DRAFT

IAC/SAC COMBINED MEETING
February 9, 2007

Attendees:

John McManus (JM; Director), Chris Langdon (CL; Asst. Director), Peter Swartz (PS; Chair, IAC), Robert Ginsburg (RG), Mike Schmale (MS), Margaret Miller (MM), Andrew Baker (AB), John Ogden (JP; SAC; by phone), Jay Blaire (JB), Rod Zika (RZ) and Marilyn Brandt (MB; Student Representative, IAC)

Agenda

Meeting started at 1:00PM

Welcome and introduction of new SAC members

PS welcomed the IACs.

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (9 Dec 2006) were distributed for approval

Discussion on IAC chair position and Director

- JM nominated Andrew Baker as the new chair of IAC and appointed by acclamation;
- AB accepted the role, motivated by the need of a core group from within UM for coral reef research; that there was an obvious niche for it;
- MS clarified that NCORE as a center in UM should have advisory committee and should report to the school council;
- CL raised the question on the role of IAC and the director of the center;
- JM clarified the issue emphasizing that the IAC represents the interests of the center as an umbrella organization for all 50 or so coral reef researchers at UM; director is responsible on the day-to-day activities and IAC is responsible for oversight. IAC can recommend and set center direction and guidelines. The IAC is not only advisory in function but should come up with ideas and enact them.
- PS: Who is responsible to call meetings?
- AB: I see that as an IAC Chair responsibility. It is clear that enactment is really delegated by the chair, i.e. get to people's back to get it going.
- RZ: NCORE has been in existence since 2000 and most of its success is from EPA projects. The idea is to move it to multiple programs.
- JM: NCORE is an umbrella organization and we want to see all NCORE associates involved to promote interdisciplinary research and education. The organization may also be used to leverage to get funds.
- RZ: Was it successful?
- JM: Yes, we used NCORE to get the Punta Cana and Antigua projects. Hopefully, others will follow. The IAC has an important role in areas such as setting up workshops and starting new

initiatives. If there were to be seed money that the IAC could handle as a decision-making body, it would likely come from "gifts", from fund-raising by the office of Douglas Ray.

- RG: I thought you wanted to step down? After 6 years you are stuck with this? May be it is time.
- JM: The new director will have to take over all activities and the mechanism to replace the director is to recommend to the dean and appoint new one. If there were to be a new director it would be best if the person was a full professor with tenure, as the activities would substantially reduce that person's publication rate.
- JB: The IAC is to advise the director whoever the director of the center is.
- MS: The new director will have to run and manage the web as well
- PS: Let's give AB the chance to run IAC as he see hope and see what happens.
- AB: A change of leadership at this point will not help NCORE
- RZ: The term "Advisory" do not function well. Does NCORE have any committee other than just being advisory?
- JM: We accommodate IAC's request as much as possible within the limited resources
- RZ: I want NCORE to be successful but there is a need to have a committee with more "clout".
- PS: There are other means. The IAC has the right to vote for no-confidence to effect change if needed. If we need a better website, we can also vote for it.
- MS: Most of us here are stakeholders, and if we want to see progress as we are the people to make things happen
- JM: We are all volunteers here. Yes, IAC does not only advise but actually does the job to make things happen.
- RG: How are decisions reached here? Nobody is ever consulted and certainly, not I?
- JM: We have been very responsive to the IAC and done everything that the IAC has voted on and passed as a recommendation.
- AB: The past of NCORE is different from the future. We have no funds and I do not see the chair as micromanaging the center. We are not in a position to direct any financial spending by the center. I see no value in pursuing this discussion.
- PS: That was the last 5 years of NCORE, we have to move forward.

<u>Discussion on the website</u>

- AB: Overall, we had very little input in the past but the external perception is that we are successful. It may be time to re-face the NCORE web to emphasize interdisciplinarity and I strongly believe that it should be hosted at RSMAS (NOTE: actually it is hosted at RSMAS with ncore.rsmas.miami.ed URL)
- PS: Actually, we can make it as a resource for coral reef research but should be careful with IPR violations.
- AB: We can come up with a list of RSMAS publications on corals reef research and related topics.
- MM: Listing is a demonstration but we need inputs
- AB: A list of publications, no matter how large or small it is, has values
- MS: Suggest to AB to discuss this with the new librarian of RSMAS
- AB: Made a motion to the IAC to develop a historical database of RSMAS publications
- Seconded by CL/JM/etc.
- AB: We should put efforts to look for publications where the author is RSMAS;

- MS: We should not exclude grey-literature and we may have to link to the Biscayne Bay databases.
- RZ: We may have huge advantage if we focus on the Caribbean and coral reef
- JM: We have to clarify what NCORE members are and what a qualified publication is.
- MS: We have the potential to serve the Caribbean and make NCORE the gateway for Caribbean scientists and researchers through our website.
- RZ: We can get funding for this type of activity
- AB: Let's move on

Discussion on other ideas

- MB: There is a NSF IGERT program and we stand a good chance on the field of coral reef and climate change.
- AB: We have a good niche of coral reef and climate change scientist here and we have a good chance.
- MB: IGERT deadline is 5 April for pre-proposals
- JM: Good idea but may be difficult. It is a high risk but high return exercise.
- RZ: There are exchange programs that we should explore
- MS: Graduate exchange like partnership with JCU and/or AIMS focused on coral reef ecology is an option
- AB to take the lead to develop the concept

Discussion of Meeting Frequency

- AB: I am not clear on the frequency of meetings
- JB: Interest diminishes if it is too frequent. A 4 to 6 weeks interval is advisable. Note that NCORE should report to the school council every semester

Discussion on IAC Membership

- AB: who should be on the IAC?
- JM: Originally it was based on representatives from all divisions, but that has changed.
- AB: Should we consider instead, thematic? How should we determine these themes?
- JM: We should establish rules and procedures to nominate IAC members

Meeting adjourned at 2:08PM