

EnviroAlums

Steering Committee Meeting

Lewis Center, 2nd floor conference room

25 September 2010; 12 noon to 2:30 PM

Present: Kristin Braziunas, Walt Galloway, Carl McDaniel, Pat Cobb Tarnow, Maggie Zimmer [in Lewis Center] and Andrew Barnett, Susan Bernat, Andrew deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, Lewis Gilbert, John Petersen, John Schaefer [via teleconference].

Absent: Michael Bobker, Anders Ferguson, and Rob Stenger.

Guest: David Orr (Professor, Environmental Studies Department)

E annual report to Alumni Council

Carl McDaniel emailed prior to the meeting E's annual report to Alumni Council that includes E's financial information (posted on E's website). A request will go out from the Chair and Vice Chair for annual dues and contributions to E's student fund and E's endowment before the SC meeting in March 2011.

Appointment of SC Members

Andy Barnett, Andrew deCoriolis, Walt Galloway, and Pat Cobb Tarnow appointed for 3 year terms and Maggie Zimmer for a 1 year term (student representative). (Subsequently Timothy Ballard '10 was appointed for a 3 year term.)

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Andrew Barnett 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 2010-11. Please contact Carl McDaniel if you know an Obie with significant accomplishments in an environmental field who wants to come to Oberlin to give a seminar and to discuss environmental careers with students. We can accommodate 2 or 3 speakers each academic year.

Affiliate Group Representative on Alumni Council Executive Board

Lewis Gilbert and Andy Barnett volunteered again to be considered in spring 2011 for an affiliate group seat on the Executive Board of the Alumni Council. If there are no other nominations/volunteers, Carl McDaniel will submit their names in early February 2011.

Funding and Tracking Funded Projects

Andrew deCoriolis proposed a revised Request for Proposals (RFP) that was emailed prior to the meeting. After comments and discussion, Lewis Gilbert and John Schaefer volunteered to work with Andrew to finalize the new RFP and to help create a tracking process for E funded projects. Andrew deCoriolis volunteered to receive RFPs and coordinate their review and tracking.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Lewis Center, 11-12 October 2010

John Petersen briefly reviewed the program for this major event to celebrate the history, influence, and spin-offs from the Lewis Center and to launch The Oberlin Project.

The program will begin Monday at 4 PM with a keynote address on the built environment by Rick Fedrizzi, president US Green Building Council followed at 8 PM by the first of three panels (The Adam Joseph Lewis Center at Ten!) featuring Kevin Burke and William McDonough (lead architects for AJLC) followed by stories of eight Obies inspired by their involvement with the Lewis Center. Panels II and III were held Tuesday morning (Greener Buildings to Sustainable Communities: A Dialogue; The Oberlin Project: Prosperity, Resilience, Security) followed by closing remarks given by Wendy Schmidt, Board President, The Cradle to Cradle Product Innovation Institute.

The Oberlin Project

David Orr gave a short presentation on the five major objectives of the Oberlin Project: 1) continue the revitalization of Oberlin's downtown catalyzed by the East College Street Project with the Green Arts District being the driver, 2) make the college and town climate positive, 3) create 20,000 acres of "green space" around Oberlin for agriculture, forestry, biofuels, and carbon sequestration, 4) link and coordinate the educational institutions in the area (Oberlin City Schools, Oberlin College, the Joint Vocational School, Lorain County Community College) to promote and educate for jobs in the context of environmental sustainability in a post, fossil fuel economy, and 5) bridge to the outside with a group of activities including Oberlin's (college and city) designation as a Clinton Foundation Climate Positive Program project, an ecological design center in the Green Arts District, and a model for a "bottom up" national security network of communities resilient with local energy generation and truncated supply lines for food and other materials provided locally.

John Schaefer commented on the importance of how the Oberlin Project is presented and promoted. In the long run, the Green Arts District will be the least important of the 5 objectives for promoting sustainability. It will be strategically important to figure out how not to focus on the Green Arts District, because if the Oberlin Project comes to be seen as the Green Arts District, it will be passed off as just another "college project" and not get the support/buy-in from the larger Oberlin community and beyond.

Friends of the Oberlin Project

Walt Galloway reviewed progress on establishing a group of people to provide financial and other support to enhance the successful launching of the Oberlin Project. Walt, Anders Ferguson, Bill Barlow (VP for Development and Alumni Affairs), and a few others have met several times over the summer. Anders Ferguson will give a short presentation in Panel III at the AJLC 10 year celebration proposing formation of the Friends of the Oberlin Project and a meeting of interested people will be held Tuesday afternoon directly following the conclusion of the celebration.

Steering Committee Members

Kristin Braziunas, Lewis Gilbert, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, and John Schaefer (expire in 2011); Susan Bernat, Meredith Dowling, Anders Ferguson (expire 2012); Timothy Ballard; Andy Barnett, Andrew deCoriolis, Walter Galloway, Pat Cobb Tarnow (expire in 2013); Maggie Zimmer (student representative, expires 2011)

Future SC Meetings

Saturday, 5 March 2011, time TBA, Lewis Center Conference Room.

Saturday, 24 September 2011, time TBA, Lewis Center Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted

Carl N. McDaniel '64

Chair, EnviroAlums