

Environmental Caucus Meeting Notes
ARD Large Pod
October 8, 2009

Present: Tamara Ramirez, Kristen Bullard, Deja Walker, Bill McLaughlin, Dan Ryan, Jane Marks, Karin Wadsack, Rom Coles, Judy Springer, David Bousquet, Heather Farley, Casey Fisher, Lindsay Wagner, Tom Rogers, Jane Kuhn, Rosa Caldwell, Blase Scarnati, Rod Parnell, Shelley Silbert, Jon Heitzinger, Marianne Davis, Agnes Drogi, Gerald Wood, Sally Evans, Kathy Maloney, Susan Casebeer, Jean Guillaume Lonjaret, Kim Curtis, Regan Emmons, Megan Stalheim, Jane Stewart, George Koch, Matt Hurteau

I. Introductions and Announcements (e-mail contacts are firstname.lastname@nau.edu unless otherwise noted.)

Take Back the Tap: Students working to reduce the use of bottled water. Upcoming events on Thursday, October 15 include a free pizza social event at 12:30 in the ARD Large Pod and a screening of the film FLOW (For the Love of Water) at **7 pm, Gardner Auditorium** at **Franke College of Business**. Offered through the Program in Community, Culture and Environment and the Student Chapter of Friends of Flagstaff's Future. Contact: Tamara Ramirez

Student Environmental Caucus: SEC is experiencing more cross-group participation. They will be sponsoring **Flagstaff Food Film Festival** Oct. 17-18 at Cline. The next Student EC meeting is scheduled for Oct 20. Projects include increasing composting on campus (including more faculty lounges in the initiative) and a video to orient students to a culture of sustainability. Contact: Deja Walker

NetImpact: New group has started through Franke College of Business called NetImpact (<http://www.netimpact.org/>) and they will be focusing on a GreenUp initiative. Contact: Megan Stalheim (mls373@nau.edu)

Martin Springer Institute: Event on Jan 27th for the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Inviting Spike Lee to speak and will screen "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts". An important focus of the events will be on environmental causes and impacts of the Katrina disaster. Contact: Jane Marks

Annual Benefit Reception for EMA (Ecological Monitoring and Assessment program), now renamed Landsward. Dec. 4, 4:30-7:30. Contact: Karin Wadsack

Cool the Planet, Warm the Nuns: A mega event on the south side to retrofit the convent as part of the initiative to bring Flagstaff's carbon footprint to zero. Organized by Community Culture and the Environment and others. Contact: Rom Coles

Anupama Kundoo lecture on applications of low-tech living: Nov 12 at noon. Anu Kundoo is an architect who has been involved with the Auroville community in India. Contact: Tom Rogers

Solar Cooker Design Workshops: Offered this spring through the Master of Sustainable Communities program. Looking for hosts for five dates, January - May. Contact Rosa Caldwell (arc56@nau.edu)

Provost Lecture Series, co-sponsored by Environmental Caucus: Ideas about environmental speakers needed. Contact: Blase Scarnati

GreenBuild Conference: NAU will have a presence at the Greenbuild Conference with business partners, at the hospitality suite, and by providing a tour of LEED buildings. See www.nau.edu/greenbuild for a list of activities and ways to contribute and get involved. Contact: Kathy Maloney

Parking notice: If you usually park at Target and other surrounding businesses while at ARD, be aware they are towing and ticketing. Use this as an opportunity to walk, bus, and bike to the EC meetings.

II. Environmental Caucus Business.

Action Team Updates:

ACUP Climate Commitment – the Action team has hired a consultant, Susan Casebeer, to write the plan. Very fast timeline: draft by November 15, completed by mid December.

Student Environmental Caucus – The group is creating a short film to be used during NAU Orientation to inform students about environmental initiatives on campus.

Green NAU website – <http://green.nau.edu/>. The site is now live, though will not be publicized widely until all sections are completed. Created as the green gateway to campus. Please provide feedback to Shelley Silbert. The discussion about the site included: clarification regarding keeping the site up to date, using the EC site versus the Green NAU site, importance of populating and maintaining the calendar, linking with other NAU websites. When the site is more complete there will be marketing about the new site – Casey Fisher offered assistance with the marketing through dining services.

Steering Committee Composition: The EC Steering Committee is in need of a few new members to broaden representation and needs a new graduate student member. Megan Stalheim volunteered as a graduate student representative. Rom Coles said he would like to come back on the Committee. David Schlosberg had volunteered previously but is not present today. The Steering Committee for 2009-10: Shelley Silbert (chair), Rod Parnell (associate chair), Kristen Bullard, Rom Coles, Heather Farley, Bruce Hungate, Tom Rogers, Blase Scarnati, Megan Stalheim, Lindsay Wagner, Deja Walker.

III. Presentation: Climate Change Science and Solutions (George Koch).

George presented about a new masters program that is in the works. They are applying for a NSF Grant. The School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Sustainability and Dept of Engineering are collaborating to prepare students to address the need for solutions that are

adaptive to a rapidly changing environment. Students will work across existing programs/tracks, but there will be more intentional cross-over between the two. Industry partners will make the initiative more current and applicable to the overall goal of meeting societal needs. NAU could become a leader in this area and this will probably happen regardless of the NSF Grant outcome.

Faculty in SBS and Business are also interested.

Additionally, there is an undergraduate initiative through a NASA grant for a new undergraduate certificate program in climate science and solutions.

There are other programs in the US we can learn from. One resource is the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (<http://ncseonline.org/CEDD/>). The ultimate goal is a professionally focused science masters program. Semester long internships with industry partners will enhance the curriculum.

The WICHE Internet Course Exchange (ICE) was mentioned as a way to increase enrollment in new or low-enrollment courses. ICE is a program where you can sell empty seats in an online course; both undergrad and grad. Boise State is a leader in this. NAU is a buyer and seller. It is at in-state tuition rates and booked as an NAU course. <http://www2.wiche.edu/ice>

Suggested to invite a panel of industry folks to advise on areas of need.

IV. Discussion: Future of our Curricula. (Rod Parnell, Blase Scarnati, and Rom Coles)

Please see the Ponderosa 2.0 (P2) document for details. It outlines this year's tasks, group membership, long-term goals, etc. Caucus participants were asked to take a look at this document and provide input.

Discussion by the group included:

How much does the group want to focus on academic programs versus outreach. Learning occurs in the shared space of communities. The curriculum (and thus the Ponderosa Group) is the shared space for faculty.

The group will facilitate efforts to change the curriculum across the colleges. Engagement is a piece of the focus on sustainability - planning several first-year seminars for next fall.

The caucus is unique in the representation across faculty, staff and students. With the Ponderosa Group being only faculty, how can the rest of the EC be involved? The P Group is planning a variety of opportunities over the year to facilitate conversations in this area. Is there an opportunity for more formal input? Surveys? The EC is the vehicle for merging curricular and co-curricular activities.

Off-campus, opportunities for service learning and new initiatives. Use grant opportunities to create more of these on campus. Move toward making all of these more cohesive.

NSF CCLI grant opportunity, usually for course curriculum and lab improvement – it was suggested to focus less on the science majors and more on the non-science majors in proposal development, helping to better integrate science topics across all majors. Paired classes using venues such as freshman seminars. Connecting the sciences to the students' passions. Contact Jane Marks if you want to collaborate on the grant proposal.

Can this be aligned with an effort to streamline the classes that are offered?

Suggestion to involve Residence Life in the process. Learning Communities are a goal for fall 2011, so there seems to be sufficient time for that collaboration.

V. Recycling Update.

The first year of the EC set goals for improvements to the recycling program at NAU through the ACUP Climate Commitment Action Team. Heather Farley, Jan Kerata and intern Emily Goff are now building on the Flagstaff/NAU recycling relationship by placing waste/recycling container labels in more buildings across campus – 2 to 3 buildings at a time over the course of the year so that Robert Chavez and Paul Capps can effectively manage training of janitorial staff. This is not a real change to the system, just more visibility and a cleaner waste stream. Despite the new labels, everything still goes to the materials recovery facility for sorting; however, more separation at the initial placement will help decrease contamination. Heather will keep the Caucus updated as this develops.

VI. Action Team Breakouts.

Thanks to Kristen Bullard for taking the meeting notes!

***The next Environmental Caucus meeting will be Monday, November 2, noon-1:30, in the ARD Large Pod. Our presentation will be from Mehrdad Khatibi from NAU's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, discussing ITEP's climate training work and other tribal efforts.**