

EnviroAlums (E)  
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting  
20 September 2003  
Lewis Center  
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Present: Susan Bernat, Claire Jahns, Rosalyn Johnson, Michael Lythcott, Julie Maxon, Carl McDaniel, Michael Murry, John Petersen, Paul Treuhft

Absent: Michael Bobker, Mira Inbar, Erik Jansson, Peter Lavigne, Peter Racher, Pat Tarnow

Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Carl McDaniel and Rosalyn Johnson were asked and agreed to continue as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. They were unanimously elected for one year terms.

Name change: Nobody really liked our original name of Oberlin Environmental Education Alumni Association (OEEAA). When we found out from the Alumni Office that we had flexibility in the name (i.e., it did not have to contain Oberlin and Alumni Association), the SC unanimously adopted EnviroAlums (E) as the affiliate group's name, a name suggested at our first SC meeting in September 2002.

Housekeeping functions:

1. Michael Murry and John Petersen will up-date and manage E's email list. The Chair and Vice Chair will monitor for inappropriate and too much use.
2. John Petersen will manage the website and Carl McDaniel (and other SC members, if they wish) will check content and organization, making suggestions to John as needed.
3. Claire Jahns will update E's membership form and pass it by Julie Maxson, Rosalyn Johnson, and John Petersen to be sure it has all the needed information we wish to have in the E database that Julie Maxson will compile (See, Things to Do in the Coming Year, 2. below). John will then put it on our website. This membership form will be enclosed in the mailing we will make to the membership this fall, to be returned with dues and information for creating E's database.

Things to Do in the Coming Year:

1. Carl McDaniel will research the history, current status, and items in the college's environmental policy that is now on President's Dye's desk and communicate this information to the SC. Then he will send a letter to President Dye on behalf of E giving our support for Oberlin having a strong environmental policy. Prior to sending, the letter will be approved by the SC. The letter will also ask when President Dye expects the policy to become effective and how E can help the approval and implementation. All SC members will then write to President Dye and Trustees with support and questions based upon her response to Carl's letter. The membership of E will be appraised of the situation and

encouraged to support the policy as appropriate. Consensus of the SC and of the attendees at the Climate Justice Summer School was that Oberlin needs an environmental policy and that its adoption and implementation are a top priority for E.

2. Julie Maxson will create a database for E's membership including basic information (address, email, phone, occupation, environmental interests) and willingness to do: J-term project, internships, campus or regional alumni club speaker (topic provided), career counselor, advise students on graduate school. Julie Maxson working with Susan Bernat will coordinate with the campus Career Office and other campus programs the use of E members' talents. The database will then be accessible on E's website to Oberlin alumni.

3. The Alumni Magazine is an excellent vehicle for keeping the wider Oberlin community abreast of environmental issues. Carl McDaniel will work with Kelly Viancourt, editor of the Alumni Magazine, to have environmental articles published regularly. Rosalyn Johnson with Michael Lythcott will write an article on the current status of environmental issues and submit it to Kelly Viancourt for possible publication.

4. All SC members will work on recruiting members to E by contacting classmates and others who they believe would be interested and want to help with E's various projects. Special effort needs to be made to increase diversity in the membership and on the SC.

5. The Alumni Association is interested in increasing the number of regional events. To this end, Claire Jahns and Rosalyn Johnson will organize a Chicago regional event coordinating the planning with the Alumni Office and the regional coordinator. Each SC member is encouraged to contact the Alumni Office to explore the idea of doing one in their region. An excellent topic would be Oberlin's environmental policy when it is formally approved.

6. Rosalyn Johnson will coordinate an environmental careers session at the next Alumni Council weekend in fall 2004.

7. Carl McDaniel will ask John Schaefer to contact Professor Katy Janda to see if John and Katy can work together on John's suggestion of measuring and reporting on the thermal energy and electricity usage for each of the college residence halls.

Carl N. McDaniel  
26 September 2003