EnviroAlums
Steering Committee Meeting
Lewis Center, 2nd floor conference room
24 September 2011: 12 noon to 2:30 PM


Absent: Meredith Dowling.

Guest: Colin Coffel (Environmental Sustainability Fellow, Office of Environmental Sustainability)

E annual report to Alumni Council

Carl McDaniel emailed prior to the meeting E’s annual report to the 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.

Appointment of SC Members

Kristin Braziunas, Lewis Gilbert, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, and John Schaefer appointed for 3 year terms and Casey Lee for a 1 year term (student representative).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Tim Ballard 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 2011-12. Carl McDaniel and John Petersen will continue to accommodate alumni with environmental careers who volunteer to speak at Oberlin. John Petersen will explore the possibility of having a student group in Environmental Studies 101 develop a list of possible speakers and invite a speaker as a way to engage students with alumni and enhance the speaker series.

Affiliate Group Representative on Alumni Council Executive Board

Lewis Gilbert has been appointed by the Alumni Council Executive Board to be an Affiliate Group Representative on the board for the next 3 years. Lewis Gilbert will bring an environmental perspective to the Executive Board that will be critical as The Oberlin Project (TOP) is formally announced in the fall issue of the Alumni Magazine and as Oberlin (city and college) strives to become a model that other communities can learn from and replicate.

John Petersen suggested that E organize a presentation on campus environmental activities and TOP for the Executive Board. Lewis Gilbert and Carl McDaniel will work with John Petersen on this suggestion.

Update on Campus Sustainability Activities

Colin Koffel, the Environmental Sustainability Fellow in the college Office of Environmental Sustainability, provided a detailed update (posted with E SC minutes on E website).

E Funded Student Projects

Andrew deCoriolis reviewed the student projects funded in the past year (see E’s Annual Report to Alumni Council) and our current policy of not supporting student travel or improvements to infrastructure. E has supported sustainability projects and activist activities that have a major component of student education, but not student professional development such as research expenses or travel and other expenses associate with attending professional meetings to present research findings, because E has had limited resources and does not have the capacity to evaluate such requests for support. John Petersen indicated the need for financial support for student professional development.
After considerable discussion the SC decided to provide the Environmental Studies Department with $1,000 for the current academic year to be utilized by the department to support student professional development. John Petersen will report back next September to E SC on funds used and his assessment of their effectiveness in promoting professional development.

The SC decided to approve $2,000 to $3,000 this academic year for both 1) community sustainability projects with major student involvement and 2) student activism that has substantial educational value, including up to $100 per student for travel.

E will continue its policy not to fund infrastructure improvements.

**Update on The Oberlin Project**

Kristin Braziunas, TOP Program Assistant, gave a detailed update (posted with E SC minutes on E website).

**Friends of the Oberlin Project**

Anders Ferguson, Chair of Friends of TOP, provided an update of F TOP (posted with E SC minutes on E website) and discussed the significance of E becoming a Founding Friend of TOP that would commit E to giving the Friends of TOP $2,000 for 5 years (total: $10,000). A long discussion followed. Several persons were concerned about committing $2,000 per year for 5 years and the impact this commitment might have on E supporting other things, such as specific support for TOP with student projects. Several persons indicated the importance of being a Founding Friend: demonstrates alumni support, comes at a time when David Orr is working hard to raise funds for TOP, and, as the environmental alumni affiliate group, E’s being a Founding Friend is a positive affirmation of Oberlin striving to create a sustainable community. Carl McDaniel summarized E’s financial status: $13,000 currently available from E Endowment with an anticipate income of ~$4,000 per year, and annual dues and other contributions should provide annually $2,000 to $5,000.

E SC decided unanimously to become a Founding Friend of TOP.

**Steering Committee Members**

Susan Bernat, Meredith Dowling, Anders Ferguson (expire in 2012); Timothy Ballard; Andy Barnett, Andrew deCoriolis, Walter Galloway, Pat Cobb Tarnow (expire in 2013); Kristin Braziunas, Lewis Gilbert, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, and John Schaefer (expire in 2014); Casey Lee (student representative, expires in 2012)

**Future SC Meetings**

Saturday, 3 March 2012, time TBA, Lewis Center Conference Room.

Saturday, 22 September 2012, time TBA, Lewis Center Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted
Carl N. McDaniel ’64
Chair, EnviroAlums