

SC Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes
10am-noon ET
November 12th, 2022

1000 Introductions

All present listed: Name, location, class year, good part of the week

Vote to Approve 3/26/22 Meeting Minutes

- Approved without objection

Vote to Approve Meeting Agenda

- Approved without objection

1005 Updates from Subcommittee Chairs

1010 Membership and Nominations Subcommittee (Abe Kruger)

- Membership has had no real action as of late
- Student membership
 - John Petersen is aware that we are looking for more students
 - John and Sadie Seaman will be interacting with Students the most and will seek participants for the Steering Committee
 - Professor Cindy Frantz is coming back from London in spring, and she would also be a good source of nominees

1015 Fellowship Subcommittee (kristajegger@gmail.com)

- In the final meeting with the Fellows, they were grateful and positive, overall a successful program!
 - Jeyoon worked hard with outreach over the summer and thoroughly documented the fellow procedure to be used going forward
- Plans to learn from implementing fellows this coming year
 - We would like to modify process, specifically timing of processing applications and admission
 - Confirming and modify process before the next cycle with early January being the beginning next process
- We should try to confirm with college as early as possible about dispersal for funds
 - Clarification and miscommunication led to expectation mishap this time around
 - We want to be able to tell Fellows, “We are expecting to see funds around X date.”
- Reports from fellows who have completed their work will be put on the Google Drive and the website

- Fellows could possibly present their work/report to the college if they plan to continue working on it during the following school year

1030 Communications Subcommittee (safyone@gmail.com)

- Challenges finding a meeting time that works for everyone
- Got an article in the alumni magazine (yay!) celebrating 20 years of EnviroAlums
- We brainstormed some channels to get known
 - Big list of interested Alumni but currently no plan of action in contacting them
 - Alumni magazine
 - ENVS digest and newsletters
- Communications team is currently trying to get an interview with manager of sustainability, Heather Adelman
 - Attempted meeting to place transcript of interview into The Review and ENVS newsletter
 - Struggling to meet with Ms. Adelman, who now says she wants the interview to be a Q and A written session, rather than face to face.
 - We should find ways to incorporate fellows into the Careers in the Environment events
 - Possibly EnviroAlums panel of career opportunities and other ways to get involved during the year. Phil Singerman will present a proposal for this panel to the SC.

1035 Finance Subcommittee (Abe Kruger)

- Still looking for Chair for the subcommittee!
 - Committee is focused on having conversations about long term financial goals
- Finance information up to date in the Policies and Procedures document
- Abe to email Brian Browne about expected time between disbursement request and disbursement dates.
- We are the only alumni group with an endowment, so it takes a long time to figure out an answer because we are a unique entity

1040 Fundraising

- We should prioritize our efforts onto one fundraising event. We also must have more non-ask communications with our community
- Fundraising information is up to date in the Policies and Procedures document.
- For the fundraising donation page, there is a drop down menu that can list Operating Account, Endowment, or “other.” We will be specific or edit menu based on need for that year
- We are on the college’s fiscal year July 1st to June 30th but can campaign and fundraise anytime during the year

- February communication to our “membership” about funding
- April on Earth Day, kick off fundraising campaign
- June-July 2021 and 2022 campaigns both pulled in around \$8,000 each...meaning consistent donations!
- Current Finances as of 10/11
 - Operating Account (26148): \$8,661.47
 - “Estimated endowment spend available balance:” \$7,326.44
 - Together \$15,987.91

1050 **Discuss/vote on draft budget**

Proposed Budget

- Summer Fellow: 3 x \$3,500 = \$10,500
- On campus fellow: \$1,000
- Misc. Request: \$4,500
 - This past year we had 5 fellows. If there are a lot of applications again, we can use unspent “misc. request” money for Fellows.
- We overspent last year so now we need to lay out priorities of what needs to be done and what we should allocate money towards the most. Fellowships remain the top priority.
- General consensus that the priority is the fellows themselves with directly funding students receiving a lot of support as secondary priority
- Up to the full steering committee to go through misc. requests carefully
- The Fellowships committee has been trying to go as high as possible to make sure that students had the money to do an internship in their field and not have to take other employment in summer, too.

1100 **Oberlin in London Climate Resilient & C-Neutral Grant Request** (Abe Kruger)

- Student run initiative to buy Carbon credits
- John is asking if we will cover the GoFundMe gap of \$656
- Coming from Misc. budget
- Very unique learning and experiential piece of Oberlin in London
- Some hesitation due to lack of information on specifics of Carbon credits to be purchased
- When considering priorities of funding there are two criteria;
 - Do we want to get into the business of funding carbon offsets?
 - If student led and integrated into curriculum, it falls more into line with our goals but otherwise it’s not.
 - Carbon offsets have a lot of research that is required so it is murky water
- Most are hesitant
 - Some felt this deviates from the core mission of directly supporting students
 - Could be the start of a slippery slope into the carbon offset business.

- We reviewed the organization’s stated purpose in Bylaws. Historically, there was a lot more emphasis on supporting the ENVIS department. Goals may change from time to time based on evolving SC membership
 - Mission being so closely tied to fellowship is new but helped with getting alumni involved in EnviroAlums.

1115 Motion to Decline Request

Discussion:

- Issues of verifiability and not given information on where they are going to invest
 - A counter offer of a smaller amount was proposed as a way to support the initiative while keeping to our goals.
- There is precedent for supporting carbon offsets as we have approved \$100 for carbon credits for the Connect Cleveland program in 2021.
- Mission statement is broader than just fellows, so it still is within our goals.
- Consensus that we should have a conversation on Carbon Offset support in general and whether or not we want to make a policy decision of supporting such funding requests.

Issues to sort through include:

- Is the funding request because the College has made a commitment to something, there’s a unique learning experience, or for people to feel better about their actions?
- “We will support the credits given x,y,z”
- Proposed rubric for evaluating whether to support specific carbon credits
- Issue of Carbon offsets and other projects could fall under the financing committee
- Bigger discussion of updating bylaws in the works
 - Maybe not amending bylaws but setting goals for the year that way there is flexibility
 - Focused mission statement for the short horizon

1130 Motion is to offer \$100 as support to the Climate Resilient & C-Neutral Oberlin in London group.

- **Unanimous agreement**

1135 Sunniva Sheffield Funding Request To Work on Living Machine and New Maintenance Curriculum

- Document says most of it
- What is the deadline for the student needing an answer?
 - This is essentially a fellowship funding request
 - Out of schedule but possibly something to look into
 - Document has a lot of questions we aren't able to answer right now.
- \$3,500 is the fellow cap
 - Isn't the maintenance of the living machine up to the College?

- Who is responsible for updating procedures?
 - Should this be something we fund or should this go to the College?
 - Is there urgency to the proposed work?
 - In line with specificity?
 - The amount of detail in the application is in line with typical fellow applications. If we see her as a fellow now, do we aim for lower budget in the summer/spring
 - If there were fellow applications that left questions then they would follow up with questions, something to look into
 - Support from two people involved (one being John) suggests that there is a need for more organization in that area
- Rather than treating it like a fellowship, flip it and work with John to come up with a list of items that we are contracting them to do
 - Contract work to get things done as an alternative to the fellowship model
- Fellowship committee will take their request and come back with recommendations
 - Use the cap of \$3500 as other fellowships or be willing to go higher?
 - Even split
 - Expected deadline?
 - Not currently, they are graduating in December

1150 Circling Back to Budget

- Where to pencil in Sunneva's request?
 - Paul - Misc. because we don't want to subtract from what we have set aside for other fellowships
- Big picture: \$10,500 cap for fellowship

1155 **Motion to approve proposed budget while leaving room with proviso that "Misc. The Requested budget can be used to fund Sunneeva or any other misc. requests throughout fiscal year**

- **Unanimously Approved**

1200 **EnviroAlums + ALC Career Committee Joint Event Update** (sseaman2@oberlin.edu)

1205 **Careers and the Environment Series**

- Planning for spring semester
- Reaching out to speakers soon
- Sadie will be relying on Rumi and Walt for help in this task
- Zoom is more sustainable than an in person only event

- Hybrid set up
- Informal meet and greet
 - January/February meet and greet!
 - Possible to do it on an alumni week/reunion week
- Zoom watch party with pizza

1210 **Nathalie Miebach**

- “Her work is such a perfect confluence of all things Oberlin.”
- Potential reach out for speaker series
- Art and the environment event to be considered as a program? Can we get interested alumni?

1215 **Oberlin Divest Steering Committee Update** (whgalloway@verizon.net)

- <https://www.oberlin.edu/investment>
- Working group got the board of trustees to pass an agreement to renew commitment to achieve carbon neutrality
- Group involved decided that they want to brainstorm a continuing roll in terms of cooperating with student center projects on campus in the area of sustainability

New Business

- Michael Rossotto contacted by senior Obie expressed frustrated that students can't contact alumni
- Career services does not have good tools for that
- Proposed that each of SC members provide a short bio with where they work and live as well as availability for mentoring, etc. Abe to email Brian Browne's successor.
- Wisier is not widely used and is going away for Oblie Links

1220 Adjourn