

iWG Meeting Minutes – March 15th 2019

Attendees: Morgan White, Scott Willenbrock, Renee Wiley, Sandra Yoo (representing Sean Reeder), Matthew Tomaszewski, Jonah Messinger, Ximing Cai

Could not attend: John Dallesasse, Sean Reeder, Alma Sealine, Adrian Chendra

1. Introductions

2. Approval of the Minutes

3. Student Updates

a. SSC

- i.** SSC had their Step 1 voting meeting over the past month, and agreed to send some projects forward. The SSC Coordinator, Cathy Liebowitz, just had her last day this week, so the SSC is being advised in the interim by Micah Kenfield and other iSEE staff as needed. Unclear where the group is with reviewing student applications for next year.

b. SSLC

- i.** Joey has just started talking to Micah about hosting a student iCAP workshop. SSLC also wants to host a campus wide student workshop during Earth Week and are talking with the Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ISG) about co-running it. Joey would like to know if Morgan can speak at it. SSLC is also moving forward with the Green Business panel – tentatively on April 24th, at Wohlers Hall or SDRP. Morgan wanted to know what they hope to accomplish with this panel – Jonah explained it's still in conversation, but part of it is to show businesses can still be successful in a green fashion, and to talk about business solutions to solve climate change. Joey is really excited to be partnering with a business fraternity, to hopefully steer them into being more involved with the green scene on campus. Discussion continued about the possible vision and logistics for the event.

c. Q Magazine

- i.** Q magazine is the official publication of the Certificate in Environmental Writing that iSEE added in Fall 2017. To get the certificate, students have to take three of possible four classes. The magazine provides an opportunity for students enrolled in any of the writing based classes in the sequence to have their writing published. So far, two issues have been published online: one last fall and one early this month. Topics have ranged from 2017's brutal hurricane season and their resounding effects to

this day, as well as the dirtiness of dish soap and the environmental impact of writing pens. The project is led by our associate director for education, Gillen Wood. While publication is primarily online, a compilation of the fall and spring issues will be published in print over the summer.

4. Project Updates

a. Solar Farm 2.0 RFP

- i.** Morgan and Scott had a vendor meeting on 3.14 with 18 companies and ten other UIUC representatives. They gave a presentation to the vendors that will go online soon, and went to visit the future sight of SF 2.0. They mentioned the concerns about noise because of Champaign County's high standards, though didn't go too much in depth about it. There are some housing developments nearby that could be affected if anything is too loud. The vendors asked a lot of good questions and we will post answers to them by the 28th. A continuing issue is that the state says you can't call yourself pollinator friendly unless you get a qualifying score on the pollinator scorecard – which hasn't been finished yet. Another question is the size – there is a minimum of 18,000 gigawatt hours needed a year to meet the iCAP goal. Some vendors wanted to know about a maximum – Kent Reifsteck will be looking at this.
- ii.** Scott wants to delay the deadline for proposals, because there's still many companies that have only just seen the RFP advertising and an April 3rd deadline is very short for them. So Scott really wants to get broader participation from possible vendors.
- iii.** Joey wanted to know more about the pollinator scorecard. Morgan explained the law about solar pollinator friendly construction further - you have to meet certain standards to get designated. She pulled up the [Illinois state law](#) to clarify the language, as well as the draft scorecard.
- iv.** Morgan said that clarifying the scorecard requirements with those in charge of it on campus could allow for the deadline to be extended because this would help clarify the specs we need for the solar farm.
- v.** Scott brought up how someone proposed using a different kind of fencing that would be better for wildlife, but we don't know the accuracy of this possibility. But it's possibly a much more attractive fencing, though it may or may not meet our needs. Alternative fence possibility will be reviewed.
- vi.** Jonah asked about the status of the off campus (RFP?) Morgan said it's being revised to have two scenarios: with Petascale and without it. Ultimately it will be shared at Sustainability Council. It's still unclear if Petascale will be here in the future or not, despite the loss of NSF funding.

Sandra Yoo gave Morgan a name to follow up with on the future of Petascale and their energy usage after the meeting.

b. Green Labs Committee

- i. This has been a long term, about two year effort to plan. iSEE is collaborating with the Research Safety Division on this. The director of the division agreed to create this committee recently. Morgan and Ximing are trying to get a follow up meeting to develop some guidelines, and we have to be careful not to affect the safety rules too much. Ximing thinks it makes sense to work with this division, since they are a campus leader of research labs.
- ii. Joey asked if there's any involvement right now of people actually working in labs. Ximing said some lab managers are already on the safety committee, but there definitely should be a lab manager on the actual new green labs committee. Morgan expanded that the director already has an idea of who to include on the committee and how to structure it. The basic question is how to incorporate iCAP goals and behaviors with research labs on campus.

c. Resilient Grounds Strategy

- i. Morgan: FS charged a resilient grounds strategy committee to examine how we can manage are grounds more sustainably and resiliently. How to handle pollinators, rainwater, aesthetics, service levels, maintenance levels, etc. How should we implement more sustainable landscapes in a way that is good and cost effective? Chaired by Bill Sullivan, Morgan and Matthew are also on it. Members also include several other FS/iSEE/SWATeam associates, as well as off campus members.
- ii. Ximing wants to know about the timeline of the committee- Morgan says the charge doesn't say. A big question was, as a committee, what do they want to see out of this plan? Because the idea is to write a plan. One thing they want to incorporate is that being able to see trees and nature can bring down stress levels. Everything is still in early stages though.

5. iCAP Progress

a. Status of objectives

- i. Ximing explained how we now entering the update period of the 2015 iCAP for 2020. So we need to look at what objectives have been achieved, are still in progress, haven't started, etc.
- ii. [Morgan has created a presentation](#) to review each iCAP objective status.
 - 1. 24% completed
 - 2. 15% continuous
 - 3. 55% in progress

- 4. 6% not started
 - iii. ECBS
 - 1. 1 objective continues, 2 complete, 1 in progress
 - 2. More conversation following up from last meeting about the no new space requirement, and how the Campus Instruction Facility will affect it.
 - 3. Morgan wants to be more specific in the incentivize behavior change objective for 2020.
 - iv. eGen
 - 1. 1 continuous, 3 in progress
 - v. Transportation
 - 1. 5 in progress, 1 complete
 - vi. Water
 - 1. 1 complete, 4 in progress, 1 not started
 - vii. PWR
 - 1. 3 in progress, 1 continuous
 - viii. ALUFS
 - 1. 1 complete, 5 in progress
 - ix. Carbon offsets
 - 1. 1 complete, 1 in progress, 2 not started
 - x. Funding
 - 1. 1 complete, 3 in progress
 - xi. Education
 - 1. 2 complete, 1 continuous
 - xii. Outreach
 - 1. 2 continuous, 1 in progress
 - xiii. Research
 - 1. 2 complete, 1 continuous
- b. Next steps
 - i. Ximing wants more specific metrics to be involved in the new iCAP objectives.
 - ii. Jonah wanted to know more about the price differences between getting our electricity from Abbott and purchasing clean energy off campus. No one here really knows completely, but there is an analysis looking at this to help determine future actions.

6. SWATeam updates

- a. Ran out of time – [update document](#) will be sent out over email.