

UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

An association of Institutions
for the coordination and support
of university oceanographic facilities

Minutes

ALPHA HELIX

Executive Subcommittee Meeting

SIO, September 29, 1976

A meeting of the ALPHA HELIX Executive Subcommittee was held at S.I.O. on September 29th, 1976, Director's Building, Room 114.

The following were present for all or part of the meeting: V. Alexander (Chairman), E. Chin, H. B. Steinbach, W. Nierenberg, R. Fisher, M. Johrde, C. Murdinger, P. Branson, C. Haines, H. Hammel, O. Holm-Hansen, L. Abbott, T. Forhan, T. Stetson.

A review of developments was made by various persons present. Some items were: resignations of Dr. Garey (Program Manager), that of W. Schneider (Tech) and J. Murray (Sec.) leaving only T. Forhan (Tech). D. Poppis currently resident tech on ALPHA HELIX. Dr. Fisher observed there were no foreseeable major logistics problems for several months and that an *ad hoc* committee is being formed to consider candidates to re-staff the Office. General agreement was reached as to the type of person required to manage the Program Office.

There was discussion on whether resident technician(s) were required on ALPHA HELIX at all times, as has been past practice. It appears that perhaps some up-coming legs need not have technicians aboard and that Scripps will reserve the right to decide, taking into account the nature of the program to be conducted. Technicians may be rotated from SIO's pool of such, which will lend flexibility to operations.

The problem of continuity of supplies aboard, equipment maintenance when techs are absent remain to be worked out. The present extensive list of supplies carried aboard ALPHA HELIX will probably be pared down to a more manageable one. The result would be that a participating scientist would supply more on his own towards his needs.

Dr. Hammel was asked if he would take the lead in paring down the supplies list and he agreed. Dr. Holm-Hansen made the point that acids/bases/flammable solvents/compressed gasses are difficult to ship and therefore should continue to be stocked aboard.

Capt. Branson stated that ALPHA HELIX is operated the same as any other SIO vessel regarding logistics, crew, and maintenance.

It was noted the Program Office is to be moved out of P.R.L. to other space, and it was agreed the name need not be changed. P.R.L. will have a new director with the appointment of Dr. Fred N. White, Jr., effective 1 January 1977.

A lengthy discussion centered on the respective roles of the P.M.O., UNOLS and Review Committee. It seems well recognized that P.M.O. will continue to coordinate agreed upon cruises, working with prospective chief scientists, assigning technicians, etc.

It was noted visas heretofore had been handled by the Office and that they were currently all in process through the end of the Amazon phase. The Office will no longer provide this benefit, except to provide basic information to users. Individual participants will then be responsible for obtaining their visas.

Communication difficulties between a far-flung AHRC and PMO regarding proposal status are to be resolved by having the UNOLS Office act as the focal point in receiving letters of intent and/or proposals. The Office will then circulate same to committee members for comment/review.

The function of the Review Committee will be to continue to develop interest in using the vessel as much as 3-4 years ahead. This includes targeting geographic areas where work might be done. Alumni should be identified and encouraged to recruit new users. New means of encouraging scientists to apply should be found. Perhaps establishing (or sharing with NSF) a booth at the Federation Proceedings meeting (Chicago, Spring 1977) could serve as an advertising mechanism.

It has been pointed out that much unhappiness can be avoided if P.I.'s would give some thought and preparation to developing back-up programs in case of trouble developing in the field with the main line investigation. The AHRC should look for such provisions during their review process.

A "must" for the full ALPHA HELIX Review Committee fall meeting (10 Nov. 1976, Wash., D.C.) will be to review the post-Amazon schedule.

Workshops for participants prior to major expeditions have been found useful to all concerned in the past and should continue to be held. In all likelihood, these would necessarily be held with the vessel unavailable for inspection and therefore lab plans and photos of the vessel should be available at workshops. Funds for these should be requested in the research proposal.

Miss Johrde stated that for her purposes the biennial report need not be so lengthy. Merely reproducing investigators' un-edited report would suffice. The SIO personnel present hastily agreed as this report has been very time consuming to produce in the past. The fact that these reports are a requirement upon participating scientists should be emphasized in the letters to them.

Certain changes of wording in the "Guidelines" were discussed. Various pages will be redone and accepted if mutually agreeable. The intent is to have the "Guidelines" more accurately reflect actual operations.

The meeting adjourned at 1530.

for the A/H Exec. Subcommittee,



Thomas Stetson, UNOLS Office
5 October 1976

Dist:

ALPHA HELIX Review Committee

V. Alexander, Chm.
E. Chin
B. Steinbach
J. Case
W. Sackett
J. Costlow
H. Jannasch

A/H Program Manager's Office
R. Fisher
M. Johrde