Environmental Caucus Meeting  
Tuesday, March 2, 2010, noon-1:30 pm
ARD Large Pod


I. Introductions and Announcements:

Events are posted on the Green NAU website: http://green.nau.edu/events.html. To add events, please use the form located at http://green.nau.edu/ideas.html.

Rod Parnell announced that on Wednesday, March 3, Chili’s will donate 10% of sales to Engineers Without Borders-NAU for any tables presenting a coupon. Shelley will send out coupons to the Environmental Caucus listserv.

II. Presentation: Casey Fisher, Campus Dining Services, "Campus Dining – Strides in Sustainability" (See PowerPoint, attached to Environmental Caucus e-mail).

Casey presented Campus Dining’s role on NAU campus, focused in three areas:
- Food – a balance between wanting to provide local, organic, natural with the volumes needed and corporate relationships.
- Waste – Hope to increase recycling of packaging through the new Sustainability Coordinator position (applications being reviewed currently). Now have added reverse osmosis stations in DuBois and High Country Conf Ctr. Students receive refillable bottles through many sources. Using incentives to increase awareness of food waste. Trayless dining saves water and energy. Composting collaboration with SSLUG and Office of Sustainability – pre-consumer waste, small scale, South Campus only. Used Fryer oil is converted to biodiesel for campus buses. Regular donations to local food banks. Green products/vendors utilized as much as possible.
- Energy and Water Use. Hope to evaluate and improve in this area with the new position.

Questions about how Sodexo made the decision to stop selling bottled water in spite of revenue lost, how to link with proposed Sustainability Café in Health and Wellness Center. Shelley gave kudos to Casey for all of the sustainability work she and Sodexo are doing, as well as her consistent involvement with the Environmental Caucus. Appreciation also expressed for Sodexo’s donation of $5000 each year to the Hooper Student Fund Sustainability Awards.

II. Environmental Caucus Business:
A. Old Business

1. Green Fund update and discussion of EC Role (Jane Stewart, Kevin Ordean): Campus Climate Challenge students will share bylaws documents with President Haeger on Thursday and request his approval; preparing the packet for the March 11 ABOR meeting. David B. noted that the Green Fee was a part of last night’s ABOR fees meeting.

The EC Steering Committee has worked with CCC students developing the Green Fund (TGF) and recommends that we accept their request to have the EC approve all six student committee members (students to be suggested by each of the six colleges at NAU), approve a faculty committee member, and work with TGF to find an appropriate business manager on the NAU staff to handle fiscal management of the fund according to university policies and procedures (TGF will reimburse for staff time for fiscal management). The Caucus agreed to accept these roles as recommended and as described in the draft by-laws of TGF.

2. NAU Reads Update: Colin Beavan’s No Impact Man has been selected by the NAU Reads Committee as the book for the 2011-12 academic year. Sherman Alexie’s Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian has been selected for 2010-11. The donation of 5000 Alexie books, ongoing collaboration with areas schools, and the more difficult task of organizing events around No Impact Man influenced the timing. There were some concerns expressed about the appropriateness of No Impact Man, as it does not have a strong community component. These issues have been discussed by the committee, and will be fruit for critical discussion and analysis in classrooms and events.

3. Master Plan update: Heather Farley is on the committee, but is out sick today. Jane Kuhn reported that there will be more meetings at the end of March. Community Open Forum on March 30. More forums on campus in April as well. Heather will report to the Caucus at a future meeting, and is bringing the perspective of sustainability to the meetings.

4. Planning for Van Jones/Billy Parish (3/22/10, 4 pm, DuBois) and David Orr (4/1/10, Cline Library Assembly Hall, 7:00 PM) events (Blase Scarnati):

   Faculty Development and EC hosting a faculty book discussion of Jones' The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems on March 9th 4-5 pm, led by Rom and Shelley. Sign up through the Faculty Development website, http://home.nau.edu/facdev/events.asp
March 22 (the Monday after Spring Break).
2:00-3:30 pm – **Pathways Towards a Green Future: Emerging Prospects for Regional Action**, Gardner Auditorium, FCB – inviting a panel of representatives from Navajo Green Jobs Initiative, SEDI weatherization team, Campus Climate Challenge, Environmental Caucus. The objective will be to brainstorm with Jones and Parish with an invited group of community organizations.

4:00 – 5:30 pm, Provost Speaker Series event, **Challenging America: Achieving Sustainability and Justice Through a Green Collar Economy**, DuBois Ballroom. A selected panel will ask questions following keynotes from each speaker. Reception will follow.

The Caucus requested that more information be sent out on the speakers:

**Van Jones** is a globally recognized, award-winning pioneer in human rights and the clean-energy economy. Van is a co-founder of three successful non-profit organizations: the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change and Green For All. He is the best-selling author of the definitive book on green jobs: *The Green-Collar Economy*. He served as the green jobs advisor in the Obama White House in 2009. Van is currently a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. Additionally, he is a senior policy advisor at Green for All. Van also holds a joint appointment at Princeton University, as a distinguished visiting fellow in both the Center for African American Studies and in the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

**Billy Parish** dropped out of Yale in 2002 to help build a youth movement for climate solutions. As Founder and Coordinator of the Energy Action Coalition for four years, Billy brought together over 50 diverse, youth-led organizations into a joint campaign to catalyze the transition to a clean energy economy called The Campus Climate Challenge. One of the lead architects of the Clean Energy Corps program to create 5 million new green jobs, Billy now works with Green for All, 1Sky and Black Mesa Water Coalition on advocacy for green job creation. Billy was a 2005 *Rolling Stone* magazine "Climate Hero," *Mother Jones* magazine's 2006 "Student Activist of the Year," an *Utne* Magazine "Visionary" in 2008 and was named a "Fellow" by Ashoka, the global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs. He is also a co-founder of Green Owl Records, a green music label under Warner Music Group, and is a Board Member of several companies and non-profits. Born in New York City, Billy now lives in Flagstaff, AZ with his wife, Wahleah Johns, and their daughter, Tohaana.

Rom shared the idea that these events can be considered an opener to a month-long series of events leading up to Earth Day on April 22. Everyone is encouraged to spread the word about these events and show campus (even the
nation) how invested NAU is in sustainability efforts. Casey mentioned that Campus Dining is also putting together a list of events related to Earth Day and is happy to collaborate. Abe noted there is a soon to be announced Storm Chasers event on March 23rd. More information coming.

April 1, David Orr to speak on campus at Cline Library, 7 pm.

B. New Business
1. Earth Day Awards Ceremony and Celebration, April 22. Sandra Lubarsky suggested that we celebrate NAU’s upcoming national recognition by the Princeton Review/USGBC, including an awards ceremony to recognize sustainability leaders on campus. Kathy noted that the undergraduate research symposiums are also on April 22, and Tony Cortese will be coming to campus. These events could possibly be woven together. Volunteers for Committee to work on planning: Rich, Shelley, Rod, Kim, Ann, Kathy. Will report back at the April EC meeting.

IV. Discussion: Outreach and Engagement Strategies to Reduce NAU’s Carbon Footprint
1. Lindsay Wagner, Utilities Manager, is out of town today, but wanted to pass on that Capital Assets is developing a database to officially track carbon tonnage, and there is opportunity for student involvement. They’re trying to systematically get all utilities tracked and all meters read (which is not currently happening). Lindsay can use at least two interns, preferably for a one year commitment. She stresses that Campus is a giant lab, and we should be looking at a multitude of opportunities. She and Jon Heitzinger will present at EC’s April meeting)

2. RFQ has been issued for an energy services provider to conduct an energy audit of campus. Closes at end of March.

3. March 8, the Climate Action Plan draft will be reviewed and then released to the rest of the caucus for review.

4. Concerns expressed about time this has taken and the logistics related to moving forward. What will be the nature of the document in relation to achieving the targets in the document signed by the President. The 2020 carbon neutrality goal includes three benchmarks.

5. Shelley shared a slide reflecting the 2007 campus carbon footprint (about 50% due to electricity use, a quarter natural gas (mostly for heating water), a quarter due to transportation (including air travel, fleet and commuting), and remainder is due to waste. FY09 utilities usage and cost shown by utility (total $8,788,696). What can the EC do to get people
thinking about the Climate Action Plan and playing a part in the carbon neutral goal and benchmarks?

6. Ian offered that Net Impact wants to facilitate dorm competitions. Concern expressed that not all residence halls have individual meters (20 halls, but they are not all metered). The RFQ mentioned above should help with this. Residence Life would not consider the apartment-type structures (e.g. Pine Ridge, McKay) as "dorms". The involvement of academic programs will be helpful – ideas? Some course-based student projects in the past had variable results.

The initiative could focus on the small steps individuals can take to save energy. The ability to meter the buildings can be expensive, but this investment will increase the granularity of data and track progress toward 2020 carbon neutrality.

Institutional data can demonstrate per capita usage? Use to compare to other institutions. Capital Assets calculates square foot usage data.

Two questions: How efficient are the buildings? How efficient are the students? Student/RA audits – go into rooms and evaluate energy practices. Improvements to the buildings are more involved. Metering is very motivating for changing behavior. Can we explore competing against other universities? In state? In similar climates? The pedagogical links are important to initiate. Start small with interested residence halls/groups and 3-4 courses.

Interested in being involved: Net Impact (Ian) is interested and thinks it could be included in the Green Fund. Learning Communities involvement? Bruce. Lindsay. Karin. Rom.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

*Thanks to Kristen Bullard for taking notes!*

**NEXT ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS MEETING**
Monday, April 5, 12:00 – 1:30, ARD Large Pod
Presentation by Lindsay Wagner and Jon Heitzinger from Capital Assets on "Campus Utility Systems and NAU's Carbon Footprint"