Role of iSEE – 9/29/22

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1. Introductions

2. What/who is iSEE?

* “Front porch of sustainability”
* Very student-facing: launched SSLC, work with SSC projects
* Educational mission (ELP, sustainability minor) and research
* Part of campus mission to support and build diversity as part of our educational and engagement portfolios

3.      Existing sustainability approach within Student Affairs

* Create more capacity to drive sustainability goals
* Bring organizational piece and connection to students and campus
* Expectation is that there should be a connection to iSEE
* Provides accounting/financial infrastructure
* Sammy Yoo’s position was housed in Student Engagement (this office has experience with supporting student organizations, particularly the financial piece/SORF)

4.      Two new sustainability staff positions

* Positions expected to be posted today (9/29)
* Evaluated the approach of peer institutions e.g., UC Berkley campus sustainability body
  + One central campus sustainability body
  + Has lower budget but perhaps greater outreach and engagement
  + This research led to development of two new sustainability staff positions to expand capacity so that together, we can align our efforts and promote collaboration
* Emphasis on programming and collaboration with expanding our campus networks, including iSEE
* Coordinator and Assistant Director positions (coordinator will report to director)

5.      Group discussion – how can iSEE/Student Affairs most effectively interact?

* How do we increase our impact?
* We likely have 10% of student population engaged, how can we expand and engage?
* We help manage SSC projects; how can we encourage greater participation from other units across campus? How can we mobilize the larger campus community?
* This partnership can help expand and increase our impact – e.g., programs for incoming freshmen
* iSEE/SSC can present to department heads (October or December)
* SSC funded student project to plant at Foreign Language Building – needs ongoing maintenance, support, leadership to keep moving forward
* It would be helpful to have another meeting after the new staff positions are hired; would benefit from further analysis of other institutions
* **To do:** Include interaction with Student Affairs and iSEE at spring Sustainability Council meeting (success story)
* Rebranding ideas: Under Student Engagement Office, proposed a new organizational level to include Office of Student Sustainability (or Student Sustainability Center/Student Sustainability Resource Center) to house Student Sustainability Committee
  + Illinois Green Fund instead of student sustainability fees