Environmental Caucus Meeting  
ARD Large Pod  
December 3, 2009

**Attended:** Jim Allen, Tim Clark, Deja Walker, Tom Rogers, Lindsay Wagner, David Schlosberg, Tamara Ramirez, Rom Coles, Judy Springer, Mark Daniels, Paul Gazda, Rod Parnell, Sue Wotkyns, Blase Scarnati, Kristen Bullard, Kathee Rose, Abe Springer, Allie Stender, Kathy Maloney, Heather Farley, Patrick Pynes, Susan Williams, Bruce Fox, Kim Curtis, Paul Trotta, Jane Stewart, Shelley Silbert.

I. Presentation: Engineers without Borders (EBW): Paul Trotta and EWB members including Allison Clough (ESSD course), Connor Ricketts (President), Kate Dorrell (fund raising), and Jessica Lum (Ghana project head)

Orientation to the program – EWB approach to international aid is focused on needs assessment, solution creation and sustainability within the community. Club membership is 50% engineers, 50% other majors.

In addition to international projects (mostly in Ghana), EWB works on community projects locally. The Ghana project is in the NW corner of the country and focuses on water, heath and sanitation. So far they have built nurses quarters including solar lights, and repaired boreholes for improved well water access. Future projects in Ghana include: running water at the clinic & nurses quarters and drip irrigation systems.

Essential Skills for Sustainable Development is a course that focuses on integrating theory and practical application. Course content includes design and implementation of a water project, practical skills such as rural emergency first aid, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Course contacts: Paul Trotta, John Tingerthal, Aaron Denham, Allison Clough. Paul Trotta is setting up time and place for the course ([Paul.Trotta@nau.edu](mailto:Paul.Trotta@nau.edu)); Allison Clough ([Allison.Clough@nau.edu](mailto:Allison.Clough@nau.edu)) can provide details on content and theory.

II. Introductions and Announcements

Please see the Upcoming Events section of Green NAU site at: [http://green.nau.edu/events.html](http://green.nau.edu/events.html)

Forestry course in Nicaragua for spring break: FOR441 - Sustainable Forestry In Tropical Ecosystems: International Field Experience or contact Jim Allen.


III. Environmental Caucus Business

A. **Endorsement of Environmental Caucus Goals for 2009-2010**
Shelley passed around the draft document (see attached at end of notes), as recommended by the Steering Committee. The goals have rolled up from Action Team priorities. Review and send input to Shelley by 12/18/09. If no input is received, we will consider this list endorsed as new goals and they will be posted on the website.

B. Action Team Updates

1. Ponderosa 2.0: (Rom Coles) Potluck a couple of week ago (18-20 attended). First year seminar proposal was created. Ron Hubert's global learning proposal was endorsed. Endorsing the 10% plan (every faculty member has a right to spend 10% of time on interdisciplinary programs).

2. ACUP Climate Commitment: (Lindsay Wagner) The Climate Action Plan draft will be ready for review around Dec 15 and will be sent to the Caucus listserv. Constructive feedback is requested.

3. Environmental Identity: (Shelley Silbert) Green NAU usage statistics looking good - 1637 page views in November, without any marketing. Next priorities include marketing the site and identifying outside sites that can link to Green NAU. Caucus input on the site is requested. A sustainability efforts commercial has been approved. Pine alumni magazine has an article about the EC.

4. Student Environmental Caucus: (Deja Walker) Joining some of their meetings with the student group Society of Environmental Communicators. Working on coordinating efforts for Earth Day and developing an orientation film for students on sustainability.

5. Water Action Team: (Tamara Ramirez) Collaborating with Dining Services and learned more about how they are moving away from bottled water. Working on education and outreach to events and departments still using bottled water. Addressing the need for more water refill stations. The student team will work on fund raising to make this happen. Want to recognize and publicize the great work that is already happening in this area at NAU.

C. President's Innovation Fund Collaboration & Endorsements

Proposals which received EC endorsement:
- Developing 12 new First Year Seminars through a Community of Practice
- Implementing the Global Education Task Force Recommendations
- Creating junior/senior level courses on energy management and sustainability program implementation; forming Energy Conservation Teams

Proposals with EC participation to promote collaboration:
- Patrick Pynes proposal to create an ARD garden (see below for more details).
- Paul Trotta proposal to fund the course ESSD (see above presentation notes)
- Paul Gazda proposal to implement a plan for discontinuing the use of herbicides on campus (see below for more details).
Discussion: The discussion began with a quick review of proposals seeking endorsement by the EC. The first three came out of Caucus action teams.

Patrick Pynes shared information about his proposal to create an ARD garden. The proposal identifies the ARD building as an appropriate micro-climate location for a garden and outdoor classroom, consisting of three tiers and cold frames and education about the production of food, micro climates, plant selection, etc.

Paul Gazda discussed a proposal to implement a plan for discontinuing the use of herbicides on campus. This fits with ACUP action team goals. Campus is 738 acres. Will address how this relates to campus image, student recruitment, marketing, etc.

Concern was expressed regarding how many proposals the Caucus endorses. Can some of them be combined? A point was made that there could be a diminishing value of the endorsement for many individual, separate proposals. The strength of the EC lies in the networked initiatives, as we are defined by cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Should we back up and focus in the main three original proposals for official EC endorsement, and then identify the others as projects we will remain involved in? This would be consistent with the above point.

Concern was expressed that this position could close the door on some potential partnerships, collaborations, networking. Further suggestion was for the three new proposals to explore the obvious connections between them and submit one stronger proposal. A point was made to not limit ourselves to the existing action teams for EC endorsed proposals. However the time limit is in some ways prohibitive to full EC understanding, collaboration, support.

More endorsements could result in casting a wider net on campus, creating more sustainable relationships, and the EC being associated with access to good ideas and cross pollination.

What does EC endorsement mean to the president and others evaluating the proposals? We really have no idea. The main principal is collaboration, breaking down silos, improving operations around the university related to sustainability and environmental issues. This innovation fund has brought to light that we need to further discuss what an EC endorsement can mean for future requests in different contexts.

Interest expressed regarding creating an action team focused on herbicides and other chemicals on campus. Exploring links to Operations, Regulatory Compliance, Capital Assets and Services, etc. Paul Gazda’s proposal includes a very concrete plan that is ready for implementation and could be a start for this type of action team.

D. Green Fund Update: Jane Stewart (Campus Climate Challenge)

The first survey last spring soliciting student support for a new Green Fund fee resulted in 754 respondents and 70% support. For the next survey the goal is 2000-3000 student respondents resulting in a more accurate reflection of the student position on this proposed fee. The online survey will consist of 5 questions and will be active Jan 3-24. Feb 4 is the Student Senate meeting where the results will be presented.
Use of the Green Fund will be determined by a student-run committee working to transition the campus to renewable energy and water/energy efficiency. The proposed fee is $5/student/semester, a minor fee that can help movement towards campus green goals.

CCC has met with President Haeger and are on the agenda for the next President's Cabinet meeting (Tue, Dec 8, 9:00-noon) where a draft of the survey and charter will be presented. The ultimate goal is to have the proposed fee on the March ABOR meeting agenda. EC members are encouraged to help Rod prepare for the cabinet meeting/presentation by talking to other cabinet members.

By Monday, Jane needs help revising the new student survey and EC feedback on the survey and the charter. The following members offered to help Jane with the survey: Shelley Silbert, Kathee Rose, Lindsay Wagner, Rod Parnell. Shelley also suggested Ann Huffman. PAIR is assisting in getting the survey completed and out.

Additionally, Jane is asking for EC support to encourage student participation in the survey. Faculty could offer extra credit for completion and/or include a link from Vista course pages. She especially wants to target engineering and business students. Rom Coles offered to help draft an announcement for faculty. Paul Gazda (ITS) offered to create a MyNAU portal announcement.

V. Action Team Check-ins:
1. Curriculum and the Environment/Ponderosa 2.0 (Curriculum/Engaged Learning)
2. Advocacy for ACUP Climate Commitment (Climate Action Plan, etc)
3. NAU's Environmental Identity (Green NAU website, etc)
4. Student Environmental Caucus
5. Water Action Team

Thanks to Kristen Bullard for taking notes once again!

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14, noon-1:30, ARD Large Pod
I. Ponderosa 2.0--The Curricular Arm of the Environmental Caucus

- Support both the campus adoption of and begin the implementation of the Global Learning Recommendations of the President’s Task Force on Global Engagement which establishes three University Student Learning Outcomes that will be addressed by all undergraduate major programs, the Liberal Studies Program, and in the co-curriculum.

- Convene a student-focused forum to identify what important issues and questions should be addressed and how to create the opportunities to meet them.

- Case Studies of Change: Dialog – Knowledge – Power
  - Develop and provide continuing education workshops for faculty on issues of sustainability/teaching sustainability.
  - Establish ten to twelve First Year Seminars in residential learning communities in partnership with related graduate programs that can be showcases that address issues of sustainability, linkages to community, plus a structure of care for our students.
  - Advocate for the allocation of 10% of each faculty member’s load to interdisciplinary teaching, courses, or programs.

II. Environmental Identity Action Team

- Continue to improve Green NAU website as an inter-disciplinary communications tool for creating a culture of sustainability at NAU.

- Carry out a Green NAU marketing campaign in conjunction with University Marketing and others.

- Utilize Green NAU as central location for student internship and volunteer opportunities in the community, working with Landsward, CEFNS, and others.

- Establish a communications plan to increase reporting about NAU and the environment (first focus is on environmental research).

- Work with EMSA to develop materials and messaging to recruit students with strong environmental and sustainability interests.

- Work closely with Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit and others to develop strong ties with governmental organizations, NGOs, and tribes to share resources and broaden our impact.

III. Student Environmental Caucus
- Continue to develop Student Environmental Caucus as communication body for student environmental organizations, while encouraging student leader participation in the Environmental Caucus

- Support the effort to establish the student Green Fund

- Incorporate education on environmental sustainability into new student orientation and other student programs (including student orientation film).

- Develop contests related to environmental sustainability, such as a recycling contest or energy competitions in student dorms

**IV. Advocacy for ACUP Climate Commitment Action Team**

- Complete and submit a climate action plan which highlights both overarching goals and specific strategies that could be employed over the next ten years to reach those goals.

- Develop a mechanism, e.g. campus committee or multi-disciplinary course, to involve students in the implementation of the campus climate action plan.

- Initiate the submission of NAU’s yearly ACUPCC reporting requirement.

- Support and guide students involved in passing the student Green Fund.

**V. Water Action Team**

- Conduct education and outreach both on and off campus regarding local water use issues and NAU’s role in water sustainability.

- Develop relationships with departments, colleges, and student groups to involve them directly in efforts to use water wisely on campus and to support and learn from their efforts toward greater water sustainability.

- Grow relationship with off-campus organizations also working on issues of local and regional water use.

- Support NAU’s efforts to expand the number of filtered water bottle refill stations available to students/the public and Dining Services.

- Support and expand efforts to include permaculture landscaping on campus.

- Support inclusion of increasingly efficient systems to reduce and/or reuse wastewater in new NAU buildings.