

student sustainability committee

university of illinois at urbana-champaign



May 6th, 2010

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
Student Sustainability Committee

Re: Request for funding from the UIUC Sustainability / Clean Energy Technology Fees
Project: Business Instructional Facility Prairie Garden
Applicant: Tracy McCabe

Dear Tracy:

On behalf of the Student Sustainability Committee for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I would like to thank you for responding to our call for proposals to use funds raised by the student Clean Energy Technology and Sustainability Fees to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. Each proposal was evaluated based on its sustainability impact (i.e. energy or sustainability impact, campus presence, project longevity, and budget) and broader impact (i.e. education and creativity).

The Committee is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Office of Sustainability that your project (to create a Prairie Garden with sustainable, native botanicals in the courtyard of the Business Instructional Facility) **receive \$10,000 in funding, with the following requirements:** 1) that the College of Business will take responsibility for continued maintenance to ensure the success of the project, 2) That if the project is inadequately maintained and the restoration effort is abandoned in the next five years, resulting in replacement by turf grass, pavement, a flower bed, etc, then the Committee is allowed to seek repayment of the grant; however, repayment will not be sought due to other maintenance practices, species diversity, or aesthetics, 3) That Grounds personnel responsible for the maintenance of this restoration receive training to learn to properly care for the landscape; if needed up to \$2,000 of this grant may be used for this purpose, 4) That prominent signage will provide both educational information about the sustainable choices made in planting and acknowledge the Committee's support of the project, 5) That opportunities to reduce costs through bids and use of volunteers will be pursued, and any resulting cost reductions lowering the project cost to less than \$20,000 will be passed along as savings shared equally by the Committee and the College of Business, 6) That approval of the planting plan, supplier bids, and formation of an implementation team is achieved by September 1st, 2010 to prepare for installation of the garden and signage in Fall 2010, and 7) That all funds provided by the SSC for be expended by November 30th, 2010 and that a final report of all work completed and accounting of funds spent be provided to us by December 31st, 2011. If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact us at sustainability-committee@uiuc.edu

The Committee will contact you when the Office of Sustainability officially approves this project. At that point, we will discuss the Committee's protocol for financial and progress management to complete this project, and make arrangements for transfer of funds. As previously discussed, semesterly updates and account statements describing how funds are being used will be required in addition to a final report on project completion.

Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Suhail F. Barot
UIUC Student Sustainability Committee, Chair

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Project: Business Instructional Facility Prairie Garden

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Receiving Campus Unit: College of Business

Unit Financial Officer: A. Susan Elliott

E-mail: aelliott@illinois.edu **Phone:** (217) 244-0253

Primary Contact Person: Tracy McCabe

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Secondary Contact Person: George Freeman

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Project Description:

This proposal looks to contribute to the campus wide effort of promoting more sustainable landscaping by creating a Prairie Garden comprised of plant species characteristic to east-central Illinois to surround the Deloitte Auditorium in the courtyard of the Business Instructional Facility (BIF). The Prairie Garden will provide carbon sequestration benefits, aid in management of water runoff, increase biodiversity, and reduce the use of carbon-intensive maintenance equipment. Replacing the current overgrown sedge meadow with low-height, low-growth, native sustainable botanicals will lead to less management needs and greater student engagement with increased access and aesthetics. The Prairie Garden will be highly visible to the thousands of weekly visitors to the BIF, sending a message about the importance of and commitment to sustainable practices. Such education will be furthered through informational signage and orientation of new students. The College of Business and College of Business Class of 2010 will provide the remaining \$10,540 expense of creating the Prairie Garden. Further, the College of Business will assume responsibility for ensuring the success and continued maintenance of the project, and the grant will be paid back to the Committee if the project is inadequately maintained and the restoration effort is abandoned in the next five years. The improvements to the Business Instructional Facility courtyard will provide highly visible, tangible evidence of the campus commitment to responsible sustainable behavior. Thus, the Student Sustainability Committee is in favor of funding the fully requested amount of \$10,000.

Student Sustainability Committee:

Suhail Barot, 09-10 Committee Chair

Erin Harper, 09-10 Committee Vice-Chair

Date Approved: May 20, 2010

Date Approved: 06/01/10

Office of Sustainability:

Richard Warner, Director, Office of Sustainability

Steve Sonka, Vice-Chancellor for Public Engagement

Date Approved: MAY 27 2010

Date Approved: 06/04/10