Environmental Caucus Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 – 12-1:30 pm
ARD Large Pod

Present: Ron Hubert, David Schlosberg, Jared Travis, Nate Cairney, Kathy Maloney, Heather Farley, Jo Hale, Kareem Shihab, Robert Benedetto, Eric Schiefer, John Kester, Alex Finkral, Tom Rogers, Blase Scarnati, Susan Williams, Tim Clark, Kristen Bullard, Paloma Ibanez, Tamara Ramirez, Jane Stewart, Nick Koressel, Paul Trotta, Matthew Kern, David Bousquet, Karin Wadsack, Richard Bowen, Rom Coles, Paul Gazda, Lindsay Wagner, Jon Heitzinger, Jim Allen, Abe Springer, Agnes Drogi, Rebecca Campbell, Shelley Silbert.

I. Introductions and Announcements: See green.nau.edu for events announced. If you have events or information to post on the Green NAU website, please use the form located at http://green.nau.edu/ideas.html or e-mail green@nau.edu.

Additional announcements:
- Campus Master Planning sessions. This series addresses long-term planning for facilities, infrastructure and the standards for the look and feel for campus. This is an ABOR required process on a five year cycle. Contact Shelley if interested in participating as a Caucus representative. (Heather Farley)

- NAU Engineers Without Borders (EWB):
  - Essential Skills for Sustainable Development: summer course offered in May through Center for International Education (CIE).
  - EWB wants to grow beyond Engineering, possibly "NAU Without Borders" or other models. Still focusing on student developed service learning activities.
  - Expanding EWB projects to Honduras (Paul Trotta)

II. Request for Approval: SSLUG Composting Plan (Kareem Shihab, Bobby Benedetto)
Students for Sustainable Living and Urban Gardening is currently composting on south campus from DuBois and Forestry faculty lounge, about 300 lbs./week.

SSLUG wants to expand to cover all of south campus and wants EC support, maybe funding. Reduces organic waste going to the landfill. Eventually SSLUG wants to add north campus. Working with each college dean and proposing a compost bucket in each faculty lounge that SSLUG will maintain. Completely volunteer run, and there is a lot of interest so they can accommodate expansion.

SSLUG uses the finished compost in their gardens on campus, and more is available for those interested. Rain barrels used for any water needed in the process. Piles are about 2 meters square.

Explained that EC does not have funding, but participants are challenged to look for ways to support this group’s effort. SSLUG will be applying for Hooper
Student Fund sustainability awards. Participants affirmed EC's support by show of hands.

III. **Presentation**: Alex Finkral, Assistant Professor, School of Forestry: "Southwestern Forest Carbon and Global Climate Change" For more information, contact Alex.Finkral@nau.edu.

IV. **Environmental Caucus Business**:
   A. News Update from Sodexo/Campus Dining – hiring a full-time sustainability coordinator, soon, to focus on sustainability and social responsibility. Stay tuned for the job description. This will be a Sodexo employee, not an NAU employee, though benefits are comparable except for tuition waiver. Graduate students may be considered for the position. Casey Fisher will provide details when position is posted, and it will be posted on Green NAU. Dining Services will also be creating table tents to advertise Green NAU to students.

   Abe Springer mentioned that Ron Brewster has a proposal for a hydroponic facility at Red Gap Ranch. This could be a good presentation for an EC meeting.

   B. Marketing Update – Requesting opinions on interactive Bulletin Board concept for EC and/or GreenNAU website? Discussion boards/forums. Suggestions: limit to NAU domain, Facebook page instead, announcements that rotate on GreenNAU. Looking for a way to share interdepartmental information in a faster way. Response was mixed. Shelley Silbert and Kathy Maloney will investigate.

   C. Green Fund update and survey (Jane Stewart) - Campus Climate Challenge organized survey -- 2909 respondents of 14,205 survey population, Flagstaff campus students. Sent by e-mail several times to all students, had to use NAU log-in. 67% support for a mandatory $5/semester student-controlled Green Fund fee (.pdf attached to e-mail with complete survey results, will also post on EC website). 85% felt it was somewhat or very important that NAU become a leader in renewable energy and energy efficient practices in higher education. Concern expressed by Tim Clark that respondents would self-identify as supporting green initiatives and sample may not be accurate, other noted it would also attract those who opposed a Green Fund.

   Next steps – tomorrow ASNAU student senate presentation. EC representation is welcome and President Haeger might attend. A one-page summary sheet is available. Next Thursday, CCC students meet with President Haeger. ABOR meeting March 11-12. ASNAUA student fee of $23 being proposed as well with a very different agenda.

   D. NAU Reads: Planning for *No Impact Man* by Colin Beavan as book for Fall 2010 or Fall 2011 (Rebecca Campbell)
Reading program is in its eleventh year. All first-year students are asked to read a common book. The book is announced in the spring and implemented in fall. This year, transitioning to a two-year selection process. Two books preliminarily selected: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie and *No Impact Man*. Rebecca requests input on which to use for fall 2010?

Program is focusing on the three major stated initiatives in the NAU strategic plan and it is time for a book to focus on sustainability. *No Impact Man* – Beavan tried to live with zero environmental impact in NYC. He has a blog and website with a variety of resources such as curriculum for K-12, experiments, challenges, etc. (http://noimpactman.typepad.com/, http://www.colinbeavan.com/).

NAU Reads is leaning towards an 18 months preparation period to integrate the Beavan book into campus with speakers, film series, energy competitions, other activities. How much lead time is needed for making *No Impact Man* most beneficial? Rebecca explained that nothing is set-in-stone or typical.

EC Response: Sustainability and civic engagement initiatives are being planned this year that could make this fall a better time, including First Year Seminars. Can maximize on opportunity with ACUP Climate Commitment, Climate Action Plan, Campus Climate Challenge Green Fund, etc? Many responded stating that the commitment levels on campus can definitely respond for this fall. Faculty, staff, students can and do have many initiatives in place for this fall. One concern was expressed that more lead time would be needed to organize some of the efforts to be led by Office of Sustainability. EC voted in support of Beavan for this fall.

V. *Introduction of Concept*: Community Engagement: NAU's Progress with "Sustainability and Stewardship of Place" Strategic Goal (Rom Coles): Item is not time-sensitive, and will be postponed to next month.

VI. *Action Team Check-ins*:

1. Curriculum and the Environment/Ponderosa 2.0 – Rom, Blase
2. Advocacy for ACUP Climate Commitment – Lindsay, Heather
3. NAU's Environmental Identity – Kathy, Shelley
4. Student Environmental Caucus – Paloma
5. Water Action Team – Tamara
6. Sustainable Environmental Practices – Paul

*Thanks to Kristen Bullard for taking notes at the meeting!*

**NEXT ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 2, 12 – 1:30 p.m.**

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*Presentation: Casey Fisher, Sustainability Plans for Campus Dining*