Present: Blase Scarnati, Kristen Bullard, Rod Parnell, Jim Allen, Ron Hiebert, Laura Cagney, R. Cruz Begay, Kathy Maloney, Pat Ellsworth, Stan Clark, Allie Stender, Heather Farley, George Koch, Lindsay Wagner, David Bousquet, Sally Evans, Karla Brewster, Shelley Silbert

I. Introductions and Announcements - No announcements

II. Report on Meeting with President Haeger – Blase Scarnati reported that Shelley Silbert, Ann Huffman and Blase met with President Haeger on behalf of the Caucus on May 12, following a letter submitted by the Caucus regarding the anticipated loss of the Office of Sustainability (OS) director position. Haeger stated that the position cut did not reflect a change in the university's commitment to sustainability; he made it clear that the position loss is strictly a budgetary decision and is not a point of negotiation. Grant funding or recovery (stimulus) funds could be alternatives to fund the position in the future. The objectives of the office will be carried forward through the work of Rich Bowen and Heather Farley.

The President sees the Caucus as an important vehicle for university sustainability initiatives. Haeger stated his strong emphasis on sustainability in the curriculum to ensure that the university can prepare students to solve the problems of the 21st century. He sees the Caucus as a conduit for connecting many parts of campus around a central, shared area of interest. He also stated that he wants to bring Tony Cortese, President of Second Nature (Education for Sustainability) to campus as part of the President's speaker series and this might be a way to further the ACUP climate change initiative.

The Caucus Steering Committee has set up a meeting with Rich Bowen on June 8 to discuss how the ACUP Climate Commitment will be carried forward in the new fiscal year without a director for OS.

III. Update on Students' Green Fee meeting with President Haeger – Students from Campus Climate Challenge (Emily Champie and Jane Stewart) met with President Haeger in May to present their green fee proposal. They report that it was a good meeting, and the President recognized the students had done a good job with background work. The President is not convinced of the timing of the fee, but asked that the Climate Challenge students present to the President's Cabinet in the fall to request their support. The students hope to present the green fee at the Dec 2009 ABOR fees & tuition meeting. ASNAU determined in spring 2009 that they cannot support any new student fees at this time.

IV. GreenBuild Conference, November 10-13: Environmental Caucus Role -
In discussions between the Caucus and University Marketing, it was determined that the international GreenBuild conference, to be held in November in Phoenix, would be a good place to showcase NAU’s sustainability work. Some 28,000 people attended the last conference in Boston. Ideas include a NAU presence at the conference (table to showcase curriculum, research, and other initiatives) and a tour to Flagstaff to visit ARD and other LEED buildings (in combination with a visit to Arcosanti). There is also potential for partnerships with the city, county, and APS. The Caucus agreed that this is a worthwhile pursuit. **Contact Shelley (523-7635) if you are interested or have any ideas, suggestions, etc.**

A tangential topic to the meeting about GreenBuild involved building the relationship between University Marketing and the Caucus. Marketing would like to utilize the Caucus as a central clearinghouse for marketing and stories about sustainability topics. Kathy Maloney is now the official representative to the Caucus from University Marketing.

The Environment website is in development; Marketing sees it as having tremendous value for organizing internal and external communication. They will be providing assistance and we will work together as a new content management system and provider is selected for the university. The goal is to launch the Environment website in the fall, and GreenBuild conference participants will be one of the target audiences.

**V. Assessment of Caucus Action Teams** -- Teams formed in October, so this is a good point to discuss progress and any adjustments needed. Original teams were:

- **Curriculum and the Environment** – now morphed into a newly reformed Ponderosa Group; still settling on a name for the group. Two potlucks have been held with discussion about the original work of the Ponderosa group with its lasting reputation and impact. The team’s overall goal is to expand curricular efforts around sustainability. One example: building a community of practice that would go beyond what happens in the classroom and university to the community, developing a more comprehensive student experience, i.e. Bringing community into the curriculum.

  The group will meet again early in the fall semester. So far the group has focused on the big picture and is starting to condense around some key ideas. They hope to invite speakers through a professional development series.

- **Advocacy for ACUP Climate Commitment** – Recycling initiatives took a large amount of the group’s focus initially. Since an ACUP Climate Commitment report is due in the fall, this will focus action team direction.

  The Environmental Caucus Steering Committee will be meeting with Rich Bowen (June 8, 11:00 am, ARD Small Pod) to better understand the
campus direction on this initiative, as well as to determine objectives and how the Caucus can help. ACUP Climate Commitment team members should contact Shelley if interested in attending this meeting.

Google “ACUPCC” to learn more about this initiative and check on how NAU is doing so far in meeting its objectives.

• **NAU’s Environmental Identity**: This team has focused on developing the Environment website and working with University Marketing on highlighting NAU’s sustainability work. See above for additional info regarding current activities. This is a small group that has been very active and invites new participants.

• **Students and the Environmental Experience**: Created a Facebook page. Started a Student Environmental Caucus. Richard Baron has a table at Freshman orientations this summer. There is potential for developing partnerships with the curriculum group, identity, and the ACUP action teams. The Student Environmental Caucus can serve as the clearinghouse for marketing the sustainability activities of students and student groups.

• **Sustainability Conferences and Seminars** – Not much progress so far – this group has only met once. Some ideas included partnering with some of the existing series and conferences.

• **Partnerships and Collaboration** – Has only met once in combination with the above group.

Discussion on improving Action Team structure: A designated leader or point person? Reporting back to the Caucus? Meeting times? Change the structure of the Caucus to allow for more time in the Action Teams? Let each team decide what works best for them?

The Caucus decided to continue with the current format of using the last 30 minutes for the Action Teams, being more careful to keep the rest of the meeting to one hour by sending announcements out via e-mail. All action teams need to have a contact person. By the fall, each team should list objectives on the Environmental Caucus website, perhaps rolled into a list of overall objectives for the Caucus. In general, the teams are working well and activity is happening where the greatest energy is. Some groups are meeting outside of Caucus meetings as needed.

Action Teams met at the end of the meeting.

NOTE: The Caucus will not meet in July. The next meeting is Monday, August 3 at noon in the ARD Large Pod.