**SWATeam Recommendation**

Name of SWATeam: Education

SWATeam Chair: Gillen Wood

Date Submitted to iWG: 4/2/2020

Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences): Develop an **Environmental Leadership Program (ELP)**, for undergraduates and Masters’ students. ELP will comprise two week-long intensives, one in Fall and a Washington DC trip during Spring Break, exposing students to environmental governance at local, state, and federal tiers. Also includes pre-professional training, and speaker seminars during the academic year.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences): A para-curricular niche exists for students seeking extra accreditation and experience in the environmental leadership sphere. ELP models similar offerings at Stanford, Princeton and elsewhere, while being unique in its focus on undergraduates. The ELP emphasis on real-world training, networking, and professional skills will ready participants to enter the job market in ways that conventional academic majors and minors in the sustainability domain do not. Upon returning to campus, these students will be provided opportunities to help iSEE with their sustainability efforts (e.g., Teaching Assistant for courses, volunteer at events, etc).

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences): This recommendation will provide a strong sustainability foundation for students who will likely return from Washington DC eager to incorporate what they have learned on our campus. An ELP provides an excellent opportunity for students to acquire knowledge and skills which will in turn help campus embrace a culture of sustainability.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences): The ELP will require considerable upfront investment from participating units, particularly iSEE as the home institute to the program. The new ELP Director, a 50% position, will be charged with all levels of organization of the program, on campus, in Champaign-Urbana, and liaising with Illinois contacts and staff in Springfield and Washington, DC. He/She will also be responsible for student recruitment to the program and its content. In addition to the hiring of an ELP director, the question of costs for the DC leg of the program will be salient. The challenge will be to keep student fees for the program low to maximize participation, and not exclude low-income students.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: iSEE

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high): High. A half-time ELP Director, in addition to the costs of staging two week-long intensives, one in DC, means that a priority for this program will be to seek an outside donor.

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

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| Team Member Name | Team Member’s Comments |
| Gillen Wood (Chair) | I support this recommendation. |
| Stacy Gloss (Staff) | I am in support of this program. I recommend that this leadership program does not solely focus on leadership in the context of D.C. but includes environmental leadership from states leading on issues of climate change; and leaders from small local organizations or large non-profits and environmental organizations who make up the fabric of environmental work in the U.S. including organizations such as the Union of Concerned Scientists, NRDC, Sierra Club, ACEEE, state Environmental Councils and others. Seminars in environmental law could also be added to the program for additional impact. |
| Ann-Perry Witmer (Faculty) | I support this recommendation. |
| Sharlene Denos (Staff) | (Unavailable for comment) |
| Dave Guth (Faculty) | (Unavailable for comment) |
| Anna Riedl (Student) | This leadership program would provide a student with first-hand sustainable-related experiences, encourage them to develop skills outside their comfort zone, and establish connections with different mentors. |
| Carolyn Cai (Student) | (Unavailable for comment) |

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous):

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment):