# EGen SWATeam

# Meeting Agenda

## November 15, 2017

## 4:00-5:00 pm Location NSRL 240

**Type of Meeting:** Bi-Weekly Meeting

**Meeting Facilitator:** Xinlei Wang

**Invitees:** Mike Larson, Tim Mies, Xinlei Wang, Yu-Feng Forrest Lin, Christopher Hillebrand, Yogesh Bhandari, Carol Lin (clerk)

1. **Call to order**
2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**
3. **Open issues**

* Updates on expansion of campus solar and on Solar Farm 2.0. What is the most cost effective way to increase solar on campus?
  + The team examined Solar Farm 2.0’s financial analysis in detail. Scott’s recommendation to make this more financially attracting taxed the electric rate on campus. He proposed a subsidized solar farm. Scott’s calculated cost is $26.5 million.
  + Xinlei says Scott’s project will save money. That assumes purchase rate of power increases every year by 3% though, and Scott is assuming compound interest. Mike is uncomfortable with turning this analysis in to the working group because it feels like the team would be assuming numbers in order to sell the idea. Rather, the team should make an informed financial scenario.
  + Xinlei says Scott is using data from other universities though. Mike says we should take more time to understand his projection. If the 55 year average is 2.74%, why are we using 3% in the analysis? If we change the percentage used, the numbers show a $1.4 million saving. The difference in percentages creates a huge difference.
  + The natural gas market is a different market. There is a strong suspicion it will be stable, and the price of power is dependent on natural gas. If market prices don’t change, electricity rates will be stable for the next 5 years.
* A Solar Farm on several acres of UI Foundation property near Kankakee
  + The foundation can’t talk about it as of now. They’re in the negotiation phase of the use of the land and can’t release details as it is a private discussion.
* RECs discussion: A recommendation to explore the option of selling the SRECs from the Solar Farm
  + The team is considering buying and selling recs. With the funds available on campus, departments have been asked to put forward projects to use these funds to improve their buildings. Most buildings don’t see the investment worth though. For example, Tim wants to change the lighting fixtures in one building. He had to write a work order for an improvement for central campus utilities. He had to call up a contractor for a budget proposal. Tim needed a design before he could get funding. The project would increase the efficiency of their building, save money, and fund further projects. However, there is concern over the process and incentives for departments to write a work order.
  + The team wonders if they need to approach a group such as the F&S or SSC about the funds available to do energy-saving projects. In order to put together a good proposal, the team needs to look up the payback. Where would the profit from selling the recs go to? The team wants it to go to supporting the development of ideas for new projects from departments. They think investments in lighting projects would result in the best payback.
* The team is now looking at the rough draft of the recommendation from Mike.
  + RLF is typically all energy conservation. It worked for a boiler, but why would a solar farm qualify?
  + Tim would like to review iCap closer in order to potentially revise the third paragraph of the recommendation. Resolve language on how to use the funds.
  + The table can be for the next meeting. It can be circulated through email and comments can be submitted online. In general, it is agreed upon that this needs to be moved along.

1. **Adjournment**

* Yogesh will contact Professor Gross and see when he is available. He hopes to receive 2-3 availability times in early December from him. The next team meeting will be scheduled by working with the professor’s schedule.
* Yogesh wants to send him a list of questions along with some background information when he emails him. The team says they wish to ask about the assertion that recs do not advance the green energy markets and whether the university should procure recs or not.
* Yogesh says in his short conversations with his professor in the past, Professor Gross said to purchase the recs. Nonetheless, Mike would like to hear an explanation and will draft the list of questions and background information for Yogesh to forward.