

EnviroAlums (E)
Steering Committee Meeting
11 September 2002
Lewis Center, Oberlin
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Present: Susan Bernat, Rachel Cohn (student representative), Erik Jansson, Michael Lythcott, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen (member and faculty liaison), Robert Stenger (student representative), Paul Treuhaft, and Pat Tarnow. David Orr joined the meeting for the lunch-time presentation by and discussion with students.

Absent: Michael Bobker, Mira Inbar, Claire Jahns, Rosalyn Johnson, Peter Lavigne (resigned as of September 2004), Julie Maxson, Peter Racher, Michael Murray,

Appointment of student Steering Committee members (term: 9/2004-9/2005): Rachel Cohn and Robert Stenger.

Appointment of Steering Committee members (term: 9/2004-9/2007): Michael Bobker, Walter Galloway, Erik Jansson, Michael Murry, Pat Tarnow, and Paul Treuhaft.

Election of chair and vice-chair: Carl McDaniel and Susan Bernat accepted positions of chair and vice-chair, respectively, for one year terms.

House keeping items: John Petersen agreed to complete work on E's email list and to update E's websites, and maintain them. He will have the Alumni Association and the Environmental Studies E websites linked and have them contain similar information. Rachel Cohn and Robert Stenger agreed to assist John Petersen in these tasks.

Things to do in the coming year:

1. Carl McDaniel will organize and coordinate with the Alumni Office a postal mailing to all E members and all alumni on the Alumni Association's list of alumni interested in environmental issues. This mailing will include:
 - a. Cover letter.
 - b. Solicitation of membership dues (\$20.00 minimum) and request additional donations to support student-coordinated activities for educating campus community about Oberlin College's Environmental Policy and for implementation of the Environmental Policy. The funds donated for this purpose would be held in E's account at the Alumni Office and administered by the Environmental Studies Program Committee. Possible student activities discussed included informational fliers, student orientation activities, rent of space to store recycled items such as chairs and electronic items, workshops, and speakers.
 - c. A two page paper that summarizes the Environmental Policy and that articulates the policy's ultimate goal. Erik Jansson will prepare this item.
 - d. A summary of recent student accomplishments and on-going projects related to the Environmental Policy. Robert Stenger and Rachel Cohn will prepare this item.

- e. Request for persons willing to work with alumni regional coordinator in their area to present to the region's Alumni Club a program on Oberlin's Environmental Policy. A list of regional coordinators and Oberlin Clubs will be provided.
 - f. A petition to the Board of Trustees and President Nancy Dye requesting they support the expeditious implementation of the Environmental Policy and facilitate this implementation by authorizing a campaign to raise the millions required to execute the policy with a first priority to fund an Environmental Policy Coordinator and support staff.
2. Carl McDaniel and Susan Bernat with the support of Steering Committee and E members will strive to coordinate presentations on the Environmental Policy to as many Oberlin Alumni Clubs as possible.
 3. In the coming year (September 2004 to August 2005) each Steering Committee member will do or coordinate at least one environmental event or activity (e.g., talk, OpEd, letter to editor, article for Oberlin Alumni Magazine or other venue, organize environmental talk or program on Oberlin campus or elsewhere, recruit new E members, recruit new E Steering Committee member, pick up the trash in a local park or area, provide an environmentally related internship for January term or for the summer, etc.).
 4. In order to assess progress and maintain contact and enthusiasm, it was suggested that the Steering Committee interact before next September. Possible venues: meet in Oberlin, conference calls, sub-groups of the Steering Committee meet in places like the New York City area. Susan Bernat will explore these possibilities.
 5. Carl McDaniel will discuss with Kelly Viancourt, Editor of Oberlin Alumni Magazine, the possibility of having an article on the college's Environmental Policy in the Spring 2005 issue.

Discussion of Oberlin College Environmental Policy:

The Environmental Policy was discussed for about an hour. Most of the time was spent on various aspects of energy consumption. John Petersen indicated that the college had contracted to have 60% of its electricity from renewable sources: landfill methane and hydro-generated. A major challenge for the college to achieve climate neutrality is the coal-fired heating plant. It is just too expensive to replace this facility while it is still in good operating condition. Daylighting buildings was discussed and it was noted research had established that students learn better in daylighted buildings.

Student presentations:

About a dozen students joined the Steering Committee for lunch. Students presented several projects including Youth Energy Project, Oberlin Design Initiative, and a project to have all of Oberlin College purchase 100% PCW recycled paper for all copiers. The Steering Committee was impressed with the varied student projects. Rachel Cohn and Robert Stenger will keep E informed on student activities. E will support as possible student environmental projects.

Other topics discussed:

1. Paul Treuhaft talked about the Lorain County Health Board's research on water quality in Lake Erie and in the Black River and Beaver Creek watersheds. He stated opportunities exist for research collaborations with Oberlin College.
2. Michael Lythcott indicated that the Trustees had the Environmental Policy to read prior to their meeting in March 2004 and that it was read and seriously discussed by Trustees. It was passed unanimously; however, he stated it was "aspirational" and no funds were provided for its implementation. The challenge is to generate enthusiasm and financial resources for its implementation. David Orr agreed, but emphasized that it needed to be implemented in a timely fashion. Orr commented that without a fulltime coordinator the policy was problematic, because "a policy without people is no policy."
3. It was noted that John Petersen's wedding was highlighted in the May/June 2004 issue of *Sierra* as being "Climate-Neutral." He and Nancy calculated the 170 guests would cause the release of 58 tons of carbon dioxide and to off-set this release they provided each guest with an 11 watt compact-fluorescent bulb. If every guest uses the bulb to replace a 50 watt incandescent bulb, about 58 tons of carbon dioxide will not be released over the lifetime of the fluorescent bulbs.

Respectively submitted,
Carl N. McDaniel
Chair, EnviroAlums