

Sustainability Major Assessment Report May, 2018

I. Program Assessment Meetings

On May 6, 2018, Marian Brown, Kent Klitgaard, Tukumbi Lumumba-Kasongo, Laura McClusky, Ernie Olson, and Milene Morfei met to discuss our progress with assessment of the sustainability major. We also had many informal meetings through email exchanges throughout the year to discuss changes to the major and minor that we planned to submit for approval. In our face-to-face meeting in May, we discussed (for approximately one hour) what our next steps would be in terms of assessing individual courses and the major as a whole. We determined that the time is right to request a visiting position in sustainability (see Action Plan below).

II. Closing the Loop

We achieved our primary goal for this year, which was to make changes to the Sustainability major and minor. We have more changes we would like to make but will need to consider the appropriate timing to make such changes. That timing will depend on what is allowed by New York State and may also be affected by the new hire we hope to add to the faculty (again, see Action Plan below).

In terms of assessing sustainability literacy, we discussed putting together a group of readings that would be required for all Sustainability majors. Such readings would introduce critical concepts, reinforce those concepts in various courses in the major, and culminate in assessing students' acquired knowledge in the senior year. We also discussed how we might integrate the Sustainability Perspectives Series into the curriculum beyond its current connection to SUS 195.

III. Data

Our first Sustainability major, John Mills, graduated in May, 2018. Based on the assessment of the Sustainability faculty who evaluated John's work, including his senior thesis, he achieved the goals and learning objectives delineated in the Sustainability Assessment Plan.

IV. Program Changes

As part of Milene Morfei's sabbatical in fall, 2018, she will work with Marian Brown and the faculty who teach in the Sustainability major to do curriculum mapping on the major's required and elective courses. We will identify gaps and overlaps in the courses to improve the curriculum.

V. Action Plan

As noted above, we intend to submit a proposal for a three-year visiting position in Sustainability. Two of the faculty who teach in the major will be retiring within the next few years, and the time is right to consider the future direction of the

Sustainability major. If the major shows signs of growth, we would hope to convert the position to tenure-track.

Our other main action item for 2018-19, as noted above, is to do some in-depth curriculum mapping.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, Sustainability Major