

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 13, 2008

Location: University Union, Havasupai C

Present: Dina Barnese, Stan Clark, Karin VonKay, Terri Hayes, Marcelle Coder, Robin Long, Kim Knowles, Steve Saville, Eva Hatchner, Tom Carpenter, Franklyn Taylor, Sharon Gorman

Ex Officio & Guests: Gay Spivey, Program Coordinator for Mountain Line Transit, Matt Ryan, County Board of Supervisors

Excused: David Forgues, Susan Johnstad

1. Call to Order

Dina Barnese called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and introduced our guests.

2. Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA)

In 2000 a transit tax was passed in Flagstaff which funded more extensive bus routes. Since that time ridership has steadily increased (approximately 6 times as many riders in 2007 as compared to 2001) and the average cost per customer has been reduced. This tax is scheduled to expire in 2010. Gay Spivey presented information about upcoming propositions 401 – 405. The propositions will appear on the May ballot. Citizens will have the opportunity to extend the current bus service by approving proposition 401. If proposition 401 does not pass, the Mountain Line service will be discontinued on June 30, 2010. This would include the services provided by Mountain Lift (formerly VanGo). Additionally, if proposition 401 does not pass, propositions 402 – 405 will not be implemented.

- Proposition 402 would allow Mountain Line to purchase hybrid buses.
- Proposition 403 would connect downtown service through the “spine” of NAU to Woodlands Village.
- Proposition 404 would extend service to several underserved areas in Flagstaff (e.g., Railroad Springs, Foxglenn, Industrial Road, and Switzer Canyon).
- Proposition 405 would add more frequent bus service on the most highly used routes, reducing waiting times and overcrowding.

If all five propositions are approved, the tax rate would be 1.721% vs. the current rate of 1.601%. The sales tax rates in other major Arizona cities currently range from 2-3%.

More information about the propositions can be found at: www.mountainline2008vote.info

Matt Ryan, an elected official, did solicit support of these propositions from the group. All were invited to become more involved by contacting him. Any NAU students who are eligible to vote can submit ballots before they leave for the summer.

Eva Hatchner volunteered to write an article of support to be included in the upcoming SPAC newsletter and will contact Inside NAU about informing the NAU community about how these propositions might affect the campus community.

3. Budget

Eva Hatchner updated the group on the state of the pending budget cuts and the strategic priorities. A strategic priorities overview can be found at: www.nau.edu/getinvolved The priorities for the institution have been informed by the NAU community, the University Cabinet, the Strategic Planning Council, ABOR, State Representatives.

4. Climate Commitment Webcast

Marcelle Coder attended the webcast, sponsored by Kathe Shinham, about NAU's climate commitment. The webcast focused on success stories at other institutions such as the Los Angeles Community College District and the University of Florida. A summary of the webcast is included as an addendum to the minutes. A follow up webcast is scheduled for early April.

5. Committee Reports

Annual meeting/mixer

Planning moving along well. Dessert will be served.

Leadership Award

Dina shared that any cash gift provided to the winner of the leadership award will be treated as income and subsequently taxed on the employee's paycheck. Discussion was held about whether this necessitated a change in plans for this year's recipient. It was decided that a donation to the person's favorite charity is the preferred option. If that cannot be arranged in the next couple of weeks, a gift card of \$125 will be awarded. Eva will follow up about donating to a charity in someone's name and report back.

Dina will send another email out about the award. To date, two nominations have been received.

EDSF Funds

The deadline to apply for EDSF funds for professional development is April 14. Decisions on awarding the money will be made at the end of April. Payment for the training must take place before July 1, 2008. Stan encouraged applicants to clearly indicate on the application how the training would benefit the greatest number of individuals.

SPAC Website

The announcements have been made the home page for the SPAC website. Any upcoming announcements that you would like to add, simply contact Dina.Barnese@nau.edu

5. Action Items

- Eva to pursue an article about propositions 401 – 405
- Eva to work with the NAU Foundation office to inquire about making a donation in someone's name
- Dina to send an email announcing Leadership Award

Meeting adjourned: 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting: April 10, 2008. 8:30 a.m. Location: University Union, Havasupai C

Respectfully submitted, Terri Hayes, Recording Secretary

Addendum – Summary of climate Commitment Webcast

Climate Commitment Webcast

2/27/08

In June, 2007, President Haeger signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/> , which commits the university to taking specific steps toward climate neutrality (see the document at <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php>).

On February 27, Kathe Shinham, VP for Administration and Finance, sponsored NAU's participation in a webcast titled "Commit to Change—Leading Your Campus Towards Climate Neutrality", presented by NACUBO (National Association of College and University Business Officers). This was a panel presentation with four speakers from colleges and university systems that have signed on to the climate commitment. They talked about their strategies to reach carbon neutrality while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Some of their successes were remarkable.

Highlights

Larry Eisenberg, Executive Director for Facilities Planning and Development at the Los Angeles Community College District (the largest higher education system in the country) talked about the many innovative energy solutions they've instituted on a large scale (e.g., new types of electricity generation for the entire system), and showed that by including federal energy credits, utility company incentives, bulk procurement, and other creative financing solutions, they had been able to run their photovoltaic system for 10 cents on the dollar. They expect to be off the grid by the end of this year!

Ed Poppell, VP for Business Affairs at the University of Florida, showed how UF had used a football game to get the carbon neutral message across. The carbon footprint for the game (including travel costs, use of hotels, and running the stadium) was offset by planting a large area of pine trees that would offset this amount. By announcing it at the well-attended football game, the university gained attention for this message.

F. Robert Huth, Executive VP and Treasurer, Middlebury College, talked about how they were converting much of their dependence on heating oil to biomass, and by planting large

stands of willows were expecting to be able to supply much of their own biomass in the next four years.

There will be another webcast about calculating a carbon footprint aired in early April. Kathe Shiham will again open this to the broader NAU community.