environment
 - [SUNY COIL \(Global Classrooms\)](#)
 - [COIL model](#)
- Final team decision for recommendation 006
 - Team will broaden the recommendation on looking at sustainability across all study abroad curriculum
 - Less focus on LAS study abroad program, more on identifying how sustainability is being implemented in other study abroad programs
 - ACES college do have an environmental impact statement
 - Large challenge: How do we quantify/clarify what exactly happens in each study abroad program?
 - Not be able to cover the full scope of study abroad programs in the university in just one recommendation – need to narrow down the scope
 - The team will discuss this recommendation more at its October meeting, finalize some revisions, and send it back to iWG
- A new recommendation that will build off the original recommendation

Edu_005 Sustainable Scholars Program Recommendation

- Modeled off of the James Scholars Program
- Issues with this recommendation
 - Everyone who was on the committee when this recommendation was formed is no longer at the team
 - Is it worthwhile for everyone in the team to continue with this recommendation?
 - Is there money around this? For which students will this program address? How do we get more students into sustainability with this program?
 - What are the similarities between this sustainability scholars program idea and sustainability minor and does this stand out in measurable ways?
 - Too early for this recommendation. We are lacking general sustainability education on campus. How can we identify honors people without knowing what their baseline is?
 - If we had a better sense of how to identify what honors look like in this sustainability field, then we would be able to move forward
 - Not the vast majority of the students are honors students, we are missing the critical mass
 - There isn't a specified and organized listing of sustainability courses
 - Honors programs are about identified academically exceeding students (like James Scholar program)

- How can we find students that are academically exceeding on sustainability courses if we do not already have defined courses that align with this sustainable scholars program
- At the least, the team will postpone this recommendation and not consider it – at this point, there is not much of a path forward, we do not have enough defined