

Environmental Caucus Meeting Notes
April 6, 2009, Noon-1:30 p.m.
ARD Large Pod

Present: Sally Evans, Laura Cagney, Ron Hiebert, Casey Fisher, Kristen Bullard, David Bousquet, Deja Walker, Bridget Bero, Eck Doerry, Richard Baron, Heather Farley, Mark Boyer, Jane Kuhn, Lindsay Wagner, Samantha Kitchen, Harvey Charles, Blase Scarnati, Miguel Vasquez, Rod Parnell, Shona Granillo, Rich Bowen, David Hook, Marianne Davis, Cindy Anderson, Bruce Hungate, John Grahame, Jodi Norris, Shelley Silbert

I. Announcements

- Rod Parnell: The Provost will announce a newly created **School of Earth Sciences and Sustainable Environments**, combining the Center for Sustainable Environments and the Geology department. Beginning July 1, the new director of the School will be Abe Springer.
- Miguel Vasquez: Invites Caucus members to join **Friends of Flagstaff Future**, since F³ is a great way to implement Caucus values in Flagstaff. With the financial woes currently facing all non-profits, increased involvement/membership would make a big difference for the grassroots-funded F³ (see www.friendsofflagstaff.org).
- Casey Fisher: Earth Day is April 22, and Casey is coordinating an **expo for Earth Day** that involves Dining Services, student groups, the Office of Sustainability, and others. Contact her if you want to join in.

II. Discussion and vote: Should the Caucus endorse the Global Learning Task Force's Recommendations?

- The EC Steering Committee requests the Caucus endorse the recommendations as put forward by the Global Learning Task Force. Since the previous presentation at a Caucus meeting, Blase Scarnati reported there have been only some minor changes in the appendix relating to the definition of diversity.
- The student learning outcomes will not replace any existing ones, but better articulates these values and goals throughout the curriculum. Perceived as a natural alignment.
- Question: How is this translated into program change? Where does this go next? Harvey Charles and Blasé said that Implementation will take time, utilizing a committee, and will be sensitive to departmental needs and situations.
- There were a few questions and a brief discussion. Jeff Downard's e-mail to Shelley was discussed, regarding his concerns that it's not clear how the proposed global learning themes replace the prior set as the organizing ideas in the core of our curricular requirements.
- At the conclusion of the discussion, the Caucus endorsed the recommendations by consensus. A letter will be sent to the Center for International Education to confirm the Caucus endorsement.

III. Discussion: How should the Caucus respond to withdrawal of state funding for NAU's Office of Sustainability?

- The Office of Sustainability (OS) is a part of the recent cuts made to the President's Office. As of July 1, 2009, Richard Baron's contract as Director of the Office will not be renewed. The Caucus Steering Committee recommends responding to the President's Office to emphasize the critical nature of leadership for OS and has drafted a letter stating that we want to help with finding ways to continue leadership at OS.
- The draft letter was shown on the screen in the room and participants discussed the approach.
- The point was made that it is important to remember that campus departments may not perceive that the OS is responsible for savings that are reflected in individual departmental budgets. The Caucus and OS aren't the only entities on campus that are looking at ways to save money that are environmentally responsible. Cost avoidance may be the better description for some of these initiatives even though they are shared goals.
- Concern was expressed that we can't afford to see the advances and initiative of the office stopped when it has only just started.
- A suggestion was made to change wording and perspective from "cost saving" to "cost avoidance."
- Concerns about the letter.... What message is it sending? Are we asking for permission to seek grant funding? Are we asking for broader discussions regarding campus-wide, cross-departmental, savings and line-items cuts?
- May not be important to make an argument/case for keeping OS as that should be understood, an assumed perspective.
- Better to articulate how/what will be done/not done without the director's position.
- Is there a confused perception by having "sustainability" under two different vice-presidents? Academic and facilities aspects of sustainability may need to combine in some way.
- Remove the dining services bullet as trayless dining was an initiative driven by Campus Dining. Make sure that the wording reflects the Office of Sustainability as a support in these changes, not being responsible for them. Show the office as a gathering for initiatives all over campus.
- Ultimately we want institutional support for OS in support of the director's position.
- Caucus feels the letter should go forward with edits. A committee formed to edit the letter: Bruce Hungate, Ron Hiebert, Jane Kuhn, and the group already involved (Rod Parnell, Shelley Silbert, Blase Scarnati, Rich Bowen, Richard Baron, Heather Farley).

IV. Presentation: Dynamic Environmental Management System (DEMS), developed to monitor and teach about campus resource use – *Bridget Bero and Eck Doerry*

- Bridget and Eck have been working for several years, along with graduate and undergraduate students, to develop a system to build knowledge for sustainability at NAU. Combining computer sciences and engineering

approaches, they have developed a program to account for the university's environmental data, and the system could be applied also to other institutions.

- A powerpoint was shown (If you'd like a copy, contact Bridget or Eck), followed by a demonstration of the tool on the internet.
- For information about the project: <http://ccl.cens.nau.edu/DEMS/index.html>
- ARD is the only building on campus with automated metering. To convert the entire campus to automated metering would cost about \$20 million. Residence halls alone would be \$7M.

V. Report on Campus Utilities – *Lindsay Wagner*

- FY08/FY09 comparison.
- Electric \$0.08/kilowatt hour. APS
- Gas determined each month. Pre-purchased. Unisource
- Water \$3/1000 gallons. City of Flagstaff
- Lots of data available – contact Lindsay directly. She will also be posting the power point on the Capital Assets website.

VI. Action Team Break-outs

- Since the meeting agenda was quite full, there was no time for action team breakouts. Shelley asked that each action team meet during the month of April, in advance of the May 4 Caucus meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 4, 12-1:30 in the ARD Large Pod room.

Thank you to EC Steering Committee member Kristen Bullard for taking notes!