

UNIVERSITY - NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

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

ALPHA HELIX
Review Committee

MINUTES

ALPHA HELIX Review Committee Meeting
April 27-28, 1978
National Science Foundation
Washington, D.C.

GENERAL

A meeting of the Executive Subcommittee was called by Dr. E. Chin, Chairman, for 1630 hours April 26 in Room "A" of the Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. Those attending were: Drs. E. Chin, V. Alexander, O. Holm-Hansen, H.B. Steinbach, and Mr. T. Stetson. Questions concerning the performance of the Review Committee were discussed. The discussions continued on April 28 at the regular session.

The regular annual review process by the Committee was held April 27-28 at the National Science Foundation, Room 643. The following were present for all or part of the meeting:

E. Chin, Chairman	M. Jahrde
V. Alexander	R. Elder
O. Holm-Hansen	T. Forhan
W. Hulet	D. Holt
H. Jannasch	D. Popp
C. Miller	T. Stetson
H. Steinbach	

The following paragraphs below are numbered following the Agenda, which was adopted.

1. Adopt Minutes. The minutes of the May 2-3, 1977, meeting were adopted as written.

2. Proposal Review Process. T. Stetson reviewed the Committee's function in the review process. The following points were made and are documented by the advertising flyer, UNOLS Charter Annex II, and the "Guidelines for Management Oversight...".

a. Use of ALPHA HELIX is obtained by submitting a letter of intent or pre-proposal to the Review Committee prior to a published deadline.

b. Support for the research is sought concurrently by the Principal Investigator (P.I.) from his normal sponsor.

c. If the grant application is to NSF then funds for ship operations are provided Scripps directly by NSF, once the program is approved. If the application is to elsewhere, then the P.I. should seek vessel support as well.

d. A P.I. may propose an ancillary program. The AHRC is charged with the responsibility for assembling cruises from approved component parts.

e. Scheduling therefore becomes a function of user interest and early expression from potential users. A two- to three-year timeframe is encouraged.

f. The AHRC evaluates the proposals in terms of suitability for the ALPHA HELIX. This inevitably includes consideration of scientific merit; for example, if two full programs are competing for the same time slot the AHRC will have to judge which is to prevail. Committee evaluations are made available for the optional consideration of the research sponsor.

g. Discussion of AHRC function ranged intermittently over the meeting period. Drs. Chin and Holm-Hansen felt the review process wasn't working well on several counts. Foremost, perhaps is the weakness of pre-proposals resulting in their being difficult to evaluate. Others are: the two- to three-year timeframe isn't being met, the role of ancillary programs is unclear, etc. The basic problem as far as the writer is concerned is one of attitude on the part of Committee members. Proposal content can be "beefed-up" by insistence by the Committee. Real problems should be brought to the attention of the Advisory Council.

3. Review of A/H Program. D. Popp, A/H Resident Technician, gave a run-down on the past year's programs. A summary report has been prepared by the A/H Program and UNOLS' offices covering 1975 activities through the Amazon River Expedition in 1977. Mr. Popp brought us up to date.

An interesting sidelight is that over half the foreign clearances requested by UNOLS' vessels and processed by the Department of State during 1977 were on behalf of ALPHA HELIX.

Present plans call for ALPHA HELIX to return to San Diego this October 12 to commence a yard period. It is intended that a study of her electrical power problems be undertaken at this time. Miss Johrde mentioned she had not yet received the proposal from Scripps to accomplish this. Dr. Holm-Hansen felt science programs would begin to be affected if the vessel departed in March '79 without improvements both to the capacity and control of the electrical supply.

4. Review of Proposals & Scheduling. More than 35 "proposals" were evaluated. The chairman and secretary will write each P.I. to inform them of the Committee's action. A very tentative schedule was roughed out as follows:

VERY TENTATIVE at 28 April 78

APRIL 79	*PARKER	NE AUSTRALIA
MAY		
JUNE	*FAULKNER	PALAU
JULY		
AUG	*CAMERON	PALAU
SEP	*CHILDRESS	INDONESIA
OCT	*ARNOLD	PHILIPPINES
NOV		
DEC		
JAN 80		
FEB		
MAR	NEALSON	N. GUINEA
APR	LEWIN & CHENG	PALAU
MAY		
JUN		
JULY	BENSON	GR. BARRIER REEF
AUG	KIM	E. AUSTRALIA
SEP	GATZ	INDONESIA
OCT		

NOTE: *Vermeij was, at meeting time, suggested as an ancillary program to Faulkner but since he wants to go to the Philippines, it appears better to ally him with Childress or Arnold. This would present a timing problem for Vermeij, however.

* Funded programs

4. (Cont'd.) ACTION. For advertising purposes the Committee declared Australian and New Guinean waters to be the operating area and for 1981 the Antarctic is under consideration.

5. Proposal Deadline. The proposal deadline was changed to March 1; the next regular meeting, therefore, will probably be late March or early April 1979.

6. Flyer Review. Several suggestions revising the advertising flyer were developed. Dr. Chin offered to undertake revision incorporating these improvements.

7. Committee Replacements. A number of candidates to replace Drs. Alexander and Case were proposed. Dr. Eldon H. Newcomb, U. of Wisconsin, Madison, and Dr. Charlotte P. Mangum, College of William & Mary were the first choices and will be suggested to the Advisory Council. (Post-meeting note: Both were proposed to, and ratified by, the Membership at the Annual Meeting in May. Both have accepted the appointment.)

8. Other. In spite of the sense of helplessness prevailing among some AHRC members, it was the expressed will of the Committee that it continue to function.

The Committee wishes to record its thanks to outgoing members, Drs. Alexander and Case, for their time and effort on behalf of this National Oceanographic Facility. Letters expressing this sentiment will be sent by the Executive Secretary to them.

The meeting adjourned about noon, April 28.

Thomas Stetson
Executive Secretary
UNOLS

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ALPHA HELIX REVIEW COMMITTEE

0830, 27-28 April 1978
National Science Foundation, Room 643
Washington, D.C.

DRAFT AGENDA

1. *Adopt Minutes of 2-3 May 1977 Meeting*
2. *The Proposal Review Process - T. Stetson*
3. *Review of Alpha Helix Program: CY 1977 & 1978 to date - O. Holm-Hansen*
4. *Review of Proposals & Scheduling for 1979 and Beyond*
5. *Set Proposal Deadline for CY 1979 & Date for Meeting*
6. *Flyer Review*
7. *Suggestions for AHRC Replacements for Drs. Alexander & Case, to be Submitted to UNOLS Advisory Council & Annual Meeting Ratification*

7 APR 1978