

Minutes
Internal Advisory Committee Meeting
National Center for Caribbean Coral Reef Research
May 10, 2005

Members present: Peter Swart (Chair) (PS), John McManus (JM), Rod Zika (RZ), Michael Schmale (MS), Chris Langdon (CL), David Letson (DL), Tyler Smith (TS).

Meeting started 11:32 a.m.

1) Approval of Minutes

The members approved the minutes of IAC meeting of April 13, 2005.

2) Update on Ocean Research Interactive Observatory Network (ORION) Project

RZ advised that the last meeting before submission of the proposal will be Thursday, May 12, 2005; the proposal is due May 23, 2005.

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) is collaborating with NOVA Southeastern University, Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida and Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) on the proposal. However RSMAS is the lead institution, having 25% of the co-principal investigators. Jerald Ault is trying to create a super cluster type system to give the group an advantage. There is an enormous computer need but it would be represented as a regional requirement.

The proposal would include coral reef study and could be important to NCORE, in building a framework and bringing in funding. NCORE could provide an advantage as an existing RSMAS coral reef center.

The request for proposal asks for scientific questions that can be solved using data taken continuously over long periods of time from observatories. The scientific questions being submitted are mostly biological.

The next step would be to submit a written competitive proposal; a large part of the funds would go to the technology companies to build fabrication of networks.

3) Future direction of NCORE

- a. PS stated that it was up to individual RSMAS principal investigators to write proposals and to take the initiative.
- b. MS emphasized identifying potential groups and research interests from the NCORE membership. This would help us to facilitate collaboration e.g. identifying resources, writing equipment grants, creating computer clusters. MS also suggested encouraging journal clubs as a good educational tool. PS replied that the symposium highlighted various groups, but asked whether NCORE

should initiate organizing these groups. PS suggested having workshops on specific areas e.g. calcification, deep sea reefs etc. as a further step to increasing the connection with NCORE and to identify people willing to work together. JM agreed and suggested one per month for next semester.

c. RZ suggested looking at National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) as a possible model. Its major strength was bringing people together who would not normally collaborate. JM invited MS to speak about his experience of the NIEHS. MS identified the following strengths of the NIEHS:

- Picked key problems that were addressable and fundable,
- Despite small core funding and limited facility, got people together to write grants,
- Created incentives e.g. pilot projects where they gave 2 or 3 persons about \$10,000 per year to research unusual issues,
- Organized monthly informal seminar series,
- Facilitated collaboration between research cores, and
- Generated other institutions e.g. the Ocean and Human Health Center.

MS stated that he believed that NIEHS accomplished the above because of a sense of centeredness and belonging: a willingness to give of their time and facilities, and good leadership. RZ agreed that the composition of the advisory committee is critical.

4) Deep Sea Coral Reef Symposium

PS reminded the meeting about the Deep Sea Coral Reef Symposium, November 28-December 2, 2005 at RSMAS. The abstract deadline is the end of May. CL and PS have submitted abstracts.

5) Centennial Celebration – Carnegie Institute Marine Biology Laboratory

PS suggested speaking to Robert Ginsburg about including the NCORE name in the celebration.

6) Mission Statement

JM emphasized the importance of a corporation having a mission statement.

7) Action Item

JM will prepare a draft mission statement and send to the IAC members for review and comments.

8) Meeting ended 12:35pm