NSF Agency Report Alexander (Sandy) Shor ashor@nsf.gov

UNOLS RVTEC University of South Florida November 3-5, 2004

NSF 2005 Budget

- NSF does not yet have a budget operating on a Continuing Resolution until mid-November.
- Based on request and House/Senate input, we anticipate budget for Ocean Sciences that does not differ greatly from 2004.
- We hope to see a budget in November, or possibly January.....

NSF-funded UNOLS use in '05

Ship usage in 2005 is at about 'normal' level, with about 3000 NSF-funded days. This is down by about 10% from 2004, the heaviest year in recent history, so impact of a flat budget may not be quite as bad as otherwise on ship and related facilities operations. (At least that's the hope....)

NSF Proposals, Oceanographic Tech Services and Instrumentation

- Instrumentation proposals were due October 15, most are either in or enroute.
- Technical Services proposals are due sometime not too long after November 15. These are actually Year 3 of 3 of the existing awards, not new start. If any questions, send me an email (ashor@nsf.gov).

New in Ocean Sciences at NSF in 2004

- Vessel acquired for Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, will begin conversion for multichannel seismics and other ocean research during 2005 for 2006 operations.
- New 6500 meter submersible being designed, expected to be built over next four years for operation by National Deep Submergence Facility agt WHOI.

Personnel changes at NSF

- <u>NSF Director</u>: Acting Director Arden Bement, who replaced Rita Colwell in early 2004, has been nominated by the President to become the NSF Director.
- <u>Division Director, Ocean Sciences</u>: James Yoder returned University of Rhode Island at end September 2004; search for replacement should end this month, with new director likely in place early in 2005.