

26 March 2006

Dear EnviroAlums,

The Trustees and the Alumni Council Executive Board met in Oberlin on March 3-5. As you may recall, EnviroAlums worked with Nancy Dye to bring Ray Anderson of Interface Corporation to speak with the Board and Administrators about the economics of greening Interface, but Anderson's visit was canceled for March and is to be rescheduled for the June Board meeting.

Since the implementation of Oberlin's Environmental Policy (EP) is a goal that is important to alumni, the Alumni Board offered to hear a presentation from EnviroAlums on March 3. Andrew deCoriolis (student), John Petersen ('88, Associate Professor Environmental Studies, EnviroAlum Steering Committee), and Carl McDaniel ('64, Chair EnviroAlums) gave the Alumni Board:

- A terse history of Oberlin's environmental accomplishments indicating Oberlin is no longer a campus leader in the campus greening movement,
- Highlighted positive things that had and were happening on campus,
- Proposed approaches the college might take to regain leadership in campus greening,

A good number of members of the Alumni Board were energized and the Board indicated a willingness to support the various environmental initiatives now underway.

Walt Galloway (EnviroAlum Steering Committee, member of Alumni Executive Council Board), Carl McDaniel, and John Petersen spoke with several Trustees about moving forward on EP. All three sensed that the Board is now working to put EP on the table for serious consideration. Conversations, emails, and letters with Nancy Dye also indicate a similar repositioning of the administration. The recent interviewing of candidates for a full time EP coordinator, who should be on campus in the near future, bodes well for accelerating the implementation of EP.

It would appear that the immense efforts of persons on campus over past years to raise community support for greening Oberlin— as well as EnviroAlums' activities—are putting EP on the Oberlin agenda. In this regard EnviroAlums, and alums in general, are going to have an important role to play. In an email to EnviroAlums (via Carl McDaniel) Nancy Dye stated: "I hope you will stress that what Oberlin can do in this area is entirely bound up with the College's alumni, for they must be willing to support it very generously if we are to move forward in dramatic ways. I also think that this is an essential message for the EnviroAlums."

We see movement, but much will be required of Oberlin if she is to regain her leadership role in greening higher education. We urge your strong and steadfast participation in whatever way that works for you. Let's have Oberlin again be the beacon guiding higher education and society toward sustainability. And stay there this time!

Best regards,

Walt Galloway, member Alumni Executive Council Board  
Carl McDaniel, chair, EnviroAlums