ISCN LATIN AMERICAN CHAPTER STRATEGIC PLAN (2022-2025)

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

We are delighted to present the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) Latin American Chapter Strategic Plan (2022-2025). There is strong momentum building among higher education institutions, who recognize the urgent and compelling need to act on sustainability, while recognizing the complex social and environmental challenges that such an agenda brings to bear. We also recognize that universities may be key institutions in the social transformations towards more a sustainable future. The issues are wide-reaching, and our communities and regions are diverse, while sharing aspects of history, culture, and challenges, that strengthens our commitment to this important collaborative work.

The ISCN Latin American Chapter (ISCN-LATAM Chapter), was an important outcome of the 2019 ISCN conference hosted by Universidad de São Paulo, in Brazil. The conversation centered on the need to provide a regional forum to discuss common national, Latin American and global sustainability challenges and opportunities, while seeking ways to leverage the collective knowledge of ISCN members internationally. A Steering Committee was formed in 2021 to guide and oversee the formation of the Chapter, initially comprised of six ISCN members representing universities in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, the USA, and Canada[1]. A special thank you to the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), who has agreed to act as the secretariat for the Chapter during this initial stage of development.

We hope that this is the first important and collective step toward achieving our vision of sustainability in our institutions, our communities, and globally. We need to act now, and we welcome you to join us.

Victoria Smith
ISCN Executive Director

Letica Merino, UNAM
ISCN-LATAM Secretariat, Chair

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VISION

ISCN-LATAM Chapter members will greatly accelerate their transformation towards sustainability, through shared learning, collaboration, and collective action.

MISSION

The mission of the ISCN-LATAM Chapter, is to provide a regional network to support leading universities in the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices for achieving sustainable campus operations and integrating sustainability in research and teaching. The ISCN-LATAM Chapter also seeks to foster joint sustainability projects and initiatives among universities, while supporting engagement and outreach to communities in which they serve.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Formalize the ISCN-LATAM Chapter governance, structure, and management model

2. Develop a strategic outreach and communications plan

3. Create opportunities for peer-exchange learning in campus management, teaching, research, and student participation

4. Identify joint project themes and initiatives

5. Pursue external partnerships and funding to enable programming

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Formalize the ISCN-LATAM Chapter governance, structure, and management model

GOAL

The Chapter management and governance structure will enable transparent and effective delivery of the strategic plan priorities and programming for members

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Develop the management and governance structure needed for effective functioning of the Chapter

- Establish a process for institutions to become Chapter members

- Outline ways that the Chapter can leverage the experiences of Latin American universities

- Outline ways that the Chapter can leverage the expertise of ISCN members globally

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Develop a strategic outreach and communications plan

GOAL

The Chapter will develop a strategic communications and outreach plan to attract new members, share best practices and be a hub for information exchange

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Draft the communications plan and member outreach strategy

- Develop a member newsletter

- Conduct a survey to better understand the needs, interests, experiences, and challenges of Latin American universities

- Plan to disseminate relevant regional information and promote key events of the network

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Create opportunities for peer-exchange learning in campus management, teaching, research, and student participation

GOAL

Chapter members will have access to programs and platforms for exchange, collaboration and sharing lessons learned to leverage the collective knowledge of the network

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Launch an ISCN-LATAM website and information portal for Chapter members
- Create a database of members to facilitate sharing areas of expertise
- Develop a workshop series and online programming
- Evaluate the feasibility of in-person sub-regional meetings

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Identify joint project themes and initiatives

GOAL

The Chapter will foster and enable joint projects and initiatives between members that address the unique challenges and opportunities present in Latin America and Latin American universities

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Propose the formation of working groups on key topics (SDGs, Climate, Biodiversity, Zero Waste, Extractivism, and City-University partnerships)

- Evaluate the feasibility of a peer-exchange mobility program for members

- Develop an ISCN-LATAM mentoring program for staff and students

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Pursue external partnerships and funding to enable programming

GOAL

The Chapter will seek partnerships and secure external funding to deliver programming for members

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Establish a list of potential partners and funders
- Develop proposals for targeted funding
- Formalize strategic partnership and funding agreements

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END NOTES

1. Universidad de São Paulo (USP), Brazil; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico; Universidad Católica Lumen Gentium Cali, Colombia; Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, (PUCP), Perú; Yale University, USA; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA; University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada.

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