

Notes from 3rd Environmental Caucus Meeting
December 9, 2008 – NAU DuBois Meadows Room

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Announcements
- III. Update from Office of Sustainability
- IV. Environmental Caucus Business
- V. Action Team Breakout
- VI. Wrap-up

I. Introductions. 31 people attended the meeting. See list below.

II. Announcements

- **Next Environmental Caucus meeting is January 15th at 3 pm in the ARD Large Pod Room.** The meeting will include a presentation by Blase Scarnati and Harvey Charles on discuss curriculum recommendations from the Task Force on Global Education's *Global Learning Subcommittee* regarding establishment of student learning outcomes on environmental sustainability, diversity/multicultural education and global education.
- **Visioning cross-college environmental programs:** Considering that the Center for Sustainable Environments will not be hiring a new director at this time due to tightening budgets, a group has begun discussions on pursuing a successful model for interdisciplinary study that would move fluidly across college boundaries, improve communication and integration, and reduce effects of budget cuts on multi-disciplinary efforts. If interested in begin part of a visioning meeting on interdepartmental and cross-college environmental activities, including discussion on a possible reorganization of NAU environmental academic programs, contact Rod Parnell.
- **Hooper Student Fund Sustainability Awards:** Undergraduate and graduate students in all fields will once again be eligible to compete for environmental sustainability awards. The RFP will be distributed at the beginning of the semester, and proposals will be due February 27, with recipients announced before spring break. Contact Shelley Silbert if you have questions.
- **Economic/Environmental Sustainability:** In these challenging economic times, we need to think strategically about how sustainability efforts also lower costs. Please submit ideas on how NAU can eliminate both environmental and economic waste to Shelley Silbert, and we will discuss what we can do to implement better practices.

III. Update from Office of Sustainability – Richard Baron

- < Office of Sustainability wants to turn NAU into a global model for sustainability
 - < Four elements of sustainability
 - 1. Energy** - Call FAST (3-4227) to swap incandescent light bulbs for low energy compact light bulbs. All new university constructed buildings will have at least a LEED rating of ‘Silver’. We are planning on a campus energy audit. Biomass facility is also in the works for campus.
 - 2. Water** - Low flow shower heads have been installed in all dorm facilities. Waterless urinals are in the works. Dining facilities are going tray-less to save water, food and energy.
 - 3. Transportation** - The Ecopass is available for all faculty and staff to ride the Mountain Line bus system for free, 24/7. Yellow bike program now has a check out system to reduce theft and misuse. Online match system for carpooling, this allows faculty and staff to post a trip and look for folks to join them and vice-versa.
 - 4. Waste** - Recycle sorting at desk, there will be a system for sorting trash at the desk, there was discussion of if we need to spend the capitol on purchasing blue waste cans or if we would affix a box or some other receptacle with a recycling symbol to keep the system clear to the custodial staff. We need to include the custodial staff in this discussion.
- The county currently has sustainability programs and a large list of available incentives and rebates for environmentally friendly action; follow up with John Grahame or Amanda Acheson for more information. There is a need to write and apply for these grants as a community and individuals to ensure solid funding for moving forward.

IV. Environmental Caucus Business

1. A letter from the Environmental Caucus was delivered to President Haeger to request a representative on the President’s Cabinet. Tom Sisk and Marcus Ford have both offered to serve in this role. The President has informally approved of such representation.

2. Website Update. The Environmental Caucus website is up at www.envcaucus.nau.edu. Suggestion was made for ‘Spotlight’ of events in conjunction with a calendar. Amanda Acheson has a good format she uses for the County to send out a weekly newsletter of environmental/ sustainability happenings. We are working on a draft website to present for the overall NAU Environment website, which will need to go before the Marketing Committee as a pilot site if it varies from the NAU approved website style.

3. We discussed how to make decisions on requests for support to the Caucus. A suggestion was made to form an executive committee, but consensus was for a ‘steering’ committee for now. A strong governing body (e.g. Executive Committee) would be more

effective as the Caucus develops further. If interested in serving on the steering committee, please contact Shelley.

4. Informal Get-together. Hold off on planning this until after holiday parties are over!

5. Arizona Daily Sun editorial this month suggested that cutting ‘sustainability’ (among other things) may be a place to start on balancing the NAU budget. Rod Parnell requested getting a group together to contact Randy Wilson regarding a guest editorial (or a series) to address a general lack of understanding about sustainability and to highlight various efforts at NAU and in the community. A committee formed to take on this task: Rod, Sandra Lubarsky, Rom Coles, Shelley Silbert, Amanda Acheson, John Grahame, Heather Farley, Richard Baron.

V. Action Team Breakout Sessions – Groups were tasked to:

1. Identify a facilitator and note taker.
2. Define most important issues and opportunities
3. What can be addressed in the next year and next 5 years?
4. Tasks to be accomplished and target dates
5. Who else should be part of the committee or consulted?
6. What is need for linkages with other action teams?

Five Action Teams met:

1. Exposing students to the environment
2. Advocacy for ACUP Climate Commitment
3. NAU Environmental Identity and Website
4. Curriculum and the Environment
5. Sustainability Conferences and Seminars/Partnerships & Collaboration

VI. Action Team Wrap-Up: See notes from each action team, posted on the Environmental Caucus website under “Initiatives”. (If you’ve not yet submitted your notes to Shelley, please do so ASAP!)

Environmental Caucus Meeting Participants 12/9/08: Rod Parnell, Jacqueline Vaughn, Marianne Davis, Sally Evans, Richard Baron, Patrick McDonald, Laura Cagney, Tom Rogers, Mehrdad Khatibi, Erik Nielsen, Shawn Newell, Ann Huffman, Rom Coles, Tom Sisk, Darrell Kaufman, Tree Spang, Holly Troy, Eva Hatchner, Heidi Wayment, Heather Farley, Judy Springer, Karen Jarratt-Snider, Jim Allen, John Grahame, Amanda Acheson, David Schlosberg, Sandra Lubarsky, Bill Auberle, Larissa Sommer, Kim Curtis, Shelley Silbert.