

IAC/SAC COMBINED MEETING

December 6 2006

Attendees:

John McManus (JM; Director), Chris Langdon (CL; Asst. Director), Peter Swartz (PS; Chair, IAC), Robert Ginsburg (RG), Mike Schmale (MS), Margaret Miller (MM), Joe Serafy (JS), John Ogden (JP; SAC; by phone) and Marilyn Brandt (MB; Student Representative, IAC)

Agenda

Meeting started at 1:35PM

Welcome and introduction of new SAC members

JM welcomed the IAC members and introduced John Ogden (attended by phone), the only SAC member able to attend the meeting.

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

- JM presented the minutes of the previous meeting (Feb 6 2006)
- PS realizes that no meetings were called after February 2006 primarily due to availability of key people
- PS and CL made a quick comment on the idea of a workshop that they would like to hold.

Discussion on IAC chair position

- JM re-introduced the purpose of NCORE and emphasized that 90% of the EPA money given to NCORE were allocated to projects;
- RG asked the group if we still need NCORE, reasons why NCORE should continue, and questions the school-wide project (referring to the Antigua and Barbuda Project (A-B))
- JM explained the A-B project as being a contract to help set up and maintain an MPA. NCORE was used in the presentation to the contractor, characterizing it as the largest university-based coral reef organization in the US. He also discussed how others can use NCORE to attract coral reef science-related projects.
- CL questioned the need for an IAC Chairman and JM responded that as a center, an IAC is required and hence a chairman is needed.
- RG questioned the reputation of NCORE and JM responded that the impression may be different outside of RSMAS, presenting examples (e.g. presentations, etc. at conferences and Task force meetings) but reiterated that core funds are difficult to secure.
- JO described the 'consortium' setup at FIO and noted that as such, some or all overhead is waived.
- PS suggested that NCORE should explore the possibilities of requesting money from RSMAS, referring to indirect cost of projects to be used as NCORE core funds

Nomination and election of new NCORE chair

- PS cannot continue as chair because he is overcommitted and we need a mechanism/procedure to select new chair and moreover, suggested that it should come from MBF faculty members.
- JM/MM identified Chris Langdon, Andrew Baker and Diego Lirman as possible candidates

Discussion of new topics for next NCORE workshop

- RG suggested that there is no need for NCORE to have workshops because there are no funds, and individuals can set up workshops without organizations.
- PS: Chris and I will continue the work on sea calcification and the new chair should develop the next topic.
- MM posted a question to the group on how improve IAC buy-in by others at RSMAS to the center and continued that the Antigua project could have been used for such purpose. She also noted that the group is successful in exchanging ideas but not in getting funds
- PS: We clearly have a strong coral reef program at RSMAS and we have the momentum. However, it is time to move to a new direction and establish camaraderie. Moreover, PS noted that there are no attempts by the general membership to include NCORE in projects and proposals.
- JM: There is a need to continue and dissolving NCORE will not help. We might get funds for general purpose but still, it will not solve all current problems.
- JM suggested that the new chair should be partly covered and funds for administration, if this could be sought from RSMAS.
- RG: We only have a website and it is just a shell and noted that RSMAS scientists tend to work individually. Moreover, RG noted that the school never works in coordinated ways and still believed that there is no need for NCORE.
- PS: People can use NCORE to attract funds. We are not utilizing NCORE resources. There is a need for a glue to stick everything together.
- JO: The key to NCORE is to serve selfish interests as is the case for the FIO consortium
- MM: Get that message to all PIs to leverage a deal with RSMAS to get funds.
- MS: Overhead costs is a way to get funds. Use NCORE to get some funds from overheads.

Discussion of ways to better facilitate interdisciplinary graduate coral reef studies

- MB: She noted that the most graduate students have never taken a coral reef science class as there were none offered and cross depart
- PS: Yes, there should be more courses but remains skeptical of any progress because of the absence of incentives.
- JM: New curriculum may be introduced on coastal and coral reef science within the MBF program

Discussion of potential role in revised undergraduate program

{NOTE: This agenda was dropped at the last minute due to time constraints}

Other topics

John Wang has resigned from the IAC last year, due to scheduling conflicts, but may or may not want to continue this year.

No other topics discussed.

Adjourned at 2:50PM