

Student Center for Campus Sustainability

Completing the Context for Leadership and Career Skills Development through Practical Education
March 22, 2006

The Student Center for Campus Sustainability is a student initiative to build student leadership, management, and problem-solving skills by funding student-led sustainability projects on the UI campus that integrate the social, environmental, and economic commitments of this University. The program will be administered by students and available to students from all disciplines. Additional and matching funds from other sources will be sought. The student program for campus sustainability program will help to:

- Create and share skills for economically and socially viable, safe, clean communities.
- Make UI a leader in campus and community sustainability for the state, region, and beyond.
- Actively support student projects and participation to develop the responsible citizenship, leadership, and career skills vital to today's society.
- Strengthen student resumes by applying research, practicing organizational leadership, and demonstrating communication skills.
- Follow through on our university and state commitment to sustainability in education and campus life.

FAQs

How much will UI students pay?

UI students will pay \$5/semester. Dozens of other U.S. universities have student-funded sustainability initiatives, with fees ranging from \$2/yr to \$60/yr. More than 50 student leaders from the three student governments (ASUI, GPSA, SBA), the residence halls, colleges and clubs supported this initiative.

What do students get out of the program?

Students or student groups can get fund for projects they lead... gain experience writing grants... learn and contribute by participating in the selection, administration and oversight of projects... build career skills for sustainability leadership or education in one of the part-time student staff positions.

Is the UI helping to fund this?

University President Tim White committed the UI to sustainability in 2005 by signing the Talloires Declaration for sustainability in campus life, learning and operations. Many UI departments and staff support sustainability in their research, teaching, and operations, and are also seeking funding to enhance these contributions to campus sustainability. The Student Center for Campus Sustainability will work with these programs and leaders across campus and the local community to empower students to be leaders in sustainability here and wherever they go.

Where will the Student Center for Campus Sustainability be located?

Resources for meetings and management will be sought after final approval is received from SBOE.

How will the Sustainability Center be run?

The center is funded by students and will be staffed by students, with advisory input from key UI administrators, faculty and staff. The Student Sustainability Coordinators can come from any college or program, and will be mentored by UI faculty and staff. At least 3 Student Sustainability Coordinators will work part-time as paid interns to coordinate the project selection process, increase participation and collaboration, ensure that project achievements are reported and shared, and carry out education and fund-raising projects themselves.

Coordination will be established with sustainability programs that exist elsewhere in the University. A high level of cooperation will be sought with UI staff already working in relevant areas such as food services, housing, landscape and maintenance, building and planning, energy issues, computers, transportation, policy, purchasing, recycling, communications, marketing and development. Faculty researchers will have the opportunity to see student-funded sustainability projects put their teaching and research into action.

Who will decide what projects get funded?

Project priorities will be set by a steering committee that is representative of the entire student body. The steering committee will make sure students are aware of the program, its achievements, and all opportunities available. The Student Sustainability Coordinators will

be part of the steering committee. The other seats will be filled by all 3 student governments in a manner that ensures representation of the diversity of colleges and interests at UI. The steering committee will meet with student governments, student groups, the colleges and others to identify the priorities and opportunities for our diverse campus community so that projects can effectively address them.

How do I know this fund will benefit campus sustainability and UI students?

Information will be available on-line about the proposal submission process, projects that are funded, program expenditures, project reports, rules and regulations, and year-end reviews. The program will be administered by students, and held accountable through the students' representatives.

How soon can I submit my proposal?

After approval by the SBOE, funding guidelines will be established, the steering committee and the first Student Sustainability Coordinators will be selected, ideally to begin work in early Fall 2006.

Which students will be eligible for the program?

All University of Idaho Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law students are eligible for this program.

What are the proposal submission procedures?

There will be guidelines and information available on-line. All departments will be informed of this program and given informational materials. There will be at least two funding opportunities per academic year. A student cannot receive funding for more than one project per academic year.

How much can I receive? Can I get course credit?

There will be many grants available up to \$1,000 and a few grants offered up to \$10,000. Other funding sources will be sought to extend and supplement student funding power. Projects will be encouraged to seek matching funds and volunteer support. Academic units will decide matters of course credit.

How can I use this money?

Funding can be used for supplies, analysis, travel, publication, necessary stipends to the student or student team, and other directly related costs that will help to achieve the goals set forth by the student-led projects and agreed upon by the steering committee.

What will be the criteria for project selection?

Selection recommendations from the technical reviewers will be based on faculty and/or staff letters of recommendation, budget and timeline feasibility, reviewers' comments, benefit to the student or student team, the community, and the university, integration with the University's Strategic Themes and Strategic Plan, potential to attract additional funds for the project and its continuation as needed, and goals set for the funding period by the steering committee in consultation with the UI community.

What kinds of projects will be considered?

Example projects include: Alternative fuels and renewable energy, sustainability outreach and education, sustainable product purchasing, social and environmental accounting, eco-footprinting, sustainable farming and food systems, recycling, composting, sustainable building use and design, environmental law, transportation, waste reduction, water, product re-design and 'green' marketing, sustainable event planning, environmental health and safety, habitat restoration, green textbooks, sweatshop-free apparel, sustainable recreation, traditional ecological knowledge, community sustainability, environmental art, communication, analysis, integration ... student creativity and innovation is the only limit to sustainable thinking and solutions! All projects will be considered based on feasibility, ability to advance student learning and career goals, service to UI needs and strategic themes, and continuing benefit to campus, community and stakeholders.

Tell me more...

This initiative involved more than 50 student leaders and was coordinated by Justin Saydell (CNR), ASUI Director of Sustainability sayd5721@uidaho.edu, and Claudia Hemphill Pine (EnvS), GPSA President claudiah@uidaho.edu. We welcome your comments and contribution. The Associated Student Fee Committee (ASFC), composed of representatives from all three student governments (ASUI, SBA, and GPSA), unanimously recommended funding for this program.

Information on the ASFC and the University of Idaho student activity fee decision process is available from Bruce Pitman, Vice Provost for Student Affairs / Dean of Students bpitman@uidaho.edu, Mark Brainard, Budget Office Director markb@uidaho.edu, and Joni Kirk, UI Media Relations Officer joni@uidaho.edu.