

REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF ENVIROALUMS HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2002 AT THE LEWIS CENTER OF OBERLIN COLLEGE

All alumni who returned the membership form for OEEAA to the Alumni Office and indicated an interest in being on the initial Steering Committee (SC) were contacted by Carl McDaniel '64 and asked to attend this initial meeting. Of the approximately 25 who expressed an interest, 12 alumni and 2 current students participated in the day-long organizational meeting and thereby became the initial SC: Michael Bobker, 1973, Karen Florini, 1979, Carole S. Hickman, 1964, Mira Inbar 2003 (student representative), Claire Jahns 2003 (student representative), Erik Jansson, 1962, Rosalyn D. Johnson, 1987, Peter Lavigne, 1979, Michael J. Lythcott, 1970, Carl N. McDaniel, 1964, John Petersen, 1988 (Oberlin Faculty Liaison to OEEAA), Peter Racher, 1978, Pat Tarnow, 1949, and Paul Treuhaft, 1964.

By Laws: The SC unanimously adopted By Laws:

Nominations: Nominations of Carl McDaniel for Chair and Rosalyn Johnson for Vice Chair were made, seconded, and unanimously voted.

Steering Committee Terms:

1 year term — Karen Florini 1979, Carole S. Hickman 1964, Claire Jahns 2003 (student representative), Michael J. Lythcott 1970, and Peter Racher, 1978.

2 year term — Michael Bobker 1973, Mira Inbar 2003 (student representative), Erik Jansson 1962, Pat Tarnow 1949, and Paul Treuhaft 1964.

3 year term — Rosalyn D. Johnson 1987, Peter Lavigne 1979, Carl N. McDaniel 1964, and John Petersen 1988 (member and faculty liaison).

Alumni Summer College: Paul Treuhaft and Carl McDaniel requested that OEEAA co-sponsor with the Alumni Office the first Alumni Summer College entitled "Climate Justice: What is Oberlin College's Role in Climate Change?" to be held on campus, June 13-15, 2003. Carl McDaniel will work with John Petersen on the program and Paul Treuhaft will work with the Alumni Office on local arrangements. The OEEAA has no financial responsibilities and its role will be to encourage participation in the event by its members and other alumni. The SC unanimously approved co-sponsorship.

Climate Justice: Claire Jahns and Mira Inbar reported on the campus, student group called "Climate Justice." The group seeks to raise awareness on campus (students, faculty, staff, administrators) about the issue of climate change. They requested that alumni become active in this issue and participate in their efforts to have the College adopt the 2020 Proposal of being climate neutral by the year 2020. McDaniel welcomed their participation and help in the Alumni Summer College on climate justice. OEEAA and Climate Justice share many of the same concerns and will work to help each other.

Housekeeping functions of OEEAA:

1. Peter Racher will be responsible for the membership list and email addresses.
2. Michael Lythcott will explore various approaches to membership recruitment. The goal is to be inclusive and build as broad a base as possible for the group so we will be able to support environmental education in many ways on and off campus.

3. Paul Treuhaft will, with assistance from Rosalyn Johnson, explore possibilities for an OEEAA website on an existing Alumni Office or other College site, or other arrangements. The hiring of a student on campus to set up and manage site was a suggested possibility.
4. John Petersen will explore the possibility of OEEAA having space in the Environmental Studies Newsletter.

OEEAA will do the following in the coming year:

1. Co-sponsor the first Alumni Summer School with the Alumni Office. Carl McDaniel, John Peterson, and Paul Treuhaft will work on this project. Claire Jahns will be the student liaison.
2. Work to support existing internship programs and sponsor environmental career fairs. Karen Florini will write a short email to be sent to OEEAA membership about signing up for January term internships as soon as Peter Racher has our email list prepared. Rosalyn Johnson will work with those OEEAA members (and other alumni) who expressed an interest in coordinating internships or holding environmental career fairs to brainstorm on what OEEAA might do in the longer term to support these activities.
3. Each SC member will host an event with alumni in their area to highlight the formation of OEEAA, Oberlin's environmental studies, and environmental issues in general. Karin Florini, with input from David Orr and John Petersen, will suggest a packet of materials that could be used at these events.
4. Support Alumni in Service to Oberlin College. Peter Lavigne will talk with David Orr, John Petersen, David Benzing, etc. about getting environmental alumni invited for class talks, seminars, and other interactions with students on campus.
5. Anniversary of winter term "Humankind Tomorrow." Peter Lavigne will check with David Benzing, David Orr, John Petersen, etc. about interest in having a 25th Anniversary of this winter term in January 2004 and having alumni participation. If so, Pat Tarrow and others will begin to make plans (Peter Lavigne cannot help until after spring 2003).
6. What does Env Stds want from OEEAA? Michael Bobker will check with John Petersen, David Benzing, David Orr, and other Env Stds faculty to see how OEEAA can be of assistance beyond what has been proposed above.

Meeting with Env Stds Faculty: After dinner David Orr and David Benzing spoke with the group. They both indicated much had been accomplished and many projects led by Env Stds graduates were doing important things in the area: Black River Café, renovations and low income housing in downtown Oberlin, Cleveland Greening Project, George Jones Farm (organic), etc. David Orr posed the question: "What is the future of Environmental Studies at Oberlin?" The OK but trite answer he gave: more students and grow the program. The real questions Orr stated were: "What work is there to be done? and What work can we do?" He said the Lewis Center and associated activities are ready for year round activities and need the support personnel to do this. Oberlin has great opportunities and potential. The challenge is to seize the moment and act. The message that emerged from our day's meeting is that the OEEAA can do important things and we have begun.

Report submitted by Carl McDaniel
27 Sept 2002

