

27 June 2006

Dear EnviroAlums,

I had hoped to be writing you about Ray Anderson's June 9th talk at the Board of Trustee's meeting, but on June 7th I was told that Anderson's event had been canceled a second time. The funeral of William Perlik, a long time trustee and past Board chair, was scheduled for June 10th. To accommodate attendance by most of the Board, the June meeting was truncated and Anderson felt it best to consider a future date. I was still invited to attend the Trustees June 9th dinner and sat with John Petersen, Karin Florini (vice chair), and Robert Lemle (chair).

I believe Anderson made the correct decision, because he would not have had the full board present nor their undivided attention. In addition, John and I had an opportunity to meet Robert Lemle and have his full attention for more than an hour. We were both impressed with his candor and believe he is seriously interested in having Oberlin implement meaningful environmental policies. And, as indicated earlier, Karen Florini is of a similar mind.

I also had the opportunity before the dinner to visit with John Petersen and David Orr. John and I had follow-up conversations on two ideas that surfaced and have taken action on one.

- First, to capitalize on the ever increasing national/international interest in the seriousness of climate change, we have used E funds to purchase 31 copies of Tim Flannery's new book, *Weather Makers*, and have given them to 31 Oberlin faculty and staff. Below are the cover letter and inscription label placed in each book. I encourage you to get a copy, read it, and then pass it to others. And, do see Gore's movie/lecture, *An Inconvenient Truth*—it is a very well done executive summary.
- Second, John is proposing that E take the lead, with his support, to create an environmental careers lecture/dinner program. The general idea would be to identify Oberlin graduates with environmental careers who wish to come to campus to have dinner and talk with a small group of interested students. E would help provide travel expenses and the Alumni Office also has funds to bring alums to campus for such interactions. We will discuss this further at E Steering Committee Meeting in September.

Oberlin interviewed three candidates for sustainability coordinator but were unable to make the hire. The search will begin again in the fall. On the positive side, Meredith Dowling, a 2006 Oberlin graduate, will be the Assistant Sustainability Coordinator next academic year to begin the process of addressing the myriad issues associated with sustainability.

The Trustees and College have committed to at least silver LEED standards for all new construction. Consensus for gold was almost achieved and with effective fund raising, gold LEED or better is possible.

President Dye has recently floated the idea of a Green Fund with faculty and staff. I am not sure on details but this is clearly something E should support. In line

with Dye's challenge to E stated in my 26 March 2006 email—"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 EnvironAlums."—I believe E might wish to consider how to create a network for identifying support for such a fund. This will be discussed at E Steering Committee meeting in September.

The Steering Committee of E will meet in Oberlin at the Lewis Center in the late afternoon of Sept 16th. Please send me your ideas for things we should discuss, projects you would like to take the lead on, etc. If you are in Oberlin, you are welcome to attend. But please let me know in advance so I can email you the time, and we can have enough food for dinner.

I will be away from email from July 1 until August 10.

Best regards,
Carl McDaniel '64
Chair EnviroAlums