I. Introductions  
Present: Sally Evans, Kristen Bullard, Chris Watson, Ron Hiebert, Richard Baron, Ann Huffman, Deja Walker, Heather Farley, Karin Wadsack, Jim Buthman, Jacqueline Vaughn, Judy Springer, Tom Rogers, Marcus Ford, Emily Goff, Betsy Goodman, Matthew Stackey, Blase Scarnati, R. Cruz Begay, Jim Allen, Laura Cagney, Bridget Bero, Marianne Davis, Karan English, Jane Marks, Lauren Mork, Bruce Hungate, Shelley Silbert

II. Env Caucus Business

A. Action team reports -  
**ACUP Climate Commitment Advocacy team:** The Caucus tabled discussion on the recycling recommendations until we can clarify some contradictory and confusing information. We've scheduled a tour of the Flagstaff Materials Recovery Facility for Thurs, 2/19, 10:00 am,

Betsy Goodman, a student, reported that she is conducting a recycling assessment of the location of the bins across campus to allow for relocations of dual recycling/trash bins. She needs about 50 volunteers, student or otherwise. If interested in volunteering, contact Betsy at ehg4@nau.edu. A request for volunteers will be sent via the Caucus listserve.

Richard Baron explained the need for improved labeling on repositioned bins to increase clarity of purpose. He is looking for sponsors to bring in $15-20K (e.g approaching Target). Reusing cardboard boxes is another option at lower cost. Dorms have two trash cans in each room, but education/outreach is needed to train students to use one can for recycling and one for garbage. Otherwise, students have reported that the each roommate takes one trash can for his or her use.

NAU had a full-time recycling coordinator in past, but that position was lost around 2003. To implement recycling, volunteers will be needed and we will need to make it easy for Capital Assets to accomplish their goals on a very tight budget. Our goal is to provide support, help to train custodial staff, and clarify the questions remaining about recycling at NAU.

Next caucus meeting will have a more detailed discussion and we will work towards consensus on recommendations.

**Curriculum team:** Blase Scarnati and Cruz Begay report that this team is revitalizing the Ponderosa Group and that the Office of Faculty Development through Linda Shadiow will co-sponsoring workshops or faculty seminars about sustainability topics. Linda will also meet with the team to discuss developing a
“community of practice”. (The Ponderosa Group started some 10 years ago with funds from the Department of Energy with the goal of greening the curriculum at NAU. About 150 faculty attended training sessions through that time).

**Students and the Environmental Experience team:** Laura Cagney reports that the team is considering Facebook, student orientation, and other ways to effectively engage students. The team is also working to create liaisons between the new Student Environmental Caucus (started by team member Deja Walker) and our Environmental Caucus.

**NAU’s Environmental Identity team:** Shelley Silbert reported that the team did not meet at the last meeting, but efforts to develop the Environment Website (which differs from the active Environmental Caucus website) are underway as the first effort to establish NAU’s environmental identity. The website is intended to be the “go to site” for information on research, academic programs, operations and other info related to the environment and sustainability at NAU. This will be particularly useful for prospective students or prospective faculty, as well as for current students, faculty and staff. Bilby has developed a budget to design the website, and $2000 is needed. An additional $300-350/month would be needed for Bilby to maintain the site, but they are also willing to train staff or volunteers.

At the January meeting, Laura Huenneke suggested applying for an ERDENE grant as a funding source. Due to the heavy competition expected for limited funds, Sandra Lubarsky has since offered $200 from the Master of Arts in Sustainable Communities program as a contribution towards the website. Shelley requested support from other Caucus participants for the website. The following agreed to contribute program funds for this purpose: Jim Allen-School of Forestry ($200), Tom Rogers-fund source tbd ($200), Bruce Hungate-NICCR ($200), Ron Hiebert-CPCESU ($200 – pending approval), Bridget Bero-Engineering ($100). Shelley appealed to all to consider if they have funds to contribute to this effort. Shelley will also approach Enrollment Management, since this could be an important site for prospective students interested in the environment. [NOTE: Since the meeting today, ERI has also agreed to contribute $100 and SBS will contribute $200.] Tom Rogers suggested that we might advertise university programs in exchange for website funding as an additional revenue source.

**Partnerships & Collaboration and Sustainability Conference teams:** No one was present from these teams.

B. Steering Committee Report: The group to organize the Steering Committee met on February 9 (Richard Baron, Tom Rogers, Rod Parnell, Deja Walker, Laura Cagney, Blase Scarnati, Kristen Bullard, Shelley Silbert). Others who offered to serve on the Steering Committee or organizing team but could not make the meeting included Marianne Davis/Lindsey Wagner (Capital Assets –
will tag team meetings), Cruz Begay (Health and Human Services), Bruce Hungate (CEFNS) and Jim Allen (Forestry).

**Role:** The Steering Committee (SC) will serve as an interim committee and will likely transform into an executive committee as the Caucus matures. Its role will be to recommend a mission statement, operating principles, strategic plan and communication plan and to approve decisions and communications approaches for the Caucus between meetings. All Action Teams should bring recommendations to the SC for approval. The Strategic Plan will be discussed at the SC’s March meeting.

**Structure:** The organizing group decided that Shelley will serve as the Chair of the SC for now, and Blase will serve as the interim associate chair. Rod Parnell also mentioned he would be willing to serve as associate chair when he steps down from the CSE interim directorship on July 1. SC member will have two year staggered terms.

The Caucus unanimously approved Shelley as Chair and Blase as co-chair.

**Liaisons:** We would like to have formal liaisons to various groups on campus, and these should be people who are already involved in these groups. The Caucus approved of the following to serve as liaisons:
- Faculty Senate – Marcus Ford
- Academic Chair’s Council – Rod Parnell
- Student Environmental Caucus – Deja Walker
- Building manager’s Group – Richard Baron
- University Operations Committee – Lindsey Walker
- Service Professionals Advisory Council – Heather Farley
- Classified Staff Advisory Council – Heather Farley

**President’s Cabinet position:** Blase Scarnati offered to serve as the interim representative for next 6 months. The Caucus gave its consensus.

C. **Budget recommendations and sustainability** – Richard Baron reports that the Office of Sustainability is reviewing the budget website recommendations related to sustainability, especially those pertaining to supplies, travel, and electricity. NAU spends $4.7M/year on electricity. One major savings would be a policy to shut down computers and unplug power units on nights and weekend. Analogy: no one leaves their car idling all night so it is ready to go in the morning). Estimates are for $300,000 in electricity savings by shutting down. ITS supports this concept and says upgrades will happen automatically when the computer is turned back on. Richard is working on a message that reflects a campus-wide policy change (from president), as well as a message from ITS that gives the technical okay. Jane Marks suggested using the electronic alert system as a way to inform everyone across campus.
D. Date for next mtg - Monday, March 02, 2009, noon - 1:30, ARD Large Pod

III. Presentation on Collaborative Weatherization Project. Chris Watson, founding partner of Resource Conservation Group (ReGroup), a local energy conservation company, discussed a community effort (a BHAG or Big Hairy Audacious Goal) to make existing homes in Northern AZ more efficient through the Flagstaff ZEN Home Initiative (Zero Net Energy Neighborhood - carbon neutral standards).
   • Areas of focus: education, science and research, community enrichment, funding, workforce development.
   • There will be opportunities for student projects or internships in many different fields.
   • For more information: www.regroupconserve.com (in the works) or chris@regroupconserve.com

IV. Announcements:
   • Jacqueline Vaughn: announced that she brought handouts for environmental policy class, EarthDay 2009 event (4/25 - litter clean-up of Sinclair Wash), and a report by group of students on greening the campus.
   • Heather Farley: She met with Casey Fisher at Campus Dining Services and they are organizing a sustainability fair on 4/22 for EarthDay. There will be booths (green jobs, NAU programs/academics, student groups) from 2:00-6:00 or 1:00-5:00. They want multi-disciplinary representation from academics.
   • Karan English: Looking for $10K for the NAU Green Guide

V. Breakout groups: The large group meeting adjourned and Action Teams met for the last 30 minutes of the meeting.

Thank you to Steering Committee member Kristen Bullard for taking notes of the meeting!