
I. Networking and Announcements

a. First Annual Student Arts and Culture Walking Exposition can include “culture of sustainability”, does not have to have an explicit arts theme, and displays can be done by students, faculty or staff. The exposition is Friday, August 27, 2-4pm. Student Environmental Caucus plans to have a table, Environmental Caucus may also apply. Proposals due August 8. For details, see: https://home.nau.edu/images/userimages/srs7/10841/Art%20&%20Culture%20Expo%20Flyer%20Web.pdf. (Shelley Silbert)

b. The Coconino County Fair (Labor Day Weekend) is looking for more NAU involvement with their informational booths and tables. AGWA plans to participate. Kevin offered to help with NAU presence. (Emily Anderson)

c. Green Fund business cards are printed if anyone wants to pass them out. Also, the Green Fund is looking for caucus members to help review Green Fund Committee student applications. Alex Oden, Rod Parnell, and Emily Anderson volunteered. Contact greenfund@nau.edu. (Kevin Ordean)

d. Graduate assistantship for Wind for Schools available, 20 hours/week with benefits for school year. For recommendations or information, call 3-0715 or email karin.wadsack@nau.edu. (Karin Wadsack)

e. Faculty and staff San Juan River Rafting Trip, September 3-5, $400/person. Contact Shawn.Newell@nau.edu, Landward Institute.

f. Yuly Asencion, Assistant Professor in Spanish and part of a Global Learning Initiative team, is looking for opportunities for sustainability internships and projects for Spanish language/education students, connecting them with projects in the community where they might also speak Spanish.

g. All 24 Campus Dining facilities on campus will be going plastic bag-less starting this fall. They have purchased fabric bags for every freshman student and will also have them for purchase. They are testing washing reusable mugs at the Bean and Beaker and a 50 cent discount if you bring your mug to any location. Send ideas, and help spread the word! (Casey.Fisher@nau.edu)
h. Any academic, paid or work study internships can be put on www.nau.edu/green through Student Connections. Currently some are available for the Caucus, the Office of Sustainability, Utilities (5 energy patrol internships), Green Fund (2 internships), and CCSEDI has some openings also. Send other internship info to green@nau.edu.

II. **Presentation: Residence Hall Energy Competition (Alex Oden):** Alex, a senior Psychology student, received a Hooper Student Fund award to set up the competition. It is set also as a test of how students respond to encouragement and education to conserve campus resources so a model can be created for future use at NAU or elsewhere. Three dorms (Reilly, Sechrist, McKay Village) will each either be educated on conservation, told about the energy competition, or both. Other residence halls will serve as controls. Each hall will have its electricity use monitored. At the end of the semester a winner will be determined and a model for encouraging sustainability established. There will be two education nights where volunteer trainers will instruct with videos, lectures, etc. Volunteers may be needed. For more information, contact ado9@nau.edu.

III. **Judy Bischoff, Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit:** Judy attended the national meeting for Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units, where they honored four of the original directors. Judy presented the award to Rod Parnell for his critical role in helping establish and direct the CPCESU!

IV. **Discussion Item: Long-term Vision and Role for Environmental Caucus (Rod Parnell and Kathy Maloney):**
   a. Kathy Maloney (University Marketing) is working on a definition of what sustainability means at NAU, as a common language to use in all sectors across campus. After some discussion, a smaller group organized to discuss this: Casey, Sandra, Abe, Alex, Paul, McKenzie, Rom, and Shelley. Kathy will email initial definitions and the group will meet in early September.
   b. What should the role of the caucus be for the next 16 to 18 months?
      i. NAU has made many advances in sustainability presence on campus, which is happening at the same time as the loss of critical personnel to manage and implement these programs. We need to consider how to keep NAU at the forefront of sustainable universities while dealing with a shift in staff and faculty.
      ii. The Caucus should evaluate where gaps will be and recommend how best to fill such gaps with new faculty and staff, or redefine roles to ensure critical leadership continues and expands.
      iii. Discussion: Abe mentioned that he had just returned from the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors meetings, and was struck again by NAU’s clear and unquestionable place among the
country’s leading universities in environmental programs. We must ensure that we build and expand on this strong history. Discussion involved the need for NAU to be more intentional in shaping sustainability programs; look at ways to retain faculty; understanding what the administration’s goals and intentions are as related to sustainability; recognition that this is a time of crisis and opportunity, and the Caucus must assume the responsibility and form the ambitious, powerful leadership to move NAU forward; recognizing the inherently interdisciplinary nature of sustainability that requires work both within and beyond hierarchical structures, forming collaborations between academics and operations and creating ties where they might not have existed before. The Caucus leadership has upcoming meetings in the next two weeks with the VP for Finance and Admin and with CEFNS and SBS deans to discuss these issues.

iv. Rod closed by suggesting that any further thoughts on this topic be emailed either to Shelley or Rod, or other members of the steering committee. The steering committee can put this information together for a more formal presentation at September’s meeting.

IV. Environmental Caucus Business

1. Action Team Check-ins tabled until a future meeting. Kristen Bullard reported that a new Transportation Action Team has formed, including Scott Perelstein, Alex Oden, Kristen, and others. Began by looking at bicycle security and advocacy, but have decided to expand to widen scope since transportation is such a large part of NAU’s carbon neutrality goal. The group wants to make connections in the campus community involving the yellow bike program, Car-Free Day, promoting alternative transportation, looking at carbon offsets. There’s also a possible academic internship. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Kristen.Bullard@nau.edu.

2. Climate Action Plan Implementation Report (STARS interns): STARS intern Tucker Herbert talked about the work of STARS interns this summer with the Office of Sustainability. STARS is a system to rate campuses based on a defined points to determine sustainability of operations and academics. University rankings will be silver, gold, platinum, etc. The four STARS interns reviewing NAU’s eligibility in preparation for a January 2011 report submission. Summer interns are reviewing points NAU can fulfill. More academic interns are needed in the fall to collect and compile the information. Melody Hartke shared that her experience as an intern has been excellent and highly recommends that others apply. Heather Farley can be contacted about fall STARS internships.

3. Coordination on 2010-2011 Lectures (Shelley Silbert) Ralph Nader talk on “New Economy: Going Green and the Bottom Line”, Prochnow, Sept. 7, organized by
Sun Entertainment. Tickets available at the NAU box office, free for NAU staff and students. Other lectures known to date include (as part of the Human Rights and the Environment Speaker Series sponsored by Martin-Springer Institute with EC, Community Culture and the Environment and others: Peter Gleick (mid-October), Darfur Diaries (early November), Climate-wise Women (mid-November), Winona LaDuke (International Holocaust Remembrance Day, spring). Other possibilities discussed: Robert Gottlieb, Gus Speth, Michael Pollen, Annie Leonard, Colin Beavan (planned for next year with NAU Reads selection), Helena Norberg-Hodge, Denis Hayes, Nalina Nadkarni.

a. There is work to get a speaker for Sustainability Day – Alex said that Green Fund and Student Environmental Caucus are trying to get a more famous, possibly funny speaker.

b. More local speakers for the Student Environmental Caucus meetings are being sought. Billy Parish will speak in October. Suggested that the School of Forestry might have their speaker series guest speak to the SEC as well.

4. Sustainability Internships (Shelley Silbert) – EC has compiled a list of paid and academic internships for the environment, including with EC, Office of Sustainability, Utilities, SEDI, etc. Draft list was distributed. Please send Shelley any other known internships. All will be included in Student Connections newsletter on www.nau.edu/green.

Thanks to Green NAU intern Maggie McKeever for taking meeting notes!

Next monthly Environmental Caucus meeting:
Thursday, September 2, 2010, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
ARD Large Pod