
OSCALums

Oberlin Student Cooperative Association Alumni Association

Charter

OSCA is what makes Oberlin Oberlin.

M. Youngberg, '08

Eating at Gray Gables and Pyle Inn in the late 1950's and early '60s was one of the most important experiences of my college years.

M. Lipsky '61

Background:

Co-ops have been part of student life at Oberlin College since 1930, with the first living and dining co-op approved by the college in the fall of 1950. Founded on cooperative ideal with social and political goals, these co-ed co-ops sought to prepare “productive, resourceful members of a democratic society” while actualizing Oberlin College’s motto of “Learning and Labor.”

Formally incorporated in 1962, the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association grew over the next half century to become the second largest student cooperative in North America. At Oberlin, OSCA members resiliently managed housing and dining cooperatives in 16 different locations, and over the last 60 years OSCA’s student-lead co-ops have served as laboratories for leadership, grassroots democracy, and community-building as well as incubators of entrepreneurship, business development and creativity. Today 20% of Oberlin students belong to OSCA so that principals learned and practiced in OSCA co-ops positively influence, and add to, the Oberlin experience.

Upon leaving Oberlin, OSCA alumni vigorously pursue personal and professional lives directly and indirectly influenced by their co-op experiences. OSCA is often credited as being among the most important and enduring element of many members’ educational and social experience at Oberlin.

OSCALums Guiding Statements:

We believe a thriving Oberlin needs a vital OSCA.

As alumni who have benefited from OSCA’s 90-year legacy of participatory democracy, we have formed an alumni affiliate group to assist with, and advocate for, OSCA and OSCA members’ experience at Oberlin College.

We believe an effective OSCALums affiliate group furthers the capacity of a supported OSCA.

To that end, OSCALums will:

1. Work individually, and as a group, in cooperation with current OSCA students and staff.
2. Organize independently from OSCA, but will always work in coordination and with approval.
3. Solicit feedback on program, fundraising and networking direction(s) so as to ensure that efforts are in service of the needs of OSCA and its members.

OSCALums Purpose:

OSCALums is committed to the following:

1. Encourage Alumni participation, via financial contribution and participatory engagement, to strengthen OSCA as a critical asset of Oberlin College and Conservatory.
2. Enhance the long-term sustainability of OSCA by providing support and continuity for OSCA leadership and programmatic initiatives.
3. Promote research and fellowships that strengthens and champions OSCA and enhances OSCA's impact on communities in Oberlin and beyond.
4. Sponsor events and programs that support OSCA and advance opportunities for personal, educational and professional exchange between alumni and current OSCA members.
5. Support experiences for democratic discussion and create awareness of systems of oppression by building opportunities for creative participation and empowerment.
6. Promote understanding of, and appreciation for, OSCA's financial model of parity and equitable control of capital.
7. Facilitate open communication with the Alumni Leadership Council, Oberlin Alumni office and Oberlin College governance bodies.
8. Support OSCA's collaboration with local, regional, national and international networks of cooperatives, and share ideas from cooperative movements at large and in the world.

OSCALums Membership:

Membership is open to any OSCA Alumni who have participated in a living or dining co-op while at Oberlin College and Conservatory who wishes to support OSCA. We additionally seek to include at least 2 current OSCA Members or Officers currently at Oberlin, and 2 recently graduated OSCA Officers or OSCA Members, within OSCALums committee work and leadership.

We will intentionally seek a membership that reflects a diversity of Oberlin's student body, but also recognize that members contribute to the organization in different ways. We believe that everyone in the OSCA community can and should contribute to OSCA's long term sustainability and success to the best of their ability.

Membership in OSCALums is free. However, members and others are encouraged to contribute generously to OSCALums as it is our collective responsibility to be careful stewards to ensure that OSCA, and Oberlin College and Conservatory, will be here for many members to come.

OSCAIums Founding Committee 2020

Alumni

Laura Baring-Gould, '89 Tank, Fairchild, Old Barrows (*Leftovers Coordinator, Menu Planner, Crew*)

John Colborn, '86 Tank, Harkness, Baldwin, Fairchild, Old Barrows (*Granola Maker, Crew, All-OSCA Treasurer '84-'85, All-OSCA President '85-'86*)

Adam Sorkin, '04 Keep, Pyle Inn (*All-OSCA Cleanliness Coordinator '01-'02, All-OSCA Treasurer '03-'04*)

Janet Stocks, '79, '90 Harkness, Tank (*Treasurer '78-'79, Co-op Area Coordinator '84-'90*)

Tara Wells, '18 Harkness (*Harkness Kitch-Co Spring '16, All-OSCA President '16-'17, Harkness Long-Range Planning Committee Rep Spring '18*)

John Petersen '88 Baldwin, Fairchild, Tank, Old Barrows (*Co-founder Oberlin Bike Coop '85, OSCA Faculty Advisor '03-present*)

Current OSCA Members

Graduating and Outgoing OSCA Officers

Sheng Kao, '20 Third World Co-op (*TWC Treasurer, TWC Food Buyer, all-OSCA Winter Term Treasurer '19, all-OSCA Membership Secretary '18-'19, all-OSCA Treasurer '19-'20*)

Bhairavi Mehra, '21, Pyle, Keep, Third World Co-op, Third World Social Justice, Old Barrows, (*All-OSCA Membership Sec. '19-'20, All-OSCA Accessibility Coordinator '19, OSCA Sexual Harm Info Liaison '18-'19*)

Rian Szende, '20 Third World Co-op, Third World Social Justice (*Board Rep, DLEC, CleanCo, FSC, HLEC, MemCo, Winter MemSec, All-OSCA Chair of the Board '19-'20*)

Teagan Webb, '20 Fairchild, Pyle, Brown Bag (*Fairchild Board Representative '16-'17, All-OSCA Chair of the Board '17-'19, OSCA/ OC Liaison '19, All-OSCA President '19-'20*)

Incoming OSCA Officers

Mia Fox, '21 Tank, Keep (*Tank AccessCo '17-18, Tank HLEC'17-'18, Keep HLEC '19-'20, OSCA Membership Secretary '20-'21*)

Pearl Puzak, '21 Pyle, Old Barrows (*Granola Maker, Pyle Inn Food Safety Coordinator '19, All OSCA Cleanliness and Maintenance Coordinator '19, OSCA Chair of the Board '20-'21*)

Philip Swigon, '22 Pyle (*Food Safety Coordinator 2018-2019, All-OSCA Cleanliness and Maintenance Coordinator '19-'20, All-OSCA President '20-'21*)

OSCALums Bylaws

General Overview

The activities of OSCA Alums will be the responsibility of a Steering Committee and three (3) Programmatic Committees which work together to achieve the purpose of OSCALums:

Steering Committee

OSCA Initiatives

Programs & Events

Communications & Outreach

OSCALums Governance

OSCALums will be governed by current members through a process of Standing Rules and Rules of Order that adhere to the Rochdale Principals.

1. Each year, an Annual Meeting will be held by the Steering Committee (virtual or in person). The meeting will be open to all members of OSCALums. The meeting agenda shall include:
 - a. Presentation and adoption, by a two-thirds vote, OSCALums Standing Rules and Rules of Order with any proposed amendments or changes
 - b. Nomination and election of all committee members (Steering & Programmatic)
 - c. Nomination and election of committee chairs or co-chairs for all committees
 - d. Review of membership status on all committees with discussion and votes about term limits, departing members and term extensions
 - e. Election of a Treasurer at the expiration of the Treasurer's term
 - f. Review of committee reports (Steering, Treasurer, Programmatic)
 - g. Review and adoption of program plans and budget for the upcoming year
2. All four (4) committees will hold quarterly meetings, at minimum, virtually or in person, to focus on standing work and initiatives.
3. OSCALums' governance will draw on the experience and expertise of OSCA Alumni and current OSCA Members.

OSCALums Committee Membership, Criteria & Terms

1. OSCALum committee membership will include both OSCA Alumni and current OSCA members.
2. At least 2 current OSCA Members or Officers currently at Oberlin, and 2 recently graduated OSCA Officers or OSCA Members, will be included in committee work and leadership.
3. Alumni members who wish to support OSCA shall be nominated for two (2) year terms; Student Members shall be nominated for one (1) year terms.
4. OSCALums OSCA Student Committee Members may seek additional a one (1) year or two (2) term extension upon graduation or leaving Oberlin. Actively engaged Alumni may seek an additional extension of a two (2) year term to sit for a three (3) year term.
5. Each of the OSCALums committees shall be organized so leadership and ideas can grow and be sustained. To that end, all committee chairs are expected to rotate off after three terms so that others may serve and new members (OSCA student Officers and Alumni) will be continually encouraged to participate in all OSCALum committees.
6. All committee members are expected to meaningfully participate in the work of OSCALums. Lack of participation without notice in two or more consecutive committee meetings may prompt a request from the Steering Committee Co-Chairs that the member resign from the committee.

OSCALums Committee Structure

Steering Committee:

1. **2 Co-Chairs** will direct the Steering Committee and be responsible for administering the overall activities of OSCALums.
 - a. Two (2) members of the Steering Committee shall be current OSCA Members /Oberlin students and/or recent OSCA Members, optimally having served as elected OSCA Officers (President, Membership Director, Treasurer or Chair of the Board), but also open to any recent member of OSCA.
 - b. Co-Chairs shall serve for one (1) year terms and may be elected for as many as three (3) consecutive terms.
 - c. Co-Chairs or a designee shall manage meetings, record minutes and make yearly reports.
 - d. A Co-Chair or its designee shall be the representative of the OSCALums on the Alumni Leadership Council whenever that opportunity presents itself.
2. **A Treasurer** (or if desired a shared position of 2 Co-Treasurers) will be elected for a two (2) year term and will be responsible for conducting the financial affairs of OSCALums and coordinating financial activities with the Alumni Office. The Treasurer will be responsible for the following:
 - a. Quarterly statements of OSCALums donations, expenses and current balance
 - b. Yearly statements to analyze the next year's financial capacity of OSCALums
3. **Chairpersons or representatives of the 3 Programmatic Committees** will participate on the Steering Committee to guide and implement OSCALums programs.
4. **At large members** will also participate in the Steering Committee as per interest / involvement.

Additional Responsibilities of the Steering Committee:

1. **Oversight of intern:** As funds allow, the Steering Committee shall oversee at least one OSCALums Intern, preferably an OSCA member, during each semester of the academic year, supervised by a representative from an OSCALum Steering Committee to work closely with current OSCA Officers, OSCA Faculty Advisor, Oberlin Alumni Office and/or representatives of OSCALums programmatic committees.
 - a. The Intern will serve as a liaison with current OSCA officers and members to implement operational and programmatic opportunities.
 - b. The Intern will facilitate communication with OSCALums, members of the Steering Committee, Programmatic Committee and/or general membership.
2. **Authorization of expenses:**
 - a. All proposed expenses by OSCALums must be approved by the Oberlin College Office of Alumni Relations and the Controller's Office.
 - b. Each Co-Chair and Treasurer has the authority to recommend routine expenses of \$500.00 or less.
 - c. The SC shall be consulted and must vote to recommend expenses exceeding \$500.00.
3. **Appointment of new members:** New members to any OSCALums committee may be appointed on an as-needed basis by simple majority vote of the Steering Committee to maintain a critical mass for conducting OSCALums business and to welcome interested members.
4. **Oversight of Standing Rules:** The Steering Committee will oversee the Standing Rules which govern OSCALums. Any member may suggest revision of OSCALums Standing Rules to the Steering Committee Co-Chairs, whereupon a study committee may be formed to review such changes. With simple majority approval, amendments can be brought to the Annual Meeting for final consideration.

OSCA Initiatives Committee:

The **OSCA Initiatives Committee** will provide support and continuity for OSCA and OSCA members in the following ways:

1. Provide support and continuity for OSCA Officers, OSCA concerns and OSCA leadership
2. Provide support and continuity for OSCA initiatives and special projects
3. Provide access to funding, support and mentorship for OSCA-based research and fellowships programs that explore the value of OSCA and cooperative democratic organizations.

Programs & Events Committee:

The **Programs and Events Committee** will design and fund programs that actively promote OSCA, support the preparation of Oberlin students for careers that build on expertise and passions gained in their co-op experiences, and affirm the commitment that OSCA alumni have to OSCA and Oberlin College and Conservatory.

1. Programs may include: Speakers series, alumni-facilitated seminars and workshops, Winter Term Projects (on and off campus) and activities related to OSCALums-sponsored career development programs.
2. Programs will also focus on alumni engagement through events at graduation / reunion and in regional gatherings throughout the country.

Communications & Outreach Committee:

The **Communications and Outreach Committee** is responsible for regularly sharing information with OSCALums membership and the greater Oberlin community.

1. Assemble material (OSCALums Fellowship reports, OSCA members journalism initiatives, summaries and photographs from OSCALum speakers, events, programs, WT Projects, career mentorship, graduation and OSCA reunion, alumni networking and profiles) for biannual newsletter
2. Coordinate with Alumni Office for production guidelines, review and final distribution schedule.
3. Coordinate the promotion of OSCALums through social media and other methods.
4. Compile an Annual Report from these materials and other noteworthy events of the year.

Revision of Bylaws

Changes in the OSCALum Bylaws may be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the OSCALum Steering Committee, with all changes presented to the Oberlin College Alumni Leadership Council for final review and approval.

Any member may suggest a bylaws revision to the Steering Committee Co-Chairs. At the Co-Chair's discretion, a study committee may be formed to make a presentation and a recommendation to the Steering Committee for its consideration.

Original date of submission: June 26, 2020, with Final Revisions July 22, 2020