

**Minutes IAC Meeting
Tuesday October 12, 2004
At NCORE**

Present were:

John McManus (JM), Chris Langdon (CL), Peter Glynn (PG), Jay Blaire (JB), Peter Swart (PS), Robert Ginsburg (RG), Michael Schmale (MS), Thomas Lee (TL), Joseph Serafy (JS), John Wang (JW), David Letson (DL), B. Chin (recording secretary).

Meeting started

10:10am.

1. Preliminary discussions concerning election of chair

The meeting discussed voting procedure, the function and term of the chair and the decision making process.

a. Voting procedure for chair:

JM suggested 1 vote per division.

b. Term of chair:

JM suggested 1 year term with option for re-election.

c. Function of the chair:

JB stated that chair could help broaden the interest in coral reef research and reach players not yet involved. IACs do not normally report to the school council, therefore it might be healthy that a non MBF person chair the IAC in order to broaden the outlook.

MS stated that it may be better to have a chair separate from the director of the institution, because of the proposed expansion of NCORE.

d. Decision making process, by consensus or vote:

MS stated that in his experience, advisory committees would vote on major issues but most decisions were reached by consensus. Also that it is often helpful having persons with administrative experience sit on these committees.

JB agreed, stating that the Ocean and Human Health Committee operated more by consensus than by voting.

2. History

PG asked whether a chair was necessary and suggested having a background to the idea to expand NCORE in order to answer that question.

JM advised that the idea came out of the first IAC meeting. It seemed the most rational step as Congress would not grant further funding after the initial seed funding.

The intention is to have a center with staff and an advisory committee. Generally, the SAC's function has been to ensure that EPA requirements are adhered to. The alternate way to proceed is to be more of an interdivisional organization. NCORE was set up specifically to organize inter disciplinary coral reef studies but failed to get the funding necessary to do so.

We need to increase collaborative efforts. The students could benefit from inter divisional studies on coral reef. Some students want to be on the NCORE website and others are interested in being part of NCORE and part of a UM community coral reef program.

3. NCORE Website

JM suggested asking those involved in coral reef research if they want to be listed as part of NCORE on its webpage. We would list and or create links for those who agree and develop an interdisciplinary program. Students would be able to say they are part of NCORE.

T. Lee enquired if there was a coral reef theme in CIMAS.

JM answered that he did not know, but this could be an opportunity for change. The graduate students are upset that we haven't developed a program for them.

4. United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) Meeting

JM advised that the USCRTF meeting has been rescheduled to December 2 & 3. This could be an opportunity for more people to see what is happening at RSMAS. NCORE will have a booth and will be participating at pre-meeting events. Jerry Ault and Tom Lee will also be there.

JB suggested that the meeting may wish to rethink what to present but should take advantage of the fact that some people may extend their stay in Miami.

JM questioned whether the meeting should proceed with the internal symposium for Dec. 4 or arrange another meeting for that day, for those who may remain after the USCRTF meeting. He suggested that talks by Robert Ginsburg, Peter Glynn and Peter Swart would draw persons to a half day session. The internal seminar would then be in January '05.

RG doubted that many people would remain after the Task Force meeting and questioned the purpose of such an event. He suggested that such a meeting may be better attended if it was held before the Task Force meeting. RG suggested that in the alternative we should concentrate on our own meeting with our own audience, focus on what we think needs to be done, get new ideas that will attract attention and then do a show and tell for the outside world.

JB stated that it was odd that we are not trying to take advantage of this opportunity.

PG suggested writing to the USCRTF whether a post Task Force seminar would be a good idea. The meeting agreed to this.

5. Internal Symposium

The meeting suggested January 22, '05 as new date for internal symposium.

6. Election of Chair

PS was elected chair of IAC.

Chairman's Comments

The chairman stated that the internal symposium should be the IAC's highest priority. That persons involved in coral reef research should be put on website but taken off if they objected.

MS was of the view that persons should be part of the decision making process as to whether they want to be included.

JW enquired about the function of the proposed expanded NCORE.

MS answered that it would be a means to leverage funding and to provide interdisciplinary proposal; it would be advantageous to students and faculty and be a means of outreach activity. Further that the University of Miami has been known for its coral reef research and there is a need to re-develop the coral reef program. We must have a coherent plan to move forward.

JS asked whether there is a theme within the theme.

MS responded that that would evolve after we find out what everyone is doing.

PS stated that we need to make early steps and move slowly and that other things will come. We should first start with the website and seminar.

JB advised that one way to approach this is to have a sub/mini theme for a few years.

7. Other Business

a. Proposal: MS proposed that the IAC approach the student council advising that there is a chair and that we want a coral reef theme. The process therefore: elect a chair, form a theme, the IAC chair would be the thematic chair.

b. Future funding: JM said that we have to find ways get financing after EPA funding ceases. We could get funds from overheads but we need to justify an overhead and an administrative component. Long term research in particular has to be heavily multi-institutional.

c. School theme and website: MS urged the meeting work on the school theme and to decide what to do about the website (suggested item at next IAC meeting).

d. Additional Comments:

PG asked whether RSMAS administration knew about the NCORE proposal.

JB advised that the dean knew and agreed in principle. However good and compelling reasons must be presented.

The meeting agreed that JM should proceed to invite persons to become part of NCORE.

PS advised that organization for the internal science symposium should start right away.

JB commented on the need to market NCORE the right way eg. as having a broad based inter-disciplinary talent and excellent coral reef students.

JM said that there was a need for stronger coral reef involvement at undergraduate level and a need to establish RSMAS as an undergraduate coral reef institution. The meeting agreed main campus persons should be included.

Next meeting: Monday Nov. 29 at 10:00am .

Adjournment of Meeting: PS moved that meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned 11:53am.