Environmental Caucus Meeting  
Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 12 - 1:30 pm  
University Union Hot Spot

Participants: Richard Bowen, Rod Parnell, Jim Allen, Abe Springer, Karin Wadsack, Tim Clark, David Bousquet, Jesse Kellman, Megan Stalheim, Cassidy Pattik, Deja Walker, Paloma Ibanez, Blasé Scarnati, Kathy Maloney, Jane Steward, Jacob Alvarado, Jaclynn Fallon, Kevin Ordean, Casey Fisher, Heather Farley, Kathee Rose, Kristen Bullard, Dianna Van Sanford, Elizabeth Daoust, Susan Williams, Claudia Jurowski, Rom Coles, Tom Rogers, Zach Smith, Davis Schlosberg, Debra Edgerton, Paul Gazda, Patrick Pynes, Allie Stender, A Christensen, Bryan McLaren, John Kester, Tamara Ramirez, Regan Emmons, Agnes Drogi, Jane Kuhn, Shelley Silbert

I. Introductions and Announcements
Many thanks to Campus Dining for inviting the Caucus to lunch, and to Casey Fisher for making the arrangements. What a treat!

Allie Stender announced that Bike to Work Week is May 16-21 (http://flagstaffbiking.org/bike-to-work-week/schedule). Get your bikes ready -- The Caucus encourages the strongest participation ever from NAU!

II. Presentation: The Community Food Task Force-- Kim Curtis, Regan Emmons and Lois Truffa. April 24, 2010 was the convening meeting of the Greater Flagstaff Community Food Task Force, the culmination of the first round of organizing carried out by NAU's Foodlink-Acton Research Team (ART) and Flagstaff Foodlink.

Kim -- The Flagstaff Foodlink-ART is one of NAU’s seven Community-Based Action Research Teams*. In these teams first year students work with graduate students, faculty, and community partners on issues of sustainability and democratic community organizing. Recognizing that the political arts cannot simply be learned from books, but must be exercised, the partnership provides invaluable engaged learning opportunities for students, and contributes powerfully to the work of Flagstaff Foodlink. The six students on the Flagstaff Foodlink-ART have played a key role in moving the Greater Flagstaff Community Food Task Force from dream to reality. Flag Foodlink is a non-profit in Flag that is the link between community and healthy, local and regional (SOLE Food – Sustainable, Organic, Local and Ethical).

*NAU’s Community Based Action Research Teams are the creation of a partnership between the Program in Community, Culture & Environment's Sustainable Environments and Engaged Democracy (SEED) Freshman Learning Community and the Master of Arts in Sustainable Communities (SUS).

Lois -- Relational meetings have been held with a diversity of community representatives. They asked questions such as: What are your passions about food? What is your knowledge of the food process? 60 meetings of this type held so far.
Regan - ARTs Team. Time in the classroom reading about the theoretical – the relational meetings were a practical application. Learning about and sharing concerns. Thesis work will flow from this into policy work that supports farmers. Community Food Security Assessment will be one outcome that will brings partnership between Flagstaff and NAU.

Jacob – First year Seminar SEED. Community project with significant outcomes, such as involvement in Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance.

Kim – One of the first priorities of the Task Force is a community food assessment – USDA grant. Define region, what to assess, Goals, policy, action, indicators. This Task Force really got off the ground because of the students.

*Unfortunately, it was difficult to hear in our meeting location until we were able to get a microphone set up, so apologies to Kim, Regan, Lois and Jacob. We will invite them back next year! If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint used to conduct the convening meeting of the Community Food Task Force, please e-mail Shelley.Silbert@nau.edu.*

III. Environmental Caucus Business

A. Old Business

1. **Global Learning Initiative Update** (Blase Scarnati) -- Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Global Learning Recommendations is meeting this afternoon to review over 30 proposals submitted from faculty from over 30 units on infusing diversity education environmental sustainability and global engagement into the curriculum. EC is being asked to select paid consultants (faculty or staff who are not funded through the GL RFP) to work with some of these units on sustainability over the summer and to build partnerships across units. Co-curricular efforts will be strongly encouraged. This is another opportunity for us to further the EC’s goals and agenda.

2. **Moving Forward on NAU’s new Climate Action Plan** (Heather Farley) -- Climate Action Plan submitted in April; front page article in *AZ Daily Sun*. Due to an expedited timeline set by President Haeger to submit prior to Tony Cortese’s visit, the draft was not sent out to the EC listserv. It had been reviewed by the Steering Committee and EC participants made up the team that put the plan together. The EC will be responsible for creating the annual plan, with the ACUP CAP implementation team leading the process. More assistance needed – a great way to get involved. Contact Heather.

   STARS – Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System will include 3 students over the summer. Assess where we are and shape goals for the coming year. Organized – purchasing, grounds, curriculum, etc. Heather is encouraging involvement to prepare for the 2010-2011 plan.

3. **Green Fund Update** -- (Kevin Ordean/Jackie Fallon) Caucus Action needed to form review committee for student applications for Green Fund Committee. This student-run Committee decides distribution of monies for projects on
campus. Need to select 6 students for the inaugural committee to begin work in October 2010. Interim committee this summer will be doing a lot of the initial leg-work. Sept 15 - applications due. See www.nau.edu/green, Sustainability Initiatives, Green Fund, Link to the application and email address there. Undergrad and grad students are encouraged – want representation from all 6 colleges. Terms are one year.

4. Announcement of EC Sustainability Leadership Awards. First ever annual awards were given on EarthDay by Shelley and President Haeger. Awards went to Campus Dining for creative efforts to reduce waste, increase local, organic and fair trade products, hire a full-time sustainability coordinator, and much more, and to Jane Stewart, former President of Campus Climate Challenge for her work to establish the Green Fund. See http://www4.nau.edu/insidenau/bumps/2010/4_29_10/sustain.html.

5. President’s Innovation Fund Update (Jane Kuhn) – Update tabled to next mtg – those awarded have until June 2011 to spend the funds

6. AASHE conference October 2010 in Denver – tell Shelley if you are interested in presenting and/or attending. Seeking funds for the conference. Heather noted that NAU has much to report with threads of sustainability throughout curriculum and campus. Others would appreciate hearing what we are doing. http://conf2010.aashe.org

B. New Business

1. EC Summer Reading List and Book Discussions - Want to read together as a group and hold book discussions in fall. Tony Cortese’s suggestion of End of the Long Summer by Diane Dumanoski catalyzed this idea. Seeking recommendations for reading. List to be sent soon.

2. EC Accomplishments 2009-2010 – Congratulations to all! Gained a reputation in 1.5 years as one of the most active and effective groups on campus and in the community. Gaining a lot of publicity and support (Shelley read a letter from a community member who wrote to express appreciation). Green NAU website is quickly becoming the central location for sustainability info on campus. (Rod – round of applause for Shelley!) Climate Action Plan completed due to the EC collaboration and push. Support of Campus Climate Challenge to pass the Green Fund. Global Learning Initiative support. Reactivation of Ponderosa 2.0. Student Action this year has been significant – SLUGG, Sustainability Café, Action Research Teams, weatherization, Earth Day larger and more visible than ever. Marketing is key to keeping these initiatives in front of the campus and local communities and EC is working closely with University Marketing on this. Climate Action Plan success will depend on keeping these initiatives moving forward.
Abe Springer mentioned curricular advances – Climate Science and Solutions Master's Program approved and Interdisciplinary PhD program in the works.

IV. Action Team Check-ins

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

Next Environmental Caucus Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 12:00 – 1:30, ARD Atrium

Thanks to Kristen Bullard for taking notes for the meeting, especially because it was particularly difficult to hear until Allie Stender came to the rescue by arranging for a microphone and sound system to arrive during the meeting!