



Oberlin College EDT-CDT Phonecast 10 March 2015

Chuck Spitulnik: Here we go. Good evening, this is Chuck Spitulnik president of the Oberlin Alumni Association and a member of the class of 1973. I'm also a member of the college's strategic planning steering committee. Welcome to the first ever Oberlin alumni phonecast. We are [inaudible 00:00:57] tonight over 30,000 alumni and we are glad that you joined us in this interactive session with President Marvin Krislov, the 14th president of Oberlin College. As many of you know we are undertaking a strategic planning process at Oberlin right now. Our goal is to retain Oberlin's position as one of the world's most distinguished institutions of higher education. The strategic planning committee is pleased to hear alumni thoughts about Oberlin's future this evening.

On this phonecast tonight we are asking you to respond to the following questions: What current or future challenge is the most important for Oberlin? Second question; In light of this challenge what's the most important opportunity for us to explore? Marvin, on behalf of the alumni I want to thank you for speaking with all of the alumni this evening.

Marvin Krislov: Thank you Chuck it's great to be on the phone. I'm looking forward to hearing the questions. I want to apologize in advance I've caught cred that the floating around in our area here but I'm here and eager to begin so let's do it.

Chuck Spitulnik: That's great. We want to hear questions from as many alumni as possible and in order to give Marvin time to respond I want to make sure that folks understand that first of all you need to press zero on your phone in order to be able to be put in the queue to ask questions. Second of all, I just want to remind you that we are here for you to ask questions and please make sure that when you get on the line and you have a opportunity that you are actually asking a question.

I see that so far we have over 950 alumni in this call right now and again please press zero on your phone to be given the opportunity to ask Marvin a question. We have one here from John. John was in class of '60s whose question is about improving the calendar caliber of incoming students. I'm sorry. He says that he wants to address the need for merit scholarships for college enrollees as just as there are for common enrollees. The super best applicants he says are likely to be lured to other schools in response to their offering of merit scholarships. His question is something like can Oberlin change the way it does this in the future?



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- Marvin Krislov: Thanks John, great question. We are committed to providing financial aid to meet 100% of the need of incoming students and that's been a principle of ours for many years. To do this we give primarily need-based aid but we do provide some merit aid particularly in the conservatory but also through programs such as the steering scholars in the sciences. The scholarship budget is the primary goal, the biggest part of our campaign and we want to fill up that bucket so that we can meet the needs of incoming students. Frankly more and more students are applying for financial aid, but I think that we will continue to have some merit scholarships but the primary focus of our aid will be need-based and I think that's consistent with our values.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks. Our next question will be from Judith [inaudible 00:04:10] in Washington. Judith I see you have a couple of questions if you could hold your second one until everybody has had the opportunity to talk that would be great. Judith you are on the line.
- Judith: Oh that's great thanks. I didn't realize I was going to actually be asking it, Thank you.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Yeah, that's you.
- Judith: Hey. Hello everybody. My first question is if you were to keep plus enhance or change, so it's sort of two sides of this, one thing is the Oberlin brand what would it be? I'm asking it as a very big picture broad strategic question.
- Marvin Krislov: Judith that is a really wonderful question. I think in the context of these strategic plan we've been looking at this very question; what is it about Oberlin that stands out. I think the thing that typically comes to mind is the blend of superb liberal arts unit college and a world class conservatory and then art museum. I think stressing all three of those components that is the college, the conservatory, and the art museum probably continues to be the strongest part. Which in that I would say one area that I think we need to get even more credit for is the excellence in the sciences. I think that some recognize the kind of research and the good work that we do on the sciences is but I think we are not always known as the science school and I am very proud of the work that our sciences are doing. That would be one sub-element that I would like to see us get more recognition for.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks. Our next questioner will be Richard in New Orleans and Richard it's your turn to talk. Hope I'm pushing the right button. Richard can you



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... Hope I'm doing the right thing. Here we go. Richard can you talk?
Richard in New Orleans.

Richard: Hello there.

Marvin Krislov: Hey Richard.

Chuck Spitulnik: There you go.

Richard: How are you doing?

Marvin Krislov: Good how are you?

Richard: I'm great.

Chuck Spitulnik: You have a question Richard?

Richard: Yeah. I wanted to ask if there are any current mechanisms in place to help upper class men find access to alumni networks in smaller cities in the united states and specifically in terms of employment. I know when I was senior it was a little bit difficult for me to find other alumni in different cities and I don't know if there's anything in place right now so if there is plans to make anything along those lines.

Marvin Krislov: Richard that is a great question. I am very focused on this. We are working very hard at enhancing our alumni student collections and connections and part of that is through an online portal Danielle Young has been working that happen. We can send you more information and we'll send the information out. We also are trying to enhance the alumni club in certain cities, smaller cities or mid-sized cities for us. We also have been doing a lot of work in our career services and with the alumni association to try to connect students. One of the things that I'm hoping that we will build is a list of alumnus in certain fields who may be willing to connect with current students. I myself have offered to meet with graduating seniors and I've actually done it for juniors as well to try to connect them to alumni I know and I have worked with Danielle and others to do that. Look I can't say that-

Chuck Spitulnik: That's great.

Marvin Krislov: I can't say that we've got it completely down but this is a big focus of ours. Frankly one of the things that we think will enhance our connection between current students and alumni is this kind of discussion about future and future prospects.



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- Richard: Can I tell you a really quick story?
- Marvin Krislov: Really quick Richard.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Really quickly Richard because we've only got a short amount of time.
- Richard: I'm a musician in new Orleans and I had a big band it was an open sort of anybody can join. I was at band practice and there was a new kid and it took three practices before we realized that we graduated from Oberlin few years from each other and it spurred us talking about this sort of thing
- Marvin Krislov: The other thing I'll just add is that Ben Jones in our communication shop is working a lot with our alumni and we have a lot of social media as well. I think there's a whole social media component too that should help us but if you are interested in helping out with this let others know and we can connect you. All right nice talking to you.
- Richard: I will. Thanks president
- Marvin Krislov: See you later.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Our next questioner will be Thelma Morris from Oberlin. Thelma take it away.
- Thelma: My question how does the administration and the faculty balance the students' generational pressure for change with the need to develop long range plans and strategic plans which keeps Oberlin on course to preserve its institutional values?
- Marvin Krislov: Thelma it's a wonderful question and I'm not surprised given your connections with Oberlin and the fact that you are a candle just down the road and so you know what's going on here. I think part of Oberlin has always been trying to think ahead trying to be on the cutting edge and that's what our strategic planning processes is about but we are also trying to balance the kinds of values that we've had that will carry us through. Those are educational values, rigor, excellence and so forth. I think that frankly that's the question that we wrestle with everyday. I think that the faculty lead in that because they set the curriculum and they think about the composition of our faculty and our student body but it's really important to try to think about what is long term and what is important but also being sensitive to what is new and exciting and innovative. We want to frankly be open to both of those and I think that's what makes a strong institution.



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- Thelma: Thank you.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Alexander Rodmen in Minneapolis .Can we have your question please?
- Alexander: Hello.
- Marvin Krislov: Hi.
- Alexander: Hi. I just have a quick question about the Sweet Briar College incidence and these small [inaudible 00:11:10] colleges closing and what differentiates Oberlin from that situation.
- Marvin Krislov: Thank you for that question. I actually I'm very good friends with the former president of Sweet Briar and it's a sad story. I think Sweet Briar had some things, some challenges that we don't have. It's not a co-ed institution, it had a smaller endowment, it did not have frankly the national and international base of applications that we have this year. For instance, we got a record number of applications to the arts and sciences over 7,000 the first time we've ever had it and the conservatory has also had very strong admissions. It's something we worry about every day and that's why admissions we work very hard at trying to increase our penetration into markets that we don't normally see such as the south and the south west. We've moved a lot into the west and we're doing very well in the west.
- We worry about the challenges that Sweet Briar has. Frankly that's one reason why we are in the strategic plan frankly that's one reason why we are also in the middle of this campaign which is to secure the financial future because it's not only the demand of students but it's also having the endowment and the kinds of support that you can count on to support your operations. I don't think we need to feel that we are that we are anywhere near that situation but we are mindful of the challenges that Sweet Briar and other colleges have.
- Alexander: Okay that's it. Thank you so much.
- Marvin Krislov: Thank you.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Manny in DC can you please give us your question?
- Manny: Thank you its Manny in Baltimore.
- Chuck Spitulnik: I'm sorry.



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Manny: That's all right it's no problem. Class Of '62 and saying hello to Chuck and Marvin asking somewhat in line with the-

Marvin Krislov: Hi Manny.

Manny: Hi how are you Marvin?

Marvin Krislov: Good.

Manny: Good. Somewhere in line with the question about Sweet Briar situation and to some extent my concern is the enhancement of the vibrancy of the college as a place that students from all over the country especially in the east where our competitors are strong and often the backyards of the all the kinds of schools that the admission office would like to visit. What is it that we can do with that environment that we inherit in northern Ohio also in economic down turn that the northern Ohio area has as well as being a small cold lake front environment that sometimes keeps student from thinking about Oberlin as the first choice. What is it that we can do improve the applicant pool and make the college a choice of the eastern students so to speak go to our competitors and choose to put Oberlin in the second or third category of choice? Simply because of the economic conditions there and maybe the town being small and maybe the campus life not being as exciting as one might find it elsewhere?

Marvin Krislov: Manny that's a great question. I spend a lot of time thinking of this as has the board and there are at least two parts. One is the substantive part how do we make Oberlin an exciting venue. We are doing a lot already, that's being part of my goal ever since I got here part of that is the Oberlin project which is this collaboration we have between the city the college and the school to make us a model a sustainable economic development really building on our environmental leadership. So far it's also been building up the down town and doing selective investments these college [inaudible 00:15:14] project the historic Apollo theater, the new gateway center and I hope some other new exciting things going on. Making the town actually even more inviting and more exciting and I will say that on the substantive side the conservatory and the art museum and the student energy and the student initiatives, actually give you more going on here than most of those eastern schools. I visited a lot of them with my sons and I will tell you if you look at the posters and see what's going on there are more activities.

That brings me to the seeing point that which is there may be some image challenges because we are in a location that some people may not think of as exciting so that's where admissions communications come in.



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We need to get out there we need to tell the story of Oberlin and frankly alumni and recent graduates in particular can often tell that story even more convincingly and so we need your help everyone on this call to help spread the word about what a dynamic exciting place Oberlin is. Because it really is and I think we put some money into the website which has improved, the magazine which has improved but the best ambassadors are really the people. That's why every single person on this call can help us deal with this challenges that you've mentioned. The numbers speak for themselves we are doing very well but we can do better

Manny: Are we saying that our admissions group in hand with alumni clubs in the area and all are actively engaged in focusing on the hot zones, the hot schools, the hot areas so that what you are describing as an objective for the town and the college is communicated to these potential students so that Oberlin doesn't appear as a vacuum; as a second choice

Marvin Krislov: Absolutely and I'll tell you the numbers are going extremely well but we can always use the reinforcements. I know Danielle Yung is working very closely with the admissions and the communications on this. Thanks Manny, it's great to talk to you.

Chuck Spitulnik: Hi folks, I want as part of the conversation tonight while Marvin is answering questions I want you to help me out by answering a poll for us. The first poll question that we are going to have is what should be Oberlin college's highest priority? You can answer this by pressing the numbers on your keypad that corresponds to the choices that I'm going to give you. What should be Oberlin college's highest priority first press one financial aid support, press two for academic programs, press three for study abroad opportunities press four for recruiting the best faculty and press five for recruiting the best students. Again the choices are one financial aid support, two for academic programs, three study abroad opportunities, four for recruiting the staff faculty and five for recruiting the best students. We will be tallying your responses while Marvin answers the next question. The next question is going to come from Dion in New York

Dion: Hi, this is Dion from New York.

Marvin Krislov: Hi.

Dion: Hi. I'm calling as an alumnus and also as a parent of a future graduate in May. I wanted to speak a little bit or have you addressed diversity a little bit more. Because I think that it's such different compared to other comparable schools particularly in a competitive environment of the east



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coast. It's a two part question one how do you rank diversity in terms of as a draw for Oberlin because in some way it's almost as if it a historically placed college even though it's not in terms of the number of people who have graduated and had their learning experience there. The second part of the question is I was told about Oberlin from my urban high school guidance counselor as the two schools that I should apply to. I don't think that that same kind of message is being reached out into the urban environment. How can we best address that so that we can continue having a diverse community in terms of both faculty and a student body?

Marvin Krislov:

Thank you Dion and congratulations in advance. We'll see you in May. I would say that diversity ranks are among the very highest priorities for me and I think the board. We in fact have a strategic planning group that is really focused... Actually all three groups, but one in particular spending a lot of time thinking about diversity and what that means, both in terms of the composition of our student faculty and staff but also the way we interact. That involves a lot of educational experiences and social experiences as well and we want to create an environment where students get the rich benefits from having a diverse student body.

We think that, that prepares them best for the world. We also have been focusing a lot on faculty diversity and we've been making some progress there as well. In terms of getting the message out about the value Oberlin places on diversity, I can tell you that we send that message and we count on our [inaudible 00:21:00] send that message. Other schools are also, could be competing in this regard and frankly I think part of the reason why it may not be that Oberlin is alone now is that schools have caught on to what Oberlin has valued for a very, very long time. I think Oberlin does have a unique commitment to diversity and that's seen in the campus and frankly I hear it from students that visit and students that come here and students that graduate.

We pay a lot of attention to try and create a better society and a better world and diversity is absolutely at the core of that. It's in every fiber of my being and I think the boards being and Oberlin's being. That's one of the things that I'm proud of this institution.

Chuck Spitulnik:

Thanks and now we're going to hear a question from Dale in Oberlin.

Marvin Krislov:

Hey Dale.

Dale:

Hello president Krislov. My question is has to do with something that was recently in the news when president Obama recently proposed the idea



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of making community colleges essentially free. I'm wondering what impact that might have on Oberlin in the future and in the strategic planning process as you think about issues of competition and access and how to articulate the value of a four-year liberal education. What do you see in the future for Oberlin in reaction to concept of community colleges across the country maybe really free?

Marvin Krislov: Thank you Dale. It's a great question. I don't know if the president is going to get a lot of pressure on that proposal but it is an interesting idea. What we've been doing here is thinking a lot about community college transfers and what we can do to facilitate that. We have a relationship with not only our local community college but some others. We're thinking about those in terms of the strategic planning. I don't worry as much about the notion that community colleges are going to be a challenge to Oberlin. In fact I think the more Americans that are educate, probably the better off a place like Oberlin will be.

We as a nation have been slipping in that regard. I really see it as an opportunity and it's one that I think can help contribute to the diversity of our population as well. Both in terms of socio-economic but also racial and ethnic and I welcome the chance to have more relations with community colleges. I know our mission focus and others talk about it.

Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks. Just so, you all know, we have the results of the poll in. Again, remember the question was; what should be Oberlin's college highest priority? Among the people who responded to the poll, 28% said the top priority should be financial aid support. 28% said academic programs. 24% said recruiting the best faculty. 18% said recruiting the best students and 2% said study abroad opportunities. Well be posting this information on the strategic planning website along with the recording of this conversation later. You could come back and look at that later on. Our next question will be from John Saltsburg in Sandy spring, Maryland.

John: Hey, President Krislov. I finished 1958. I wanted to ask you is the liberal arts education as relevant today as it was when I finished Oberlin? Particularly in terms of career and job placement.

Marvin Krislov: Thank you John. Great question. It's one that we talk to parents about, because parents are concerned about the future of their students as well. We think that a liberal education is actually the best preparation because so many students today are going to need to have multiple jobs and multiple skills. Need to be able to connect with various aspects of the world around them. Whether it's international aspects to technology to



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history and so forth. If they've gotten a much more narrowly based education, it's going to be much harder.

I still think that liberal education, which United States does better than any country in the world, is one of our nation's strengths. That's one reason why international students are still coming to this country. It's interesting because we had a discussion with a school in Hong Kong that's trying to have a liberal education for Hong Kong and Chinese students as well. I do think we need to think about liberal as an investment in the long term and not necessarily the first job. That's a discussion that probably the broader public needs to have as well. In terms of really building leaders, broad based thinkers, I think there's wider spread agreement and even the business community has overwhelmingly said a liberal education is really the best preparation.

Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks. Our next questioner is Marjorie Wine gold from Washington DC. Marjorie you're on.

Marjorie: Thank you. Good evening president Krislov. It's Marjorie and I'm commenting on two things. One was the person who thought that we needed to attract students before they accept other colleges. I think the student goes to Oberlin goes because the concept and the environment and the type of students that are going to be educated with is unique. That's why they choose to come to Oberlin. They are not even anticipating any other place. The other is I agree completely on this liberal arts education because a well rounded person can best fit in to any career he or she wants later on and can make a major contribution. Has a well-rounded and enriched background that Oberlin offers.

Marvin Krislov: Marjorie of course you're preaching to the choir on that. I just say this, on the attracting students I've just been [inaudible 00:28:00] young people. The truth is most of our young people don't really fully understand what it is they want. That's why some people transfer, some people end up being happy in the first college, and some people don't. One thing we want to do here is make sure that enough people, for whom Oberlin is the right place, know about it. That's why admissions in communications and our folks are trying to get out there with the help of alumni and make sure people understand how unusual, how special Oberlin is. Frankly, all of you are the best ambassadors for that message.

There are people and Manny might have been signaling this; there are people at schools maybe ... Frankly my high school not a lot of people knew about Oberlin, so we need to get the word out because not everybody goes to school where there's been a history of Oberlin alumni.



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That's something we need to do and frankly the numbers show that we are doing it better and better. We want to make sure that those students for whom Oberlin is a right fit know about it and apply to us.

Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks. I want to go to Margaret in Chicago. Who has a question about capital improvements?

Margaret: I do. Hello.

Marvin Krislov: Hey.

Margaret: Hey. I am wondering. I was on campus last year for my commencement reunion and I noticed that... I was theatre major, so I'm thinking specifically of the Warner building, but I know it's true of many other buildings on the campus that are... They are beautiful and historic buildings but they are kind of in dire need of some improvements. I'm wondering where that ranks in terms of the overall college strategic plan.

Marvin Krislov: We are certainly talking about facilities as part of the strategic plan. We have a capital maintenance schedule that we're working with. We've done a lot of work for instance in recent years on improving student housing. We've also done major renovation of the art museum, which is really spectacular if you probably had a chance to see it when you were back. We are looking at some of our performing facilities and in fact, that is one of the priorities of the capital campaign. To try to get some improvements to the auditorium and we hope to have a new flexible theater as well. There are a lot of older buildings and we can't do it all at once but you and others can help us do more of them and more quickly.

I appreciate the support and I have my friends sitting near me and he is always eager to hear feedback on which buildings might be priorities, but we do try to do in terms of both health and safety and all those other considerations. I think that we've made great strides in the past few years in doing this and we'll continue to do that

Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks very much. I want to remind you folks that if you want to ask a question; please be sure to push zero one your phone and you'll be connected to the line and we'll be in the queue. I can't promise that we're going to be able to get to everybody because we actually have a lot of questions left. A lot of questions are still on the queue but I just want to remind you that, take this opportunity if you have a question that you want to ask. Our next questioner is Morris in New York.



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- Morris: Thank you president Krislov. From a long-range perspective, there is a lot of pressure on the college experience because of the high costs involved. Some various strategic planners have suggested things like online courses shared faculty and so the programs. Where is the first college in this regard?
- Marvin Krislov: Thanks for the question Morris. We are concerned about keeping the cost of education affordable and even though the sticker price is a significant one. We are certainly well within the norm of our peer institution. We give an enormous amount of financial aid, so we do keep it affordable and we give, last year we gave over \$60 million in financial aid in this current year. We are looking at ways to save money. One of the things we look at is trying to reduce administrative costs by shared facilities and, not facilities shared personnel in certain areas. We're trying to do things with technology in terms of online courses I don't think that's something we have embraced as a cost reducer.
- We see technology is doing in enhancing the quality of education. We still believe on the focus on classes with faculty who are in residence in the community and we're working with students and that's one of the things that makes Oberlin so very special. We are thinking about ways to try to save costs and keep it as affordable as possible and that is a major topic of the strategic plan and at this point, I can tell you that there are very vigorous discussions taking place.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks very much. Our next questioner will be Tim from Maryland.
- Tim: Good evening everyone. Good evening president Krislov. I wanted to talk a little bit about the Oberlin community itself and I wanted to get a little bit about your perspective on how Oberlin promotes and facilitates the safety and inclusion and prosperity of all its students both in the majority and those that are historically under represented within the college community. Including the safety of women on campus, the safety, and inclusion about African Americans, Latino Americans and the LGBT QIA community.
- Marvin Krislov: Great question. It's a big question. We have a lot of resources that are devoted to promoting community well being and particularly those students that manage to have special needs of one sort or another. In that regard, for instance I can tell you that we've increased services in the disabilities realm. The disability realm in recent years as well as in terms of our counseling centre devotion.



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A lot of devoted resources to mental health and health and wellness as well. In terms of preventing sort of bodily harm, we have adopted a policy that's been cited as a model in the nation. I was talking today to our special assistant for equity and inclusion. Meredith Monnow who administering the title nine program. One of the things that we're doing is not only creating a process to adjudicate complaints, but we're also working very, very effectively to increase education community. Education both about standards for consent but also by stander awareness. We're working with students. We have a group that the peer resources support. A group that is working actively to do that so students educating students. In terms of students of color, we have the multi cultural; resource center but also many other services that can of course support our students of color.

I think you're also probably thinking about support services for those students who may have academic challenges. I mentioned disability services but I am also really pleased to share with you that our board share Clyde McGregor just shared a very generous gift of half a million dollars that's going to provide more support for mentoring the students and support for our students who might have emergency needs. Whether it's books; the cost of textbooks is risen or travel, or health needs. That's something that we're actively engaged in fundraising for as well. There are a lot of, and we haven't really talked about kinds of people resources that are in place. We have a class tine system that tries to provide support for students as well as academic advisors. There are a lot of support networks here.

One of the things that are building our multiple layers of support for students so that they have different avenues if they have concerns. I think building up one of the more unusual aspects; I think is building up the mentoring and support from older students who often are even more effective in helping students who are struggling to make that transition to college. Key priority for us definitely part of our discussions about strategic planning. Frankly it's an area that I expect probably will grow rather than diminish in the coming years.

Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks very much. Our next question will be from General Sitter in Alexandria.

General Sitter: Good evening.

Marvin Krislov: Hey. How are you?



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- General Sitter: I'm fine thanks. I have more a comment than a question. One of my take away for being on the awards committee for four, five, six years was the great impact the overall graduates had and communities, professionals internationally. I think the concept of service excellence is inherent over education and perhaps would be used another era to bring [inaudible 00:38:23] into the community.
- Marvin Krislov: I think that's great point. We're very proud of the service learning programs we have here through the bonders center. Many of our students do the work-study in the community. I started a program last year that provides funding for students to spend the summer in Oberlin working in community based organizations. Many of our students volunteered in the public schools. Many of our students want to commit their live service; whether it's an education or social services or national work as well. You're absolutely right. Every year we produce a large number of people going into things like the peace core, and Amery core as well. It's absolutely part of the ethers of Oberlin. It's something that we talk about we're very, very proud of.
- Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks. The next is going to go to Kenny in Seattle.
- Kenny: Hey. I'm here.
- Marvin Krislov: You're here. Let's do this.
- Kenny: How are you guys?
- Marvin Krislov: We're great.
- Chuck Spitulnik: So far so good Kenny. What's your question?
- Kenny: It's still snowing down there and [inaudible 00:39:34]
- Marvin Krislov: Nice and beautiful. We're in shorts.
- Kenny: What is the importance of social justice, social change, do good? The stuff that lead the carpenters to Christmas to go down to Mississippi or [inaudible 00:39:55]
- Marvin Krislov: Kenny, I think for many, many people here that is absolutely essential priority for them. In terms of what they want to do. I think it animates the Oberlin projects that I mentioned earlier in terms of our commitment to making this community a model of sustainable economic development. I think it animates our commitment to diversity in all



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aspects. I think frankly going to General Sitter's question, the same motivation that leads so many of our graduates to go on into education and service in one-way shape or form.

Many of our classes apparently touch on this topic. I can tell you that the classes that I teach in the politics department definitely deal with these issues in the many, many classes, curricular offerings as well as co-curricular offerings and others that touch on this. I think it's alive and well. Different people have different priorities within those categories but I think it's very important to most members of this community in fact I'd say all members of this community.

Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks. I want to go next to Jesse Vogel in DC.

Marvin Krislov: Hello Jesse.

Chuck Spitulnik: Jesse are you still with us?

Jesse: Hello, I'm with you. Sorry about that.

Chuck Spitulnik: It's okay

Jesse: Thanks for chatting with us tonight. Both of you. I just wanted to ask a little bit about sort of giving that you've talked about the students interest in serving the community and giving the college its unique place as an anchor institution at a town and also in a county. Can you talk a little bit about how the strategic planning committee has worked to engage non-college state quarters and the whole process and how that works and how you think about that kind of engagement.

Marvin Krislov: Thanks Jesse. We actually have been very much thinking about Oberlin College affects the overall community. We had a session that was organized at Oberlin community service where there were many community leaders including people from the schools and some of the social services organizations. They talked about this act that Oberlin has in the town. I can tell you that I think the overall reaction and I've had a lot of discussions personally. I think that our investments in the down town area and things like the Apollo and the outreach programs which reaches young people throughout this region and all the work in the schools that's being done but students and faculty; this sort of things are enormously welcomed.

The Oberlin project itself we believe will generate new jobs in the community and said there will be some positive benefits as well. We're



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trying to make sure that the vision we have for the future does take into account the community that we live in as well. We're first and foremost an educational institution but we know where we live. What's good for the town is also good for Oberlin and vice versa. Very much part of our discussions.

Chuck Spitulnik: Thanks Marvin. Folks we have one more poll question and then we will have time for one more live question. Then we will be out of time for this conversation. Our poll question is this. You'll need to be registering your responses by using your touchpad on your phone. As of course, we all know Oberlin needs gifts support to continue to thrive. We are curious to know where does Oberlin fit among you philanthropic priorities. Press one on your keypad for first. Press two on your keypad for second. Press three on your keypad for third. Press four on your keypad for fourth and press five on your keypad for we're not on your list at all.

I hope there's not many of you at number five but nonetheless please answer that question and we'll get back to you with the poll results in just a few minutes. We have time for one more question. We will have one more question and it will be from Glen Gloom in State college. Glen it's all you.

Glen: Hey. Oberlin has continually produced graduates who are committed to making a difference in the world. Likely will continue to do that. If the world characterized by the need for both the local folkers namely things like sustainability as well as a global focus: Reflected in things such as globalization, shrinking distance between people to the world, threats from various parts of the world to intellectualism and rational behavior. How can Oberlin better prepare graduates with a balance for dealing with such a world in the future?

Marvin Krislov: That is the question, isn't it? That is in some ways one of the central questions that we are looking at in the strategic planning process. In fact, we have one group that's really looking at this. What I think is emerging is an interesting discussion about trying to help students integrate their curricular and co curricular experiences that get them the range of options but also allow them to connect things in a way that will better prepare them. To think about these four years as a sort of menu but menu that is informed by a set of priorities and values.

By that I think we will try I think we will try to be strengthening the academic advising the system. We're continuing to improve career counseling. Not that we think students will have one career but we want them to take advantage of the winter term as well the summer. Other



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opportunities including deferring the semester to think about what they might want to do in the world. We are improving our paid interests; we've raised some great resources for paid internships so to make these opportunities international opportunities available to students from all backgrounds. I think that frankly the other thing that we need to do is to make sure that our education reflects those factors that you mentioned. Both the local factors and the global factors.

One of the things we are looking at is in terms of the curriculum is are the classes being offered and being offered in such a way that really exposes the student to the variety of challenges that this world faces. I think that we are trying to do that through everything. We have a center now for languages and cultures that's been supported by the Mullen's center that will help us on the international front. Environmental studies has been a department that's grown. We're also trying to do things in service learning and experiential learning on a more local level as well. Lots of things to think about and I can tell you that some of the best minds that we have are very, very engaged in this issue. If you have thoughts please feel free to send them to me because this is really a key question for us.

Chuck Spitulnik:

Well folks let me tell you the response we got from the poll that we just asked about where Oberlin fits among your philanthropic priorities. Of the folks on this call, 27% said Oberlin was first. 26% said Oberlin is second. 23% said Oberlin is third. 19% said Oberlin is fourth and 5% said Oberlin is not on your list at all.

With that we've come to the conclusion of the time we set aside for this. I want to remind you all that you can learn more about strategic planning process on Oberlin's website. If you go to the search box on the oberlin.edu web page, you'll see the link and enter plan in the search box, you see the link which is strategic planning site. The committee is also welcoming questions from you or comments from you. You can send an email at ocstrategicplan@oberlin.edu.

I want to say that as president of the alumni association, we've been working a lot for the last couple of years on efforts to increase alumni engagement and this Phonecast model is really in line so very much our desire to include more alumni in the college. I want to thank all of you for participating. Marvin I think this has been terrific. I don't know if you have any comments you want to make closing.

Marvin Krislov:

I just wish we had time to talk to everybody and I'm sorry that we haven't but please we will read every one of your comments and we will share



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them with the strategic planning committee. Take us up on that offer and send us your thoughts.

Chuck Spitulnik:

Thanks everybody. If you haven't had a chance to ask your questions and you still want to, the system is set up so that you could leave the question on the voicemail at this number and again we want to thank you all for joining us. May you have a great night.