

**Minutes**  
**Internal Advisory Committee Meeting (IAC)**  
**National Center for Caribbean Coral Reef Research (NCORE)**  
**June 27, 2005**

**Members present: Peter Swart (Chair) (PS), John McManus (JM), Jay Blaire (JB) Peter Glynn (PG), Michael Schmale (MS), Chris Langdon (CL), Margaret Miller (MM), Robert Ginsburg (RB).**

Meeting started 10:30 a.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The members approved the minutes of IAC meeting of May 10, 2005.

**2. Recommendation for the future of NCORE**

**a. Updating Dean Brown on NCORE activities**

The members agreed to update Dean Brown about NCORE's activities. JM stated that he would prepare a progress report (including NCORE's mission and vision statement) and meet with Dean Brown. JB suggested that the report include the center's post EPA role and justification for the center's continuance.

JB noted that the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences model, described by MS at the previous IAC meeting (outlined in minutes of meeting 05/10/05) could be a good model for NCORE.

PS instructed that the minutes of the meetings be sent to Dean Brown.

**b. Future seminars**

PS and CL agreed to organize a climate change seminar for a date in October. This would be a forum to generate ideas and a means of bringing people together. MM and MS agreed to plan subsequent seminar (before the end of 2005) on coral health and disease.

**c. Identifying strengths**

MS recommended identifying RSMAS's current and possible future research strengths as this could assist the members to formulate NCORE's future role. PS noted that some areas were identified from the coral reef symposium.

Members agreed to review document prepared by PS in which he identified areas of coral reef research presented at the symposium, in order to come up with a list.

### **3. Restructuring NCORE's Scientific Advisory Committee**

JM advised that NCORE's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) membership was largely international and consequently it was costly to have meetings. However it may now be a good time to form a smaller and more localized committee. The members agreed on a committee of 5 or 6 persons. Ideally the SAC should include government and non-government based members, person with strong interest in the area and experience in funding and leading similar organizations.

JM requested that all members nominate candidates via email and include a one sentence description of the candidate.

### **4. Mission Statement**

JM prepared a draft mission and vision statement which was distributed to members at the meeting. RG suggested that the mission statement should be more concise and should identify NCORE as an organization focused on Caribbean coral reef research. The members agreed to defer discussion on this issue to the next IAC meeting. MS suggested including reference to the urgency of coral reef study because of its global importance.

### **5. Any Other Business**

#### **a. Coral Reef new hire**

CL left the meeting. MS advised that Dr. Andrew Baker was offered the coral biologist post. However at a Marine Biology and Fisheries (MBF) faculty meeting the question arose whether the division needed additional coral reef experts and if so, was there a suitable shortlist of candidates.

MS stated that the MBF faculty members requested an input from the NCORE IAC concerning these issues. PS thanked the MBF faculty for inviting NCORE's input. The members agreed that there was need for additional persons and that there was a suitable list of candidates. The members identified Drs. Diego Lirman and Chris Langdon as candidates who were world class scientists, specializing in areas of urgent need at RSMAS. JM moved that the IAC committee recommends that both Drs. Diego Lirman and Chris Langdon be appointed as research faculty and that if appropriate, Prof. Peter Swart, the NCORE IAC chair, be invited to the MBF faculty meeting to discuss this recommendation. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **b. NCORE name change**

JM proposed that the issue of a change of name for NCORE be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

#### **c. Posting of minutes on website**

PS and JM will edit minute before posting on NCORE websites.

### **6. Meeting ended 12:01pm**