Environmental Caucus Meeting
July 1, 2010, 12 – 1:30 pm
ARD Large Pod

I. Introductions and Announcements  [12:00-12:10]

II. Environmental Caucus Business  [12:10 –12:40]
1. EC Steering Committee Recommendations
   a. Steering Committee Members: Harvey Charles was approved to join the steering committee by the consensus of the Caucus.
   b. By-Laws: Blase Scarnati is leading a team to write EC by-laws to clarify procedures and policies, with an aim to keep the group as informal and open as possible. If you’d like to join this team, please contact Blase.Scarnati@nau.edu or Shelley.Silbert@nau.edu.
   c. EC Welcome Lunch: Planning is underway for an EC welcome potluck lunch for new and returning students during the September 2 Caucus meeting, keeping the meeting to a meet & greet format, with introductions to student organizations and action teams. Some other welcome week ideas included joining with an already existing event to receive more publicity, or having the Student Environmental Caucus or Caucus joining the “pedway” events. Kevin Ordean will work with Casey on Welcome Week opportunities.
2. Planning for Upcoming Sustainability Days
   a. 9/22/10–World Carfree Day (www.carfreeflag.com): World Carfree day is in conjunction with Friends of Flagstaff’s Future. Eva Putzova and a student intern are coordinating the planning team. The greater Flagstaff community is participating by offering free Mountain Line transportation and other events across town.
   b. 10/10/10–Global Work Party (www.350.org): Bill McKibben and 350.org are hosting the Global Work Party to demonstrate the global readiness for climate solutions. The event falls during the AASHE conference in Denver (October 10-12), which many EC folks will be attending. Some ideas for how NAU can get involved would be participation from the Student Environmental Caucus, related class projects, involvement of Weatherization and Community Building Action Team, etc. Faculty, staff and students who will be in Flagstaff on October 10 are asked to consider activities.
   c. 10/20/10–Campus Sustainability Day (www.campussustainability.info): Planning is in early stages. Heather, Kevin and Shelley will meet tomorrow to discuss further details. Tentatively, the Office of Sustainability will organize informational events while the Student Environmental Caucus will do more student-geared events (such as a concert, possibly). Other ideas discussed: a chef demo that could potentially be sponsored by Morning Star Farms with CSA information; a film series includes movies like “11th Hour,” “Flow,” or “Bag It”
among others; an organizational fair in the atrium of the ARD; discussion on Green Fund projects; Action Team presentations; a sustainability symposium of student presentations; and others. The idea is to focus on such goals as the Climate Action Plan and the Global Learning Implementation projects. Claudia Jurowski volunteered to work with the team, with attention to linking with academic classes. For further ideas, contact Heather.Farley@nau.edu.

d. 12/3/10–World Sustainable Development Teach-in Day (www.world-sustainability-day.net): Although this event is late in the fall semester during reading week, a possible way to implement this would be to tie in with a Politics & International Affairs graduate fair and coordinate their graduate panels with some other events. Heather will talk with Fred Solop about this possibility.

3. Transportation/Planning for AASHE Conference, Oct. 10-12, Denver: Heather has been gathering information on transportation options to the October AASHE conference. Due to the number of people going (anywhere from 10-15 to a possible added 20 or 30 students, according to comments of those at meeting Heather suggested using a van if a smaller group, or a coach bus which would cost about $85 a person for the trips but would be most convenient. Please contact Heather if you are planning on attending the conference and would like to coordinate travel.

4. Update on Global Learning Implementation (Blase Scarnati): The group is carrying out its learning recommendations now with 29 participating departments across campus (this is around half of the departments). Faculty teams were assembled in June with workshops to occur in August to define learning outcomes and develop curriculum. They’re trying to gain a lot of interest in the work that’s happening and to be on the forefront of curriculum development in the areas of diversity, sustainability and global engagement. The sustainability consultants put into place so far at the recommendation of the EC Steering Committee are Janine Schipper, Anne Huffman, Claudia Jurowski, Jacqueline Vaughn, Susan Williams, Heather Farley, and Shelley Silbert.

5. Update on President’s Innovation Fund (Rich Bowen): Final funding decisions haven’t been made yet, but the committee has agreed to fund some portion of five proposals: energy management, energy interns, a sustainability class, thin client technology, and the student orientation video. Due to a very decreased budget, no commitments to funding have been made until the budget is increased or certain key parts of the proposals are chosen to be funded to start such programs. For example, portions of the thin client proposal will likely be funded by departments as they gain new computers and purchase Thin Client technologies.

6. Climate Action Plan Implementation Report (Heather Farley): Heather passed out a table of climate action plan recommendations, but some areas still need to be addressed. The current recommendations include bottled water elimination, campus communication, plastic bag elimination, energy competitions, and coffee shop waste minimization. For those with ideas and tangible goals pertaining to the missing parts, please contact Heather.Farley@nau.edu or Shelley.Silbert@nau.edu. We will continue to have a CAP Implementation Report at each Caucus meeting.

III. Presentation: Tri-University Sustainability Collaborative (Heather Farley) [12:40-12:50]: This group is still in its infancy, with future goals in discussion. Heather recently met with her counterparts at UA and ASU and the group decided to come together formally as a collaboration. There will be six formal meetings between the group as well as intersession conference calls as
An annual meeting may line up with the annual AASHE conferences or Campus Sustainability Day. The next meeting on August 6 will include planning formalities like crafting a purpose statement among other things. The group may invite more than the three main Arizona Universities, e.g. community colleges, Prescott College. The goal is to create a statewide network of sustainability initiators in higher education – sharing ideas relating to both education and operations. Abe Springer suggested that this group may want to suggest a state chapter structure for AASHE to facilitate this type of state-wide interaction.

IV. **Discussion**: Coordination for 2010-2011 Lectures and Presentations [12:50-1:10]: In order to save sufficient time for the Action Team Check-ins, this item was tabled until the August 3rd meeting. Please send any information on upcoming environmentally related lectures in the fall and spring semesters, or ideas about presentations you would like to help organize, to Shelley.Silbert@nau.edu in preparation for that discussion. The discussion will help us pool resources to bring speakers to NAU.

V. **Action Team Check-ins** [1:10-1:30]

1. ACUP Climate Commitment (Lindsay Wagner and Heather Farley): Current work mostly addressed above.
2. NAU’s Environmental Identity (Kathy Maloney): Current work is on marketing and supporting the Climate Action Plan.
3. Student Environmental Caucus (Kevin Ordean): Current work is on contacting student groups to get interested members together over the summer to organize leadership and projects for the fall.
4. Water Action Team (Tamara Ramirez): Current work is to reduce plastic water bottles on campus, and the team is working with Casey Fisher and Campus Dining to overcome some problems with eliminating the sale and use of water bottles.
5. Sustainable Environmental Practices (Paul Gazda): Current work is to influence the NAU Master Plan to design landscaping to reduce herbicides on campus and promote safe alternatives.
6. Curriculum and the Environment/Ponderosa 2.0 (Blase Scarnati): Mostly on hiatus over the summer. Some projects include global learning initiative, “greening” the curriculum across campus, and helping change NAU’s identity and where that can fit in with a sustainable approach to education. Many different activities.

**Next Environmental Caucus Meeting**
Tuesday, August 3, 12-1:30 pm, ARD Large Pod