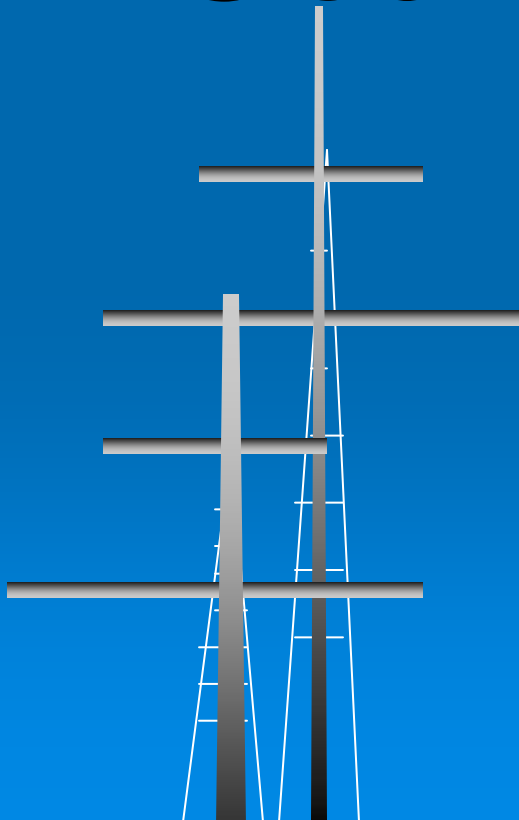


UNOLS

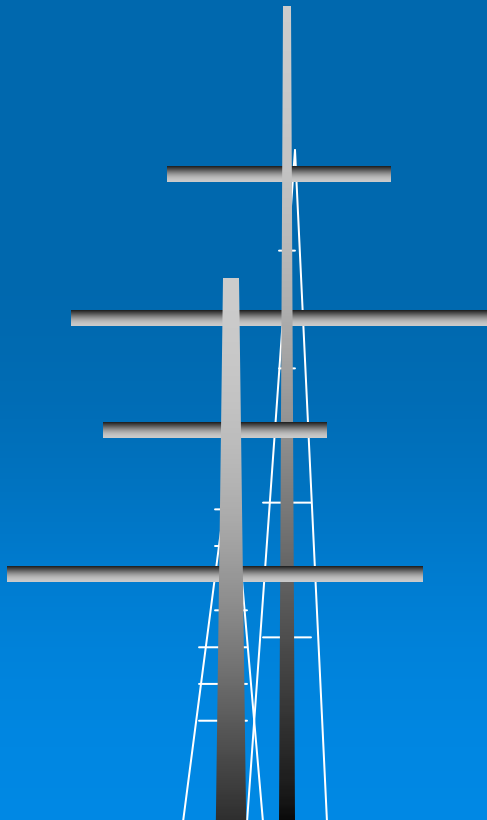
Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives

2008-2009



Vision

The US Ocean Science research and education programs are healthy and vigorous, thanks to broad access to the best possible mix of modern, capable, efficiently run, and well-operated research vessels, aircraft, submersibles, and other major shared-used facilities.




Mission

UNOLS provides the primary forum through which the ocean research and education community, research facility operators, and the supporting Federal agencies work cooperatively to improve access, scheduling, operation, and capabilities of current and future academic oceanographic facilities.

Q: Our research funding base is diversifying. Does UNOLS need to evolve as well to reflect those sources of support?

Goals for 2008

1. Enlarge the group of supporters for UNOLS both in terms of capitalization and operations.
2. Extend our planning horizon to ensure that we are building a UNOLS that really meets what the infrastructure needs will be for ocean sciences in the coming decades.
3. Continuously work to lower barriers to effective use of UNOLS ships caused by disabilities, gender, or other special situations.



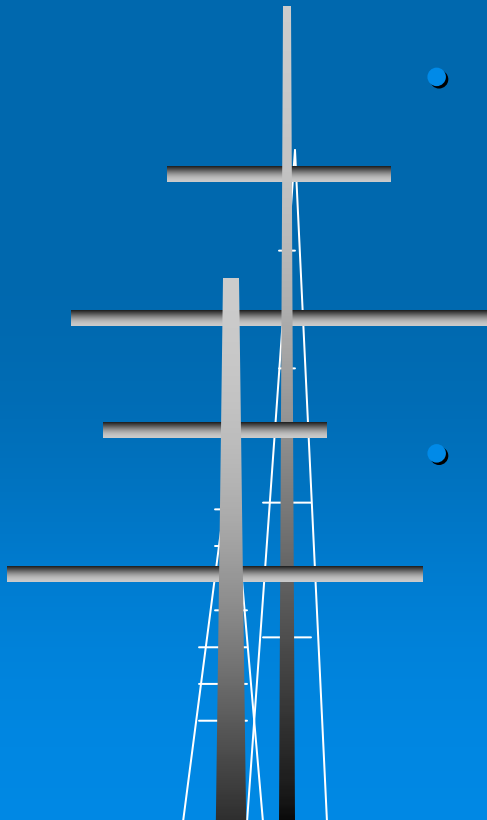
Comment: We didn't make progress on #1, and the distraction that came from continually focusing on that problem prevented us from effectively dealing with #2. Does/can UNOLS be more flexible to re-engage more agencies? UNOLS does address well issues that are within its immediate control (e.g., #3).

Goals for 2009

1. Investigate the feasibility of a more flexible UNOLS to meet the needs of additional users.
2. Work with Ocean Leadership, the NRC, and the federal agencies to ensure that the fleet is right sized and has the right capabilities for ocean sciences in the coming decades.
3. Implement strategies to attract and retain the best maritime personnel in support of the UNOLS mission.
4. Continue to lower barriers to effective use of UNOLS ships caused by disabilities, gender, or other special situations.

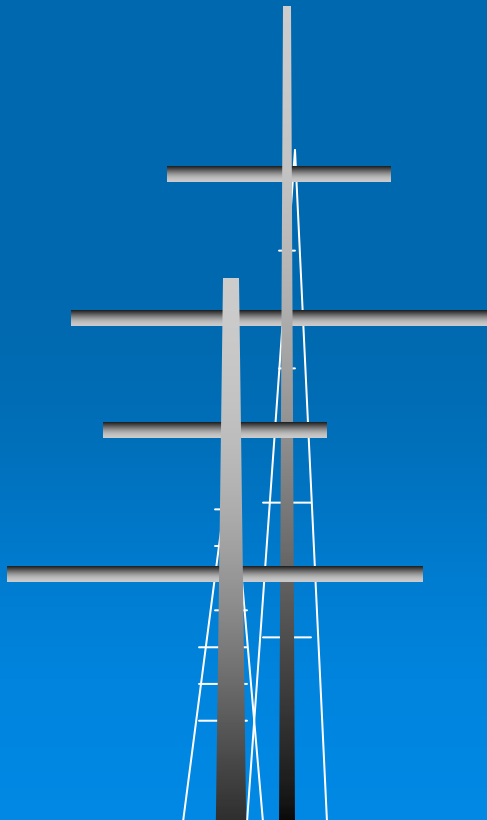
Issue: Flexibility

- Our science is being supported by a more diverse array of stakeholders, paradoxically at the same time that support for UNOLS is getting less broad in its base
- We need to better understand this divergence (cost problems, insurance issues, mission mismatches, different decision timescales, etc.) and do what we can to reconverge
- Suggest that this is a task for an *ad hoc* subcommittee to investigate problem and make recommendations



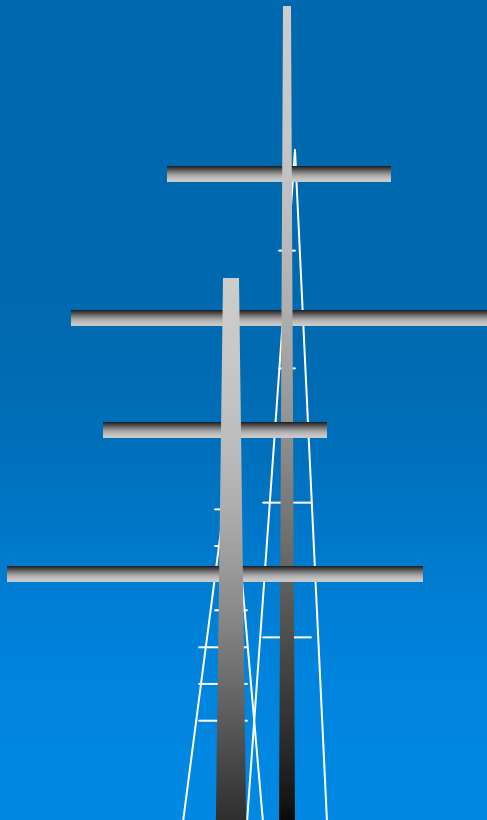
Issue: Planning for Future

- Fact that facilities costs are exceeding funds available is not just a UNOLS problem, nor even just an OCE problem
- For that reason, the solution is unlikely to come from UNOLS working unilaterally, but rather UNOLS working in concert with Ocean Leadership, the agencies, and institutions
- Facilities must be right sized for the budget and appropriately designed for the science mission
- UNOLS must be ready with its input as the expert on ship operations and must be at the table, but will not be able to solve the problem alone



Issue: Maritime Personnel

- Crew and marine technician retention has always been a challenge for UNOLS vessels
- The issue is now reaching crisis proportions with the boom in the offshore industry which makes it very difficult for academic salaries to compete
- So much specialized training is invested into each shipboard crewmember to meet the regulations that turnover is a huge financial loss
- Zerr/Martin are proposing strategies for addressing this issue



Issue: Equal Access

We are making progress in ADA access.

Will experiment with online training to increase awareness on what actions constitute sexual harassment and the negative consequences of such behavior on UNOLS vessels.

