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ISGI Internal Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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Location: Davis Hall 327  
Date: March 6, 2018  
Time: 10am-12 pm

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Board Members Attending:

Bill Poole, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management & Campus Operations  
Christopher Morris, Department of History (Chair, ISGI)  
Douglas Klahr, Associate Dean & Associate Professor, CAPP  
Duane Dimos, Vice President for Research  
Jim Grover, Professor of Biology and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies  
John Hall, VP Administration and Campus Operation  
Karabi Bezboruah, Associate Professor, CAPP  
Meghna Tare, Executive Director, ISGI  
Melanie Sattler, Dept. of Civil Engineering  
Stacy Alaimo, Department of English  
Greg Hladik, Director, Parking and Transportation

## Minutes:

### 1. Update from Christopher Morris

#### a. *Email response to “Want to see ISGI accomplish”*

- i. ISGI needs an academic leader to act as the interface between the organization and academic units. The person needs to have the resources such as course releases, summer salary to act as the liaison. Someone doing the Sustainability Minor would be a good person to do it as they could maintain the momentum.
- ii. Some of the terms repeated in these ideas are “Engagement,” “Community,” and “Funding.” However, terms like “Students” and “Teaching” are secondary. In terms of priority, where does faculty come?
- iii. Discussion on organization of resources and structure for the Minor- the Minor does not have enough students to garner resources, but on the other hand, if we do not have the resources, the Minor does not attract students. Suggestions include incentives for Faculty such as compensation.
- iv. How to identify resources required? By looking at other Centers, we can get a good idea of the structures in place. Usually there are 2 FTE and additional staff, 2-6 faculty associates etc. Ideally, we can have 2 leadership positions – one academic and one professional. Offer \$5000 to faculty associates, or course releases after negotiation with Deans. Also host conferences or workshops where faculty and students can participate. Faculty associate can have 25-50% allocation to the ISGI. And Professional associate will be Meghna Tare.
- v. The Mellon Foundation provides funding after and organization shows evidence of accomplishing objectives.
- vi. Question about the kinds of tangible things that we can accomplish- Other examples include: UCLA – has creative programming around sustainability; University of Oregon – Human sustainability. Further, NSF funding looks for “Broader Impacts.” Case for an academic leader and a bit of structure around the organization (ISGI)

#### b. *Update on the engagement with Michael Pollan Series*

- i. Organizers of Mav Speaker series very encouraging – offered free tickets to students. Small group of people interested in Community Gardens led by David Hopman met with Pollan. This was a good attempt to get students involved and spread awareness about the Institute.
- ii. Plan to continue with MavSpeaker series with Opportunity to suggest speakers.

## **2. External Advisory Board- Potential Board Members**

- i. These are talking points. Board members are requested to suggest/ recommend names/ organizations for the external advisory board
- ii. Board members requested to send recommendations for Bylaws edits. One suggestion was to include “Student projects” within “Roles & Responsibilities.”

## **3. Sustainability Minor**

- i. Per the proposal, students take one core course – ESST 2300. Then student takes 5 courses from the list from each College, and get their Certificates from the respective College. This was proposed to address the low student enrollment in the Minor. This is an effort at organizing the courses, though they may not be even offered.
- ii. Discussion on the low enrollment due to the lack of time to recruit students to the Minor. The proposed Minor does not support cross-disciplinary knowledge of Environmental Sustainability Minor. Intellectually, the Minor should have some cross-disciplinary connections. This Minor really needs strong advising and recruiting.
- iii. Other issues for low enrollment:
  - a. Courses are not easily found
  - b. Need to contact advisers every semester and communicate about the Minor
  - c. Need an updated list of the faculty teaching these courses
- iv. The criteria for Minor needs more work – put together a game plan to increase student enrollment in the existing Minor. For transfer students to get this Minor, the faculty supervising the Minor needs to go over their syllabus and check if the content works.
- vi. Suggestion for Work Studies or GRAs to work some of the recruiting. However, the Consensus was to have a Director (academic) for the Minor to run it, and be compensated for their time.

## **4. EPA Grant for Education For Sustainable Development**

- i. Meghna is working on a grant proposal for EPA and asking for \$60,000. The institute has letters of Support from City of Dallas, City of Arlington, DFW.

**Next Meeting: September 25, 2018 Time: 10-12 pm Location: Davis Hall 327**