

EnviroAlums
Steering Committee Meeting
Lewis Center, 2nd floor conference room
20 September 2008; 4:00 to 6:20 PM

Present: Andrew Barnett, Kristin Braziunas, Walt Galloway, Michael Lythcott, Carl
McDaniel, John Petersen, Pat Cobb Tarnow

Teleconference: Susan Bernat, Michael Bobker, Chris Brown, Andrew deCoriolis, Karen
Florini (Board Liaison), Lewis Gilbert, Peter Lavigne, Rob Stenger

Absent: Meredith Dowling, Mira Inbar, Gavin Platt, John Schaefer, Naomi Sabel, Bonnie
Yelverton

Guest: Nathan Engstrom (Sustainability Coordinator)

Passing of Eric Jansson, 1962

Bonnie Yelverton compiled a PDF with 3 remembrances/obituaries, 2 documents Erik wrote for EnviroAlums, and an email from him with some links, and a couple of websites about lawns that is on E's website (www.oberlin.edu/envs/oeaa/). Eric's most recent contribution on behalf of EnviroAlums was information that could help Oberlin College reduce or eliminate its pesticide and fertilizer use. Perhaps the best way to honor Erik is to continue this effort to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizer at Oberlin.

E annual report to Alumni Council

Carl McDaniel emailed prior to the meeting E's annual report to Alumni Council (posted on E's website).

Appointment of SC Members

Kristin Braziunas, Lewis Gilbert, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, and John Schaefer were appointed to class of 2011.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Andrew deCoriolis and Carl McDaniel were nominated and unanimously elected Vice-Chair and Chair, respectively, for the coming year.

Environmental Careers Speaker Series

E approved \$500 for academic year 2008-09. John Petersen and Carl McDaniel will work together and with students to bring 2-4 alums to campus to speak and interact with students. E will coordinate this program with Career Services to increase student awareness and participation.

Report from Oberlin's Sustainability Coordinator

Nathan Engstrom provided E SC members with a two page summary of major sustainability actions/accomplishments in the past four years and the 2008-09 Work Plan for the Office of Environmental Sustainability. He then discussed the challenge of attaining climate neutrality and noted that the College must have its Campus Climate Action Plan completed by 15 Sept 2009 that will assess current emissions, develop indicators and targets, and set a target date for carbon neutrality. Nathan also provided a pamphlet entitled "field guide: Living Sustainably at Oberlin College" that covers much of what is happening at the college and in

the town to reduce Oberlin's ecological footprint. Information on sustainability at Oberlin is available at www.oberlin.edu/sustainability.

EnviroAlums Affiliate Group Reunion on Columbus Day weekend, October 9-12, 2009

Michael Bobker, Kristin Braziunas, Walt Galloway, Michael Lythcott, and Carl McDaniel agreed to be on the committee to head up the planning for the reunion. The Environmental Studies Department will hold its reunion at the same time, thereby making it a major event for all Oberlin. E will work with John Petersen, chair of Environmental Studies, to coordinate the weekend's events.

All EnviroAlums are encouraged to mark the dates on their calendars and to contact other Obies about the event. E plans to have many events online, and interactive to the extent possible, so people can be involved at remote sites, thereby increasing participation while not increasing substantially the reunion's overall ecological footprint. Coming to campus, however, does allow for interactions not otherwise possible, especially the opportunity to renew old and make new relations and to interact with Oberlin's environmentally motivated students and community.

E Endowment

E Endowment was officially established on June 30, 2008, with \$72,419 raised and an additional \$35,690 pledged over the next 4 years. These funds came from E SC and a small group of other individuals, most of who participated in the mock Climate Justice Challenge Campaign in the fall of 2006. In the near future, E plans to have a major campaign to increase the endowment substantially. Carl McDaniel had been working with Ernie Iseminger, V. P. for Development, on how best to proceed, when he resigned. Conversations are now underway with Mike Nolan, Acting V. P. for Development. Carl McDaniel will have recommendations on how to proceed at the SC meeting, March 2009.

With an anticipated \$2,000 from E Endowment income to spend, a total of \$6,000 was approved for a major project. Note: At the Spring 2008 SC meeting, \$4,000 was approved for supporting a major project.

This past summer Andrew deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, and Carl McDaniel drafted, with input from Nathan Engstrom, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for E's Endowment income. Nathan Engstrom, Carl McDaniel, and John Petersen will encourage students and others in the Oberlin community to respond to the RFP. The procedure for the coming year will be as approved at the Spring 2008 SC meeting: Proposals will be reviewed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and a recommendation will be made to the SC for approval.

Connecting Students to Alums Working in Environmental Areas

E SC has discussed this topic on numerous occasions. The Environmental Careers Speaker Series has been E's most successful approach to date. Career Services has two needs that E can help address: housing and internships. Walt Galloway and Andy Barnett will consider how to have E develop ways of identifying EnviroAlums who are willing to have students for J-term projects/internships; provide housing for students on J-terms, internships, or other activities; and procedures for maintaining an up-to-date database of the availability of this support that is integrated with and meets Career Services' needs. They will report to the March SC meeting on actions taken or to be taken.

E Strategic Planning and Visioning Committee

The last two years has seen a radical change in Oberlin's overall approach to environmental challenges. President Marvin Krislov has embraced climate neutrality as a major concern for Oberlin (college and town), the Sustainability Office under Nathan Engstrom's leadership has built upon years of student and faculty accomplishments to address the on-the-ground issues of implementing Oberlin's Environmental Policy, and the Trustees have had serious discussions and taken actions to reduce Oberlin's ecological footprint. The fall 2008 issue of the Alumni Magazine highlights the tip of the iceberg of environmental leadership exhibited by Oberlin Alums. The commitment of over \$100,000 in a period of just three months to establish the E Endowment indicates the level of potential financial support for "greening" Oberlin. In light of this sea change, EnviroAlums has a new and important role in making Oberlin the exemplar place for environmental education.

In November 2007, John Schaefer drafted a commentary as a place to begin a SC discussion of E's future direction. We intended to discuss strategic planning but time did not permit it. This will be a topic for the SC at its March 2009 meeting.

E and sustainability in the entire Oberlin community.

Achieving climate neutrality and a durable Oberlin community is a task for all, including those who have a hard time making ends meet. An anonymous donation of 10,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to Oberlin College fostered the Light Bulb Brigade led by Kristin Braziunas. The bulbs were exchanged for incandescent bulbs, 1 for 1. Most CFL bulbs are now in Oberlin houses, often in a home that had no compact fluorescent bulbs before the exchange.

POWER, Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly, is a new grassroots organization in Oberlin with leadership from college and town. POWER seeks to help low income households reduce energy use through efficiency and thereby reduce heat-trapping gas emissions from Oberlin housing.

E will explore ways to be involved with and a supporter of these types of initiatives.

SC Meetings in 2009

Saturday, 7 March 2008, time TBA, Lewis Center Conference Room

Saturday, 12 Sept 2009, time TBA, Lewis Center Conference Room

Respectfully submitted

Carl N. McDaniel '64

Chair, EnviroAlums