

Environmental Caucus Meeting

Wednesday December 1, 2010

ARD Large Pod

Participants: Susan Thomas, Lindsay Wagner, Avi Henn, Jacqueline Vaughn, Karin Wadsack, Bryan McLaren, Liz Krug, Natalie Muilenberg, Emily Anderson, Paul Trotta, Tim Clark, Kristen Bullard, Heather Farley, Caryn Massey, Kevin Ordean, Melody Hartke, Erik Nielson, David Bousquet, Paul Gazda, Cori Cusker, McKenzie Jones, Tracy Haney, Laura Huenneke, Blase Scarnati, Rom Coles, Agnes Drogi, Jon Heitzinger, Casey Fisher, Shelley Silbert

I. Introductions & Announcements:

- Congratulations to Alex Oden, who was one of three seniors to win the President's Prize, as well as being selected as Distinguished Senior for SBS and as a Gold Axe award winner. This is the 2nd time since the EC formed 2 years ago that a senior active in the EC has won the President's Prize! Congratulations also to active EC Seniors Jane Stewart and Ian Montanye McRee for receiving Gold Axe awards. (*Shelley Silbert*)
- Essential Skills for Sustainable Development, a trans-disciplinary course, will be taught this summer (*Paul Trotta*)
- Action Research Teams potluck and presentations on this semester's work Sunday, 12/5, SBS West Rm 200, 6:30-9:00pm. All invited. (*Rom Coles*)

II. EC Business:

A. Sustainable Café Action Research Team (*Natalie Muilenberg, Bryan McLaren*) – Student ART has organizing student involvement on campus and collaborating with Campus Dining for a creative, innovative café focused on sustainability, to open Fall 2011 in new Health and Wellness Center.

- Want café to be dynamic space, have lots of student support.
- Working towards local, organic and some campus-grown foods.
- Need artists, musicians, entertainers, artists.
- Café name in the works
- Café will become cultural hub for ARTs Teams

B. TransAT Report (*Kristen Bullard*) -- This new EC Transportation Action Team started in September 2010, focused on increasing alternative transportation. Two EC interns, Kendall Neisess and Sara Raycraft.

- Student survey questions coming out in spring
- Sara completing extensive *Bicycle Friendly University* application for NAU to submit, Jan. 2011. (Presentation, February EC Mtg.)
- Increase education on campus bike safety.
- Goal: Work with Green fund to investigate student Eco-passes
- Focusing on promotion of buses and alternative commuting.
- Susan Williams at Franke is working with intern to develop a web-based rideshare system

- Carbon offset work, as presented by Kendall at last EC meeting.
- Clearing bike lanes in winter, covered bike storage being looked into.
- Heather commented that this team may be a model for other teams because it involves staff who are not necessarily active at Caucus meetings. Very diverse, including Res Life, Campus Police, EMSA, Student EC, Fronske, Business, NAU Outdoors, and others.
- Next meeting, 12/17, 9:30-10:30, Cline Library Rm 115. All welcome.

C. Energy Conservation Team (*Avi Henn and Lindsay Wagner*)

- Lindsay funded through President's Innovations Fund grant to look at energy use behaviors on campus. Avi began work last month.
- Considering 24 hours in a day, many lights and computers are on more when we aren't working than when we are.
- Putting together team of students to conduct night and weekend audits on campus, turning off lights and public computers.
- Experiment to see if a change in behavior and use occurs
- Assessing south campus energy waste first
- Current electricity bill is \$4.3 million/year.
- Will net effect of turning off lights and computers save significant money? Will it spend political capital for small amounts of energy savings?
- Use digital meters to measure difference on a monthly basis.
- Won't turn off personal computers, but will leave notices
- Business College developed system in which it shuts down computers automatically, but can opt out if still working on it.

D. Green Fund Update (*Melody Hartke and Emily Anderson*)

- Application on Green Fund Website via Green NAU
<http://www.green.nau.edu/greenfund.html>
- Criteria for projects up as well
- Approved three proposals so far
- One Green Fund student position has opened up. Rich Bowen will replace Heather Farley in a staff position until the new sustainability coordinator is hired.
- Billie Ford is chair, Candice Giffen is Vice Chair.
- Voted on officers
- January 5th submission deadline for proposals

E. Sustainability Position Update (*Shelley Silbert*) – Luis Fernandez selected as interim director for Master of Arts in Sustainable Communities, Sodexo hired a new sustainability coordinator, Catherine Sullivan; Director of School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Sustainability has been posted, Office of Sustainability Coordinator position posted,
https://www.peoplesoft.nau.edu/psp/89prta/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRM_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_HM_PRE&Act

F. Farewell & Opportunities (*Shelley*) Going away parties for Heather Farley, 12/9 and David Schlosberg, 12/14. Funds have been set up to honor our colleagues and continue their work.

-For Heather Farley, climate action plan implementation support, contact Shelley.Silbert@nau.edu .

-For David Schlosberg, support for environmental studies program, contact Mark.Aasmundstad@nau.edu.

-For Sandra Lubarsky & Marcus Ford, support for Sustainable Communities students. A challenge grant will match funds up to \$10,000, dollar for dollar. Give online at <http://alumni.nau.edu/Giving.aspx?fnds=01623> or contact Ann.Buzzard@nau.edu

G. NYT/American Democracy Project (*Shelley*) – Blasé Scarnati, Kevin Ordenan and Shelley met with Todd Halvorsen, Education Manager for NYT. Will collaborate to hold campus discussion forums centered around environmental issues written on in New York Times. Active on many college campuses, but none in Arizona. NYT will cover costs of food at events, e.g. for first 35 students. Could be a great thing to hold in the Sustainability Café. ***Any faculty member interesting in leading a discussion on a topic of your choice, please contact Shelley.Silbert@nau.edu.***

H. Scheduling for EC Meetings – Discussed spring semester meeting dates. Group was split on current January 13 date versus following week; group favored changing some spring semester meetings to Fridays.

III. Climate Action Plan & STARS: Next Steps for Continued Action – (Heather Farley) – Discussed role of Office of Sustainability vs. Environmental Caucus. OS in charge of creating and reporting on plan, EC takes on responsibility of tracking and supporting annual implementation. STARS will help to identify how we are doing and where there are gaps. Heather reviewed sections of the STARS report (due in January, but we will request a 6 month extension). Heather reviewed information included so far and requested additions or modifications.

Section 1: Academics and Research

- Adoption and implementation of Global Learning Initiative
- ARTs and FYS collaborations
- ITEP receive \$1million EPA grant for climate change education.
- Climate Science and Solutions NSF grant, new website on Climate Change
- Biomimicry institute promote week long discussion in April.
- Green NAU Website, including Student Connections newsletter
- International internships with environmental focus
- Hooper Awards
- Summit/conference for NAU, ASU and UoA
- Internships in general – how to get numbers

Section 2: Energy and Climate Change

- New campus master plan completed- Sustainability guiding principle
- Residence Hall energy competitions

- Investment Grade Energy Audit RFQ
- Wind for Schools* grant-installation of SkyStream turbine on campus
- Thin Clients in many buildings

Section 3: Operations

Green Building Commitment-new buildings:

- HRM (Silver)
- Health & Learning (Gold)
- Liberal Arts (First LEED for Existing buildings, Silver)
- Native Am. Ctr. (Silver)
- Reduce chemical herbicide use on campus
- Development of sustainability café
- SLOW food film festival on February 15th
- Organic fair trade coffee shop called Bean and Beaker
- Dual-layer weed barrier in new construction rockscapes

Section 4: Procurement

- Academic credit intern to create a "Green Vendor Guide"
- Academic credit intern to develop an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide (EPP)

Section 5: Recycling and Waste Minimizations

- Plastic bag elimination in dining facilities and concessions
- Complete campus recycling label project through innovation fund
- Investigate full cycle white paper recycling with SCA Tissue
- Increase campus composting
- Audit done on garbage
- Dining areas reuse, biodiesel fuel

Section 6: Transportation

- Integrated campus master plan with alternative transportation methods
- Applying for Bicycle Friendly University status
- FCB faculty/students looking at rideshare solutions for NAU

Section 7: Water

- AGWA has been tabling at many events to promote clean water
- Increase use of reclaimed water on NAU grounds

**See Heather Farley's Climate Action Plan hand-out for details*

Thanks to EC intern Caryn Massey for taking notes!

**Next EC Meeting: Friday, January 21, 2011
12-1:30 pm, ARD Large Pod**

New Spring 2011 EC Meeting Dates:

New date: Thursday, January 20, 2011

Monday, February 7, 2011

New date: Friday, March 4, 2011

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

New date: Thursday, May 5, 2011

New date: Friday, June 3, 2011