

## Notes from Environmental Caucus Monthly Meeting

August 3, 2009

ARD Large Pod

Present: Peter Friederici, Kristen Bullard, Lauren Mork, Ann Huffman, Deja Walker, Karin Wadsack, Heather Farley, Richard Bowen, Joe Shannon, David Bousquet, Agnes Drogi, Lindsay Walker, R. Cruz Begay, Jane Stewart, Blase Scarnati, Shawn Newell, Marc Ford, Erik Nielsen, Sandra Lubarsky, Kathy Maloney, Abe Springer, Shelley Silbert

I. Introductions and Announcements – participants introduced themselves and announced upcoming events, programs or ideas. (*Contact person in parentheses*).

- Flag Food Film Festival - Oct 23-24 (new dates) through Slow Food NAU – (*Deja Walker*)
- Southwest Renewable Energy Conference Sept 10-11. Green jobs events each evening (including a panel and reception). SWREC.org. (*Karin Wadsack*)
- NEPA process for Grapevine Canyon Project Aug. 11, 6-8 pm public feed-back session at NACET Conference Room, 2225 N. Gemini Dr. (*flyers shared*)
- GreenBuild 2009 conference in Phoenix, November 11-13, including field trip to NAU campus for LEED building tours. Student volunteers needed -- those volunteering at least 8 hours get free admission to conference. (*Heather Farley*)
- GreenU Card – carbon offset card for living on campus. \$30 for purchase. Bookstore can stock for free and sell for first few weeks. (*Heather Farley*)
- Yellow Bike pick-up/drop-off locations this year will be at the Union or at DuBois (Rec. Center location unavailable since it is temporarily housed in the Fieldhouse)
- Creative Energy Fair in Prescott Valley – residential and small business focus. Looking for presenters, third week in September. (*Rich Bowen*)
- Stream data collection days – volunteers will be needed in late September. More information coming soon. (*Joe Shannon*)
- Campus Climate Challenge – will start the semester by working on the Student Green Fee, several events and presentations in the works. (*Jane Stewart*)
- Student Connections e-newsletter -- will connect students with environmental opportunities (courses, internship opportunities, jobs, funding, events). Send [shawn.newell@nau.edu](mailto:shawn.newell@nau.edu) details. See link on Caucus website. Working with Grand Canyon NP on internships and collaborative opportunities (*Shawn Newell*)
- Wastewater demonstration site in South Campus – changes in process include alternative methods (*Shawn Newell*)
- NAU Ponderosa Group (curriculum team of Environmental Caucus) – has been contacted by Arizona Western College and Glendale Community College to model their work after ours. (*Sandra Lubarsky*).
- SUS program is funding Patrick Pynes to do grantwriting around sustainable agriculture in the curriculum – (*Sandra Lubarsky, Patrick Pynes*)

- New School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Sustainability is in place (*Abe Springer, Director*)

## II. Environmental Caucus Business

### A. Updates

1. ACUP Climate Plan. Lindsay Wagner is heading up team and group has been meeting over the summer. Have agreed on the Table of Contents to include: Operations, Education, Research, Outreach, and Assessment. Each section will include one year, three year and five year goals. An extension for the plan has been granted – due in December. A survey will be forthcoming to the Environmental Caucus to solicit feedback. It's critical to remember that we may not have the money we'd like for some initiatives, but we do have the ability to change the campus culture around sustainability. Team meets again next week.
2. Curriculum meeting with Provost, 7/31/09. Blase Scarnati, Rom Coles and Shelley Silbert met with Liz Grobsmith to follow-up on EC meeting with President Haeger in May in which he addressed the need to create programs at graduate and undergraduate levels to prepare students to address the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.. The provost is encouraging, supportive and interested in integrating sustainability across the curriculum. She also states that the budget situation is prohibitive to any new programs at this point. A good discussion was held regarding integrating campus operations with academics, making connections across disciplines and across the community, encouraging engaged learning. Global Learning Recommendations are one way to integrate these. Grobsmith would like to attend Ponderosa/Curriculum action team meetings and keep abreast of EC work.

Joe Shannon noted the large numbers of community college students who will transfer to NAU ready to study in sustainability programs.

3. Environment Website (Kristen and Shelley) – Goal is to get the site running by October 1. Much progress has been made in the design and content, with another meeting tomorrow. Still some things to work out in terms of the new Content Management System, Marketing Committee, content development and linkages, and finding a way to hire a student to keep site current.

### B. Growing the Environmental Caucus

1. Fall Environmental Caucus potluck – It was decided that an on-campus or near campus location is ideal. Sodexo contract means we can't hold a potluck on campus. Kiwanis Park was suggested. Also

discussed asking the President or Provost to host it at one of their homes, but discussion led to decision that this would be best done as a roll-out for the Climate Action Plan. End of day on a Thursday was determined to be the best time, likely in September. Shelley will find a time and location.

2. Recruiting for EC listserv. Send Shelley names and emails of potential people to include on the listserv to expand EC reach.
3. Other ideas:
  - Add EC as presenter to the building managers meeting
  - Add the EC to the new faculty orientation

### III. Planning for the fall and spring semesters

#### A. Multi-disciplinary courses and curriculum integration – *information sharing on new courses and ideas for collaboration:*

Angie Moline coordinates **Ecohouse seminars** to engage freshmen students in community activities and projects. Film series on Wednesday or Thursday nights.

Rom Coles coordinates a **First Year Seminar** focused on community engagement and sustainability in the Sunnyside neighborhood.

Blase Scarnati notes many First Year Seminar courses have sustainability topics.

**UC 299, Seven Revolutions project**, prepares sophomores to engage in the world, co-sponsored by New York Times.

**SEED Program and Residential Learning Community** (run in tandem with SUS 601, with Master's students as mentors for undergraduates) brings together social issues, sustainability and community engagement  
SUS 601, two sections connecting with UC 299 above.

Blase also mentioned the American Democracy Project. September 17 is U.S. Constitution Day—there maybe ways to bring sustainability or environmental rights into the discussion and focus, possible lecture.

#### B. Internships – *student opportunities, discussion on prioritizing greatest needs for sustainability internships on campus*

Office of Sustainability – Heather will put internship needs list in *Student Connections* newsletter

Wal-Mart approached OS to inquire about incorporating students in the planning process for the new construction. Student part-time jobs are available, and could serve on the Wal-Mart sustainability team (paid). Internships don't appear to be paid – discussed holding a meeting with Wal-Mart to sponsor paid internships. (In general, funding for student internships could be offered as a priority in NAU's upcoming capital campaign.

SSLUG group (Students for Sustainable Living and Urban Gardening) will need leadership once Ian graduates, particularly in coordinating students.

Community Health program: practicums and internships. Each students must do 3 hours of volunteer work. *(Cruz Begay)*

Environmental Science capstone projects  
Engineering capstone projects – must have a customer with a design problem.  
University could serve as customer for sustainability projects.

EcoHouse requires 15 hours of community service.

Environmental Studies 301 – looking at research projects that can be turned into fact-sheets or synthesized, could help with Environment web *(Erik Nielsen)*

Students need help finding environmental and sustainability courses that are across colleges and departments. Needs to be a part of the Environment Website. Merriam Powell website has a list on their website, but need to determine what needs to be updated..

- C. Planning for upcoming lectures and events on campus – *what events are scheduled, what additional possibilities should be pursued, and how to promote increased collaboration*

Jane Stewart wants to organize a presentation on engaging the public, bringing in her supervisor from a Renewable Energy company in Nebraska where she interned this summer. Possible solar cooking demo.

**Doris Duke Fellows 2009-10** are looking at developing a seminar series to showcase connections within the Flag community. Sustainability fair –everyday life awareness (possibly connections with Campus Climate Challenge group. Goal is to take conversations about these topics outside the university to the Flagstaff community. *(Laurel Mork)*

- D. New Projects -- *New projects underway or under consideration ( e.g. reducing waste at end of spring semester through coordination of reuse/recycle events.)*

Tabled until September meeting

#### IV. Action Team Breakouts

- Ponderosa Group/Curriculum and the Environment
- Advocacy for ACUP Climate Commitment
- NAU's Environmental Identity:
- Students and the Environmental Experience

*Each action team asked to:*

1. *Discuss 2009-2010 objectives*
2. *Develop objectives into a list that can be posted to the Caucus website*
3. *Designate the contact person for this year. This person will be responsible for reporting on action team goals and accomplishments each month.*
4. *Contact person to send Shelley the Action Team objectives by the end of the week.*

**Thanks once again to Kristen Bullard for taking notes at the meeting!**