Environmental Caucus Meeting  
Wednesday, June 2, 2010, 12 - 1:30 pm  
ARD Large Pod

I. Introductions and Announcements


Tamara announced that there are still spaces available for the upcoming SUS 599 Four Sisters Gardening in the Southwest Highlands workshop taught by Patrick Pynes as part of the Sustainable Communities Summer Institute, June 11-13. Contact Tamara.Ramirez@nau.edu. For information on this course and other events, see www.green.nau.edu.

II. Environmental Caucus Business

A. Global Learning Initiative Update (Blase Scarnati) – Curricular development proposals have been approved from 29 inter-departmental teams, representing 40% of all departments on campus. The EC Steering Committee is assembling a team to serve as sustainability consultants on curricular development for the funded projects; selections will be known in the next couple of weeks.

B. EC Presentations in May included Classified Staff Advisory Council (Shelley), Two sessions for Employee Dev. Day (Shelley and Casey), SEDI Board Meeting (Shelley) on the Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland, a sustainable economic development concept applicable to Flagstaff (more details at a future meeting). If you have ideas about presenting/getting the word out about the EC, contact Shelley. She can help with PowerPoint slides, materials and content.

C. EC Summer Reading List and Book Discussions – The list has been sent by email and is on the EC website. If you are interested in leading or co-leading a discussion on a particular book, contact Shelley. Books for fall are Eaarth (McKibben), End of the Long Summer (Dumanoski), and Prosperity without Growth (Jackson). In response to a question: No Impact Man (Beavan) was chosen as the NAU Reads selection for Fall 2012, not for the upcoming fall semester.

D. Steering Committee changes – EC Associate Chair Rod Parnell goes on sabbatical this summer through January 2011– Blasé Scarnati was approved unanimously as interim Associate Chair during this period. Deja Walker graduated in May; EC Steering Committee recommends Kevin Ordean (President, Campus Climate Challenge) as replacement. Kevin was approved unanimously.

E. AASHE Conference, Campus Initiatives to Catalyze a Just and Sustainable World, Oct. 10-12 in Denver, paper/panel submission deadline 6/15 – coordinating a van for transportation. If you are a student and interested in going, contact Shelley about
funding opportunities. A number of individuals and groups on campus are submitting presentations. Early bird registration rate by 8/15. See http://conf2010.aashe.org.


G. Creating a Culture of Sustainability Graphic -- Casey Fisher has developed a graphic, used for Employee Development Day presentations, to describe the Environmental Caucus. Entitled “Creating a Culture of Sustainability,” the tree illustrates the composition and impact of the EC on campus. Could be made interactive – click on titles of documents or groups to go to the website. Several possible changes were discussed for increasing consistency and interactivity for web. Flash functionality may be a good option. Casey will refine with suggestions made and create a version to send to the Caucus via e-mail.

III. Special Debut Feature: “True Blue on Our Way to Green”, orientation film produced by Deja Walker and Paloma Ibañez --Great video! Take a look:
http://promos.extended.nau.edu/tvs/Lumberjack%20Stewardship.mov (NOTE: This is not the final version of the film, as credits and the NAU logo will be added. Please contact Shelley if you would like the final version, and it will be made available for websites or other uses when ready.)
The film is set to be shown at freshmen orientation. Ideas for marketing this video were discussed, including placing it on College websites for prospective students, sending to parents through Parent Association and Backpack, putting on YouTube and Green NAU, Facebook, etc.

IV. Presentation: It Takes a University: Integrating the Climate Action Plan (CAP) into Curriculum and Operations

Lindsay Wagner shared the summary of the CAP. Each goal in the CAP includes actions. 
http://green.nau.edu/NEW_NAU_Climate_Action_Plan_2010.pdf

We are creating a living document of goals moving NAU toward carbon neutrality that will be reviewed and updated every year. Energy conservation is the first priority, next energy efficiency, then creating our own energy. Last, if necessary, neutrality will be achieved by purchasing carbon off-sets.

Discussion: Developing Annual Objectives for the Climate Action Plan – Heather Farley
Working with a concept of "Mission 2020" to market the plan and goals. What are your ideas for how to approach this? What can we do during the 2010-2011 fiscal year? Out of these what are the highest priorities?

From the operations perspective energy conservation is a priority.

What are the “low hanging fruit?” For example: reducing the use of energy by a certain % Reduce bottled water by %. Eliminate bottled water at NAU functions. Make these easily achievable and understandable for everyone to support. Tamara will work with Casey and others. Also what is the carbon footprint improvement as a result of this action?

Increase communication between departments on practices and audit at the department level. Sustainability tips by Heather in Inside NAU could transition to departmental highlights about sustainability practices, giving accolades to departments having success.

Sodexo is eliminating plastic bags on campus – providing a reusable bag to each resident at move-in. Logo opportunities! Mission 2020 or Creating a Culture of Sustainability… How do we quantify the carbon footprint?

Dorm refrigerators – provided by NAU and they are Energy Star. Incentive to ask that it be removed from the room? Other ways to reduce refrigerator energy consumption? Other high dorm energy – microwave, lights left on, computers. The dorm energy competition (approved by Res Life for the fall) will be important for educating the students about lifestyle changes.

Coffee cups – increase incentives for bringing own?

Marketing ideas:
- “Mission Green Possible?” Might want to keep a date in the marketing slogan so that the goal is more clear. But 2020 might be too distant for some students. Create 4 year plans for each class of students. What will be your legacy to the university?
- "Ten step program for reducing our carbon addiction".
- Mission 2020: and a subtitle for the year
- Involve alumni relations?? Class gifts? Quantify the carbon savings as a gift?
- Creating the right language is important for creating a culture of sustainability. The choice of words needs to be considered. Peaks. Forests. Something unique to our campus/community. Rooted in place.
- Please contribute your ideas soon. First phase should begin in Fall 2010.

Casey Fisher mentioned the national Second Nature webinar, with a presentation by President Haeger, will be held this Monday, June 8. Casey will send details and we will try to coordinate streaming this live on GreenNAU (or at least showing it later) and possibly hosting the webinar in a room at ARD. Details to follow.

Mark your calendars for the next Environmental Caucus Meeting
Thursday, July 1, 2010, 12:00 – 1:30, ARD Large Pod

Thanks to Kristen Bullard for taking notes at the meeting!