

Notes from 4th Environmental Caucus Meeting
January 15, 2009 – NAU Applied Research and Development Building

I. Introductions. 34 people attended the meeting. See list at end of notes.

II. Announcements

Office of Sustainability:

- Richard Baron reported that the US Green Building Council lecture series starts tonight and will be held monthly at CCC. Deadline for papers for the GreenBuild International Conference and Expo (*November 11-13, 2009, Phoenix*) is 1/16 at 5 pm.
- Heather Farley reported on the Visible NAU campaign [to get NAU employees registered on the Visible Energy website](http://visibleenergy.com), visibleenergy.com, run by faculty members George Koch and Bruce Hungate outside of their NAU time. The site allows [tracking and comparison of home energy use](#) and gives energy [conservation tips](#). As these habits translate [to the workplace](#), they will help [to save campus resources as well](#).

Center for Sustainable Environments: Rod Parnell gave an update on discussions about a merger of CSE and Geology, as well as the preliminary discussions on the concept of a School of the Environment. The provost has asked CSE to further develop the concept. If interested in being part of the discussions, contact Rod Parnell at Rod.Parnell@nau.edu or 523-3329.

Hooper Student Fund Sustainability Awards: The RFP for Hooper Sustainability Awards for undergraduate and graduate students is now on the Vice President for Research website at <http://www.research.nau.edu/vpr/researchfunding.html>. Proposals are due February 27 for projects up to \$2500. Recipients will be announced before spring break. For questions, contact Lesley.Cephas@nau.edu or 523-8288

EMA: Karan English announced that the new NAU Green Guide for environmental programs is almost completed and will be going on the web. She suggested it would be helpful to have any updates on program mergers so that she might group pages more logically together.

Next Environmental Caucus meeting is Friday, February 13 at 10:30 am in the ARD Large Pod Room. We will continue to vary the time and day of the meeting to make them accessible to all. Friday is the only day of the week on which we haven't yet met.

III. **Student Learning Outcomes from the Global Education Task Force:** Harvey Charles (Director, Center for International Education) and Blase Scarnati (Task Force member) discussed

the Task Force For Global Education and its efforts, through the sub-committee on global learning, to address NAU's Strategic Plan goal #4, "Global Engagement". There are three themes in creating a globally prepared student: 1) understanding themselves in relation to the world, 2) diversity, and 3) environmental sustainability/stewardship. The subcommittee is creating thematic student learning outcomes within the curriculum as a way of implementing institutional values and developing written recommendations. These will be university-level recommendations, spread throughout the curriculum. There was discussion on how this relates to previous liberal studies themes that have since been changed, as well as other questions. After discussion, Blase and Harvey said they present the written recommendations to the Caucus for review and comment by the February meeting.

IV. **Environmental Caucus Business.**

1. **Thank You!** Shelley thanked Laura Cagney for taking notes at previous meetings, Heather Farley for taking notes today, Patrick McDonald for design and maintenance of the Caucus website, and Deja Walker and Jim Allen for submitting book reviews for the website (if you'd like to submit a review in the future, contact Shelley).

2. **Steering Committee:** At the last meeting, the Caucus approved forming a steering committee with broad representation across NAU. Shelley asked for volunteers or nominations, and said she would organize a meeting to form the structure, purpose and membership for the committee. Nominations included: Bruce Hungate, Deja Walker, Richard Baron, Rod Parnell, Kristen Bullard, and Cruz Begay. (Blase Scarnati and Jim Allen also said after the meeting they were willing to help with organization of the steering committee.) A report from this group on procedures and plans will be given at the next Caucus meeting.

3. **Environment Website:** The Environmental Caucus website is up and running, but the more general Environment website will require additional funding for design and maintenance, as it is a more complex site that serves multiple programs. Laura Huenneke gave her thoughts on how funding might be sought in our current budget environment, as a plan to have various programs chip in will not succeed. Laura suggested that one approach would be to submit a grant proposal for TRIF funding, as the site would benefit ERDENE goals (e.g. economic development as it relates to the environment, recruitment of students into environmental programs of study, etc.) She suggested that faculty members might consider teaming together to submit a proposal. The TRIF funds available for competitive projects this year will be reduced, but there will be an RFP and this might be a valid option. If interested in submitting such a proposal, talk to Shelley or Laura.

4. **Sustainability and Budget Savings:** Shelley mentioned that the President's budget website now has many suggestions on budget savings for NAU. A majority, perhaps 80%, suggest increasing efficiency and implementing conservation approaches as related to supplies, transportation, recycling, electronic communications, etc. Bridget Bero (who couldn't attend today's meeting) had suggested that we review these and discuss how to implement some of these suggestions as policy. The group decided on two options: 1) Have the ACUP Climate Commitment Action Team review the recommendations and consider which might be viable as policies. 2) Work with students to have them apply for Hooper Student Fund grants to evaluate the cost savings of these suggestions, as well as the initial cost for implementation. Continue discussion with the Steering Committee.

V. Action Team Breakout Sessions – Groups were asked to continue their discussions from last month and adopt action plans and timelines.

Three Action Teams met:

1. Students and the Environmental Experience
2. Advocacy for ACUP Climate Commitment
3. Curriculum and the Environment

Teams adjourned at approximately 4:40 pm.

Environmental Caucus Meeting Participants 1/15/09: Rod Parnell, Abe Springer, Jacqueline Vaughn, Sally Evans, Richard Baron, Heather Farley, Maria Galvez, Kristen Bullard, Ron Hiebert, Kooros Mahmoudi, Rom Coles, John Grahame Tom Rogers, Marc Ford, Claudia Walecka-Hutchison, Marie Snyder, Karin Wadsack, Tree Spang, Holly Troy, Judy Springer, Marianne Davis, Lindsay Wagner, Blase Scarnati, Harvey Charles, Jim Allen, Karan English, Roberta Tohannie, Laura Huenneke, Ron Hubert, R. Cruz Begay, Deja Walker, Sandra Lubarsky, Laura Cagney, Shelley Silbert.