

DRAFT
UNOLS COUNCIL – Phone/Web Conference
Wednesday and Thursday, June 9 & 10, 2010, 1:00 pm – 4:00 PM EDT (each day)

Executive Summary: The spring meeting of the UNOLS Council was held via phone conference. Updates were provided on UNOLS activities and Fleet Renewal Plans. Progress on 2009/2010 UNOLS goals was discussed. A report was provided on 2010 Fleet schedules, estimated operation costs, and 2011 ship scheduling. The Council discussed the formation of a new Ocean Observatories Science Committee and plans for moving forward. The Nominating Committee provided an update on the draft 2010 UNOLS Council slate.

Appendices:

I	Meeting Agenda
II	Meeting Participant List
III	Council Presentation Material

Action Items:

1) UNOLS Vessel Operations in Gulf of Mexico: Contact Bill Streever of BP for RFP information on call for proposals for Gulf of Mexico research (Jon Alberts)

2) NSF tasking regarding Regional Class Research Vessel areas of inquiry:

- Provide the FIC draft recommendations to the Council upon completion (Clare Reimers/Office)
- Contact Tim Gates regarding the bulbous bow/bubble sweep-down information. Mike Prince will send contact information to Clare.
- Post NSF's RCRV task letter to FIC along with the enclosures and make the link available to the Council. (Annette DeSilva)
- Provide FIC response to the NSF task to NSF by Oct 1 (Clare Reimers)

3) Review Agency Recommendations Regarding Fleet Operations in 2011

- Agency recommendations are expected in the fall.
- Form ad hoc committee - Robin Muench and Vernon Asper volunteered. One additional volunteer is needed.
- The ad hoc committee is tasked to respond to the agency recommendations within 30 days of receipt.

4) Ship Time Demand Survey

- An *ad hoc* committee was formed : Peter Wiebe, Rob Pinkel, and John Diebold
- Draft a community survey to evaluate ship time demand – Annette, Ad hoc committee, and input from the Council.
- Create and on-line form (SurveyMonkey.com will be explored). (UNOLS Office)
- Broadly distribute the survey and collect data – UNOLS Office
- Provide a preliminary summary of the data at the Fall UNOLS meeting. (UNOLS Office)
- Contact Rodey Batiza and Phil Taylor and convey concern about the 2011 schedules. Other agencies should also be contacted (UNOLS Office)

- 5) Proposed formation of a new UNOLS Ocean Observatories Science Committee (OOSC)**
- Include the OOSC Terms of Reference on the 2010 Membership ballot (UNOLS Office)
 - Broadly distribute an OOSC call for nominations (UNOLS Office)

6) Antarctic Research Vessels and UNOLS

- Incorporate comments to the draft letter and re-circulate for review (Vernon Asper)
- Send the finalized letter to OPP and OCE (Vernon Asper)

7) UNOLS Charter Review

- Review the Charter and suggest revisions/updates as needed. (Subcommittee: Nancy Rabalais, Rob Pinkel, and Vernon Asper)
- Committee Chairs are asked to review their respective Charter Annex and forward any suggested changes as soon as possible.
- Subcommittee will send Charter revisions to the Council and request endorsement.
- The Council endorsed Charter revisions will be distributed to the UNOLS membership at least 30 days in advance of Annual Meeting.

8) Nominating Committee: Bruce Corliss, Wilf Gardner, and Peter Wiebe.

- The Committee will finalize the slate and send it to the Council for endorsement.
- The UNOLS Office will distribute the slate to the membership at least 30 days in advance of Annual Meeting

9) UNOLS Annual meeting Keynote Speaker:

- Kate Moran was invited as the key note speaker and accepted. The UNOLS Office will work with Kate on agenda arrangements.
- Invite the new NSF Division Director to the annual meeting and reception

10) Greening the UNOLS Fleet – Prepare a proposal to hold a workshop (Bruce Corliss with input from steering committee members Clare Reimers and Pete Zerr)

11) Post Cruise Assessment Report (PCAR) Review

- Subcommittee members will continue their review of PCARs
- UNOLS Office will continue to compile and summarize PCAR data
- Explore implementing the new PCAR form that had been drafted by Mike Prince.
- Contact Mike Weaver (NOAA) to share information about the UNOLS PCAR with NOAA. (Bob Collier)
- Retain the PCAR form for the marine technicians and captains, but RVTEC can make suggestions for improvements at their Annual Meeting.

12) Investigate the feasibility of a more flexible UNOLS (Subcommittee)

- Prepare a questionnaire for R/V operators that will solicit information on past experiences from Charters and research cruises funded by non-government sources - Pros, cons, challenges, benefits, lessons learned
- Prepare a second questionnaire or meeting with ship owners – Gather information on concerns/requirements with regard to non-government funding.

13) Gender Climate at Sea – Kenneth Coale and UNOLS Office

- Select one of the existing (short) Workplace Answers training courses and work with Workplace Solutions to run the chosen existing training as a pilot program
- Collect information from users for a year's period
- Summarize the findings and get back to Workplace Answers with more concrete suggestions from scientists and crew alike.
- Then develop a customized program if needed.

14) UNOLS Involvement at Future Science Meetings – Explore options for a UNOLS Plenary session, special session, town hall meeting, and/or poster session at a future AGU or Ocean Science meeting. (Robin Muench)

15) UNOLS Outreach/Mentoring Initiatives Update – Prepare a proposal for an outreach/mentoring initiative (UNOLS Office and FIC)

16) Medical Issues – The RVOC Safety Committee will determine if additional medical requirements for crew and science parties are needed in light of recent medical incidents aboard UNOLS vessels.

Meeting Minutes

Day 1 – Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Call the Meeting: Vernon Asper, UNOLS Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm EDT and provided an opportunity for participant introductions. The meeting agenda is included as *Appendix I* and the participant list is included as *Appendix II*.

All of the meeting slides are included in *Appendix III*.

Vernon apologized for being out of touch in recent months. His time has been consumed with Gulf of Mexico oil spill response efforts. He has spent considerable time at sea since April.

UNOLS Vessel Operations in the Gulf of Mexico: Jon Alberts provided a recap of UNOLS ship activities in response to the BP oil spill and plans for the future. Linda Goad has been very busy scheduling cruises for the Gulf of Mexico. As of this meeting, 87 extra days have been added to ship schedules for Rapid Response Research (RAPID) program cruises. *Pelican*, *Cape Hatteras*, *Walton Smith*, and *Endeavor* are scheduled for operations in the Gulf. There is a tentative *Oceanus* cruise that will use the hybrid ROV *Nereus*.

Discussion:

- Clare Reimers – What is the process for applying for the RAPID cruises. Linda Goad – Contact your science program managers and try to coordinate cruises with other scientists.
- Nancy Rabalais – *Pelican* operates in the Gulf of Mexico and she has cruises planned that are not associated with the oil spill. However, if there is oil in the vicinity of their research area, they will collect samples.
- Jon Alberts – Details of UNOLS vessel operations funded by NSF are summarized in a table in *Appendix III*.

- Linda Goad – *Walton Smith* blew an engine this week, so they are not taking on any additional work in the Gulf for now.
- Jon Alberts– NSF and the UNOLS Office will continue to track requests for oil spill ship time. They haven't seen any requests for 2011 or late fall 2010.
- Peter Wiebe – What special measures were required for the UNOLS vessels to operate in the oil spill area? Jon – The ship crews have had to take hazmat training. *Endeavor* did some re-plumbing to avoid oily water intake. All science equipment used in the spill area will have to be thoroughly cleaned. Jim Holik (NSF) has indicated that he will replace equipment that cannot be cleaned.
- Jon – The reporting requirements for operations in response to the oil spill are more stringent. The UNOLS Office is tracking information regarding the science party.
- Peter Wiebe – Will any of the data collected from UNOLS vessels in the oil spill area be locked up because of litigation? Nancy – She has heard rumor of this on the NOAA ships. Others have heard the same rumor.
- Linda – NSF program managers have been telling the RAPID scientists to comply with the standard data policy.
- Wilf Gardner – Can ships make requests for BP funding to support operations? Nancy – There will be an RFP on the street from BP. BP will seek centers of excellence to coordinate oil spill response research. Bill Streever is the BP contact person. BP has indicated that they will provide \$500M in support for research. They will form an advisory board of academics along with BP representatives.

Academic Fleet Renewal Activities:

Ocean Class Research Vessel (OCRV) Acquisition Status and Operator Selection (see *Appendix III* for summary) – Annette DeSilva reported that two design/build team awards for the Ocean Class vessels were made in Jan 2010; one to Marinette Marine with The Glosten Associates and the other to Dakota Creek Shipyard with Guido Perla naval architects. A 14-month Phase I design period is planned with Phase II award for construction in spring 2011 and ship deliveries in 2014. The Ocean Class vessel operator selections were made in May 2010. AGOR27 was awarded to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and AGOR28 was awarded to Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO).

Mike Prince continued the report and added that on March 31, 2011 the design teams are to submit their Ocean Class vessel designs and fixed price cost estimates. It is a tight schedule, but the teams feel confident. Since the teams are now under contract, the Navy is very limited in their communications with the designers. The Navy cannot provide design feedback; however, if there is something that a team is doing that is outside of the specs, the Navy can alert them to this.

On June 7, 2010 the Navy had a preliminary meeting with SIO. Today (June 9th), Tim Schnoor is meeting with WHOI. Both of the institutions that were not selected as operators have requested debriefs with the Navy.

The next design meetings will be in mid summer. The design review meetings during Phase I are closed and outside attendance is limited to Mike Prince and one representative each from SIO and WHOI. The Navy will investigate the possibility of getting feedback and advice from others. The concern is the fear of providing information to one team and not the other team, which could be cause for protest.

Mike reported that the two new Ocean Class vessels will replace the *Knorr* and *Melville*. Delivery is planned for the first and fourth quarters of 2014, but this might change.

Stan Winslow – When the University of Hawaii was awarded operation of the *Kilo Moana*, they were required to retire *Moana Wave* two years before taking delivery of the new vessel. Mike – the decisions of when to take *Knorr* and *Melville* out of service have not been made, but he is sure that the decisions will be made in concert with NSF and the Council.

Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV) Acquisition (summary in *Appendix III*) – Annette DeSilva reported that Phase I is complete and each design team submitted their Regional Class design. The Glosten design was selected and NSF has indicated that they will move forward with a “design refresh” effort.

The panel who reviewed the two designs and selected the Glosten design, also identified “*Future areas of inquiry*” regarding the design. In turn, NSF tasked the Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC) to provide input on the “*Future areas of inquiries*” that include total power, DP capabilities, Aft Deck Space with two vans on deck, bulbous bow and bubble sweep down, and Underwater Radiated Noise (URN). The FIC has been tasked to provide their input to NSF by October 1, 2010.

Clare Reimers, FIC Chair, continued the report with the status of FIC’s tasking. The FIC are meeting by phone every two weeks. They have already reviewed seven of the 13 questions and hope to wrap up the task soon. The FIC are doing their best to provide knowledgeable responses to the task questions, but they are concerned about the impact their recommendations will have on the RCRV design. Major design changes could result from the FIC response and FIC wonders how these will be handled.

Discussion:

- Nancy Rabalais – Will the FIC recommendations be open to the community or Council? Clare – So far the FIC response has not been open, but input is welcome. FIC can provide the recommendations to the Council.
- Wilf Gardner – What are the major issues? Clare – As an example, one of the questions regards the removal of the design’s bulbous bow. Removal of the bulbous bow will impact other major features of the design.
- Mike Prince – Are there model tests of the bulbous bow? The Navy won’t allow the bulbous bow in their OCRV design. Clare – There are models, but the problem is that bubbles don’t scale in models. Remediation processes for bubble sweep-down can be considered. With permission from NSF, FIC has been gathering data from the *Sharp*.
- Mike Prince – He suggests that Clare contact Tim Gates regarding the bulbous bow topic. Mike will send Clare contact information.
- Clare asked the Council if they would like to see NSF task statement and background information. Bruce Corliss – It would be good for the Council to have the information. Annette will provide the Council with links to the NSF task and related material.

Alaska Region Research Vessel, R/V *Sikuliaq* Status – Annette reviewed the R/V *Sikuliaq* construction timeline:

- December 2009 - The ship construction contract was awarded to Marinette Marine Corporation (MMC)
- The project is currently in the Design Verification and Transfer (DVT) phase.
- October 2010 - Module fabrication will begin.
- December 2011 - Z-drive delivery (Wartsila) to the shipyard.
- December 2012 - Vessel delivery to UAF.
- 2013 - Ice and science trials
- January 2014 - Vessel begins operations

Matt Hawkins added that University of Alaska, Fairbanks is planning public workshops to get feedback on the vessel's initial operations for cruises in 2014. Terry Whitledge is coordinating the effort.

Robin Muench – The next ARRV project review meeting is in July and he will attend. The meeting is closed.

UNOLS 2010 Fleet schedules, estimated operation costs, and 2011 ship scheduling –Stan Winslow began the report and said that Jon sent a letter to the ship schedulers in the spring encouraging them to begin the scheduling process (the letter is in Appendix III). As in past years, the UNOLS Office, funding agencies, and ship schedulers will hold conference calls to discuss schedule options.

Jon continued the scheduling report and reviewed a series of charts (included in Appendix III). The first chart shows the UNOLS fleet operating days and costs from 2003 to 2010. Fleet operating costs remain high, yet the ship days are down slightly from 2009. The second chart shows the 2010 ship days by ship. In 2010 additional days were added since the beginning of the year (oil spill response), but there were also some cruises lost on *Langseth* due to ship problems. With the exception of one cruise, the *Langseth* will not operate for the remainder of the year. Bob Houtman added that NSF will reevaluate the future of the vessel.

The agency allocation for 2010 for the fleet is illustrated in the third chart.

The ship days that have been requested for 2011 are much lower than previous years. As of June 3, 2010 the total funded days in the UNOLS Ship Time Request System (STRS) is 1700 days and the total pending is 1078 days. Funded days are calculated by multiplying the total science days requested by a 1.35 factor for mob/demob /transit. The pending days is the total pending days requested times 30% success rate with the 1.35 factor applied. The total pending and funded days for 2011 is about 2778 days, which is much less (>1,000 days) than the average annual number of days that have been utilized in previous years. The funded and pending days by Class are detailed in the slides. NOAA has indicated that they plan to request 2011 days soon.

Discussion:

- Clare – What is the status of submitting ship time requests for 2011 for the August NSF proposal deadline? Jon – NSF will consider requests for 2011 ship time on a case by case situation.
- Peter – Can some of the Global ships do Antarctic work? Robin – He thinks that there is potential for UNOLS to do work in that area.

- Jon – NOAA plans to work with UNOLS again to support DART operations. The DART program could add about six cruises to the schedules. NOAA should have additional details about the third week of June.
- Liz Caporelli – The NOAA/DART days could total 150 days. The DART program was successfully supported using UNOLS vessels in the past.

Jon reported that an ad hoc committee will be needed again this year to review agency recommendations regarding fleet operations in 2011. Last year the committee included Vernon, Mary Jane Perry, and John Morrison. Council Members from non-ship operating institutions who are eligible to serve on the ad hoc committee include: Vernon Asper, Wilford Gardner, John Morrison, Robin Muench (AICC Chair), Peter Girguis (DESSC Chair), and Graham Kent (MLSOC Chair).

Discussion:

- Linda Goad – With the number of days that are funding and pending for 2011, she doesn't think that the agencies can make recommendations before the October UNOLS meeting.
- Jon – It would be good to form the committee sooner than later and have them in place ready to respond.
- Bob Houtman – This sounds like a good idea, but they might like to keep the window open longer.
- Robin Muench and Vernon Asper volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee. A third member is needed.

Ship Time Demand – Annette DeSilva presented a slide that illustrates the fleet utilization from 2003 through 2010 along with the days requested for 2011. Proposals for ship time in 2011 have dropped alarmingly. A similar slide was presented during the spring DESSC meeting and the committee had a variety of suggestions as to why the decline in ship time requests might be occurring. Annette proposed that UNOLS develop a strategy for evaluating the decline in ship time demand. There are a lot of anecdotal suggestions as to the cause to the decline. The survey could attempt to collect factual information.

The purpose of the survey would be to collect data regarding ship time demand in order to better evaluate the future fleet capacity and composition needs. The survey could also identify any (real or perceived) barriers or issues related to proposing ship time

Discussion:

- Rob Pinkel – An important part of understanding the right size of the fleet, is to understand the decline in demand.
- Clare Reimers – There is a mind set dating back to 2007 when program managers told PIs not to submit requests for ship time.
- Robin – Perhaps we are in a cycle when the scientists are analyzing the data that they collected in previous years.
- Linda Goad – It is not just NSF that has seen a decline in demand; other agencies are experiencing similar declines.
- Peter Wiebe – NOAA is rerouting their ships to the Gulf for oil spill response work. Perhaps the NOAA work that had been originally planned can be scheduled on UNOLS vessels.
- Rob Pinkel – He feels that an ad hoc committee is needed to evaluate the decline in ship time demand.

- Linda Goad – This is a science issue. NSF will support the ship time of the science programs that are funded. UNOLS needs to survey the science community.
- Linda Goad suggested that UNOLS look into the NSF DISCO and PODS programs that target new PhDs. It would be good to target the new PhDs to determine their research interests and field work plans.
- John Morrison – One problem is that researchers are losing their technical support staff at their respective universities. The young PIs face great challenges putting together science party teams that include technicians. It is a real problem – they are losing technical expertise.
- Peter Wiebe – When he was a grad student, he served as a chief scientist and had access to ship time. This is changing and access to ship time is limited for students.
- Peter Wiebe pointed out that there is a program called CAMEO that is looking back at existing data sets instead of collecting new data at sea. A question that should be asked is what portion of future research requires modeling and what portion requires ship time.
- Annette reviewed a set of draft questions that could be included in a survey to assess the ship time demand problem. The questions are included in Appendix III.
- Kenneth suggested adding a question to the survey on whether or not curriculums at universities require participation in at-sea field work as part of the core curriculum.
- On number 8 include “other”
- Robin – The surveys won’t require names.
- Peter Wiebe – An ad hoc committee would be useful in evaluating the survey.
- Wilf Gardner – When available, send the form as draft to the Council for review.
- Annette – We can work to make the survey available in mid summer and provide a preliminary evaluation in October at the Annual Meeting
- Bob Houtman encouraged UNOLS to contact the NSF program managers Rodey Batiza and Phil Taylor with the concern about the 2011 schedules and the decline in ship time. This needs to be conveyed to the program managers.
- Peter Wiebe – WHOI conducted a similar survey of their scientists in 2000. He will send Annette the questions.

The following individuals volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee: Peter Wiebe, Rob Pinkel, and John Diebold.

Break

Proposed formation of a new UNOLS Ocean Observatories Science Committee (OOSC) – The ad hoc committee of John Morrison, Kenneth Coale, and Wilf Gardner provided the Council with draft OOSC Terms of Reference for consideration prior to the Council Meeting. John Morrison reported that the Ad hoc committee reviewed the terms of reference that had been drafted by NSF and only minor revisions were suggested.

John Morrison made a motion for Council endorsement of the OOSC Terms of Reference. Robin Muench seconded the motion. Discussion:

- Wilf Gardner – Individuals interested in serving on the OOSC must be asked “are you funded by OOI?” For now, individuals from Implementing Organizations will be ineligible to serve on the OOSC.

The motion passed.

The Council endorsed Terms of Reference which will be placed on the ballot for membership vote at the UNOLS Annual Meeting. Upon Membership endorsement, the OOSC Terms of Reference will be added as Annex X to the UNOLS Charter.

NSF has requested that UNOLS participate in the next two OOI Review meetings. The June 22-24 meeting on OOI Construction Review will be attended by John Morrison as the UNOLS Rep. A UNOLS representative is needed for the August 17-18 meeting on OOI Operations and Maintenance.

The OOSC membership shall be comprised of up to 7 individuals who will represent the various science disciplines and shall not include members of the teams or institutions receiving NSF funding to construct and operate ocean observing systems.

Discussion:

- Peter Wiebe – Who is excluded for OOSC membership? John – SIO, UW, WHOI, OSU and other individuals funded by OOI.
- Robin – Are foreign representatives eligible to serve on the OOSC? Bob Houtman – the objective of this committee is to give the US community a voice in ocean observing.
- Pinkel – Are there membership restrictions for individuals who have retired from IO institutions? Bob Houtman – Not as long as they have been away from the IO for a sufficient period of time.
- Bob Houtman – The OOSC focus has to be the academic community. NSF would like to be able to say that the ocean community has a voice in OOI – this is the objective.
- John Morrison reported that the Ad Hoc Committee recommends a broadly distributed “OOSC Call for Nominations” that can be distributed now. If the Council has any membership suggestions/nominees, please let the ad hoc committee know. More technical people would be helpful. We don’t want an appearance of being exclusive. Bob Houtman – This sounds like a great plan.
- John – The UNOLS Office will distribute the call this week.

Antarctic Research Vessels and UNOLS – Vernon Asper report on the status of efforts for a cooperative relationship between UNOLS, OPP, and OCE for polar facility coordination. At the March Council meeting an *ad hoc* committee was formed: Vernon Asper, Robin Muench, and Peter Wiebe. The ad hoc committee with input from Bob Houtman and program managers in OPP drafted a letter to OPP. The draft letter suggests that OCE, OPP, and UNOLS work together to acquire any new Southern Ocean vessels that will replace the *NB Palmer* and *LM Gould*, and that these new vessels become part of the UNOLS fleet. The draft letter was sent to the Council for comment on May 1st and a few comments were received. Vernon reported that he will look over the comments and finalize the letter.

UNOLS Charter Review – Annette reported that the UNOLS Charter review/re-adoption is required every three years. A review subcommittee of Nancy Rabalais, Rob Pinkel, and Vernon Asper was formed. All Committee Chairs have been requested to review their respective Charter Annex and forward any suggested changes by June 5th. We hope to have the Charter revisions finalized in August. Once the Charter revisions are compiled we will send the revision to the agency representatives. Distribution to the UNOLS membership will take place at least 30 days in advance of Annual Meeting

Nominating Committee Report – Bruce Corliss reported on the status of the draft 2010 UNOLS Council slate. The Council Positions open in 2010 include the UNOLS Chair Elect (At-Large), a Non-Operator position, and an At-Large position. The nominating committee has secured two chair-elect candidates; Peter Ortner and Chris Measures. Both John Morrison (non-operator rep) and Nancy Rabalais (at-large rep) are willing to run for a second term. The Call for Nominations was included in EOS. The slate should be complete very soon and will be sent to the Council for endorsement.

UNOLS Annual meeting – Jon Alberts reported that the Annual Meeting will take place on October 14-15, 2010. The FIC meeting will be on October 13th. Accommodation arrangements have been made at the FDIC facility.

Suggestions for a keynote speaker were discussed and included:

- Kate Moran from the President’s Office of Ocean, Science, and Technology
- Acoustic experts
- CEO of BP
- Someone at NSF who can speak about their Climate Change Initiative
- Someone from the Pew Commission

All agreed that Kate Moran should be contacted. Bruce and Jon volunteered to contact Kate to see if she is willing and available to speak at the Annual Meeting.

Mike Prince suggested that it would be good to also invite the new NSF Division Director.

Day 2: Thursday, June 10th

Open Day-2 of the Meeting: Vernon Asper, UNOLS Chair, reconvened the meeting on June 10th at 1:00 pm EDT. A summary of the action items from Day 1 of the meeting were reviewed (see slides). On a very positive note, Kate Moran has agreed to provide the Keynote Address at the UNOLS Annual Meeting.

The Status of UNOLS On-Going Activities and Issues:

3rd Large Facility Workshop – Jon Alberts reported that the workshop was very successful. Dennis Nixon, UNOLS Risk Manager, provided the Keynote Address on the “Cost of Complacency.” Bob Houtman reported that there are two major annual meetings for the Large Facilities. One is focused on construction and the other is Operations and Maintenance. It was good for the academic fleet facilities to get visibility with the other facilities.

Greening the UNOLS Fleet – Bruce Corliss reported that he attended the Large Facility Workshop and it was a very successful. At the workshop, he provided a presentation on Greening the Fleet. There were presentations from other facilities on their greening activities that were very informative.

Bruce proposes that a UNOLS workshop be held on “Greening the Fleet.” A steering committee that includes Clare Reimer and Pete Zerr has been formed to assist with the planning. Both NSF and ONR have indicated that they would entertain proposals. Bruce will also engage NOAA and the Navy in the workshop plans because these agencies are implementing green initiatives in their fleets. Bruce added that the greening effort is not just implementing new technologies, it is behavioral. Pete and Clare have made suggestions for the workshop and Bruce is pursuing these.

Liz Caporelli added that at the RVOC meeting in April they agreed to put together a survey for scientists and operators to gather ideas for energy conservation within our fleet.

Post Cruise Assessment Report (PCAR) Subcommittee – Bob Collier provided a status report on the PCAR Subcommittee activities. His slides are included in Appendix III. The PCAR Subcommittee members includes Bob Collier (Chair), Wilf Gardner, Joe Malbrough, and Dave Fisichella. The Subcommittee’s goal is to assure that communications intended by the PCAR process remain effective. They are to report back on high-level trends and issues that might need to be addressed by the broader community in the interest of improving quality of the seagoing operation.

In early 2010, Erin Jackson (UNOLS Office) sent letters directly to the Chief Scientists who have not submitted their PCARs requesting their input. This was effective, especially for vessels with anomalously low return rates. In early February, the subcommittee received PCAR forms for four of the global vessels (*Thompson, Revelle, Knorr* and *Kilo Moana*). Wilf has completed his review of the *Kilo Moana* PCARs.

The UNOLS Office receives, reviews, and archives all PCARs that are submitted. Copies are also distributed to the marine operation office, the PI, the submitter, and supporting agency. Linda Goad and Bob Houtman receive and review all PCARs from NSF cruises. If there are any issues, Linda sends them to the sponsoring NSF Program Manager, including Matt Hawkins and Jim Holik. At ONR, Tim Schnoor receives and reviews the PCARs and then forwards them to the ONR sponsoring program officer.

The 2009 PCAR Fleet statistic charts were reviewed (see slides). The percent return of the PCARs is up in 2009.

Bob reported on the PCAR process areas that the subcommittee feels are not working well. These include:

- The Captain’s use of form provides little useful data
- The Marine Technician use of the form is very, very low.
- The PCARs are not returned in a timely manner and it often takes significant pressure to get them. For safety issues which need immediate attention, late forms are less effective.

The subcommittee recommended the following path forward:

- Continue the subcommittee reviews of the ship PCARs.
- Start using the new PCAR form drafted by Mike Prince http://strs.unols.org/members/diu_pca_edit.aspx (versus the current form <http://www.gso.uri.edu/cgi-bin/pcget.cgi>). The new form is more streamlined.

- Drop the Captain and Tech use of the PCAR form and determine if there is a better format for obtaining feedback from the vessel captains and marine techs. The Captain will often use the PCAR as a rebuttal. Rebuttals can be addressed in a different way.

Discussion:

- Robin Muench – There is a 100% return on post cruise assessments from the icebreakers. The follow-up is a phone debrief.
- Bob Collier – We need to remind the PIs that the PCARs go to the supporting agency.
- Vernon – Do these PCAR stats in the slides represent all cruises including non-NSF? Bob – yes.
- Wilf – In the revised PCAR draft form, it appears that the funding agency is not included on the form. Bob C – It will be included.
- Bob Collier – Typically, personnel are highly commended on the PCARs. Most of the critical suggestions are in regard to equipment issues.
- Nancy Rabalais – The ship inspectors review all of the PCARs as part of their inspection.
- Bob Collier - The UNOLS Office gathers and compiles all of the PCAR data and statistics. It seems like a lot of work. Jon – It is not very time consuming and the UNOLS Office can continue to do this. Bob C – Great, it is useful data.
- Mike Weaver – He is very interested in this issue. NOAA’s current assessment form is about 6 or 7 years old and they have had some issues with the form. As an alternative they have asked the COs of the ships to provide feedback, but it has not been effective. NOAA is now working on a mission assessment and they would like to tie the mission assessment to the mission objectives. Bob C – He offered to discuss the UNOLS PCAR process further with Mike Weaver.
- Annette – How would we follow through on the recommendation to drop the tech and captain PCAR form? Bob C – He will explore this.
- Peter Wiebe – The form could be discussed with the RVOC and RVTEC.
- Dan Schwartz – The forms have been extensively discussed at RVTEC and RVOC meetings.
- Peter Wiebe – He feels that if the Captains and Techs don’t have a way to communicate, they would be frustrated.
- Rich Findley – He agrees that there should be a means for getting feedback from RVTEC. Bob C – we can request RVTEC to provide a replacement form or process.
- Stan Winslow – As an operator he doesn’t feel that the form needs to be changed. The U. Hawaii marine technicians don’t have a problem with it and he feels that it is fine as is.
- Wilf – There could be text added to the form to indicate that you don’t have to rate yourself.
- Peter Wiebe – We need to keep the line of communication wide open.
- Bob Collier concluded by withdrawing the subcommittee recommendation to drop the Captain and Marine Technician from the PCAR form.

Investigate the feasibility of a more flexible UNOLS to meet the needs of additional users - John Diebold reported on the *ad hoc* committee’s status of developing a task statement. The *ad hoc* members include John Diebold (Chair), Nancy Rabalais, Stan Winslow, and Mary Jane Perry. John said that he plans to draft a questionnaire to be sent to the UNOLS vessel operators soliciting information on their experiences with research cruises funded by non-government sources. Additionally, ship owners (NSF, Navy, and states/institutions) will be contacted to gather information on concerns and requirements with regard to non-government funding for ship operations.

Discussion:

- John D – He would like to hear from Bob Houtman on how the BP funding can be used to support UNOLS vessel operations. Bob Houtman – This has not been addressed yet and is proceeding slowly.
- Dan Schwartz – Vessel operators have wrestled with this for a while. If the BP funds were transferred to NSF and then awarded to the vessel operators, it would be optimal and would comply with the USCG designation of a research vessel.
- John Diebold – There could also be data access issues associated with the BP operations.
- Nancy Rabalais – If BP provides \$500M for research, they will put a buffer between themselves through an advisory board. The funding would likely be awarded to and administered by an institution or consortium of institutions.
- Nancy Rabalais – LUMCON was contacted by the USCG after the spill. The USCG said that since the R/V *Pelican* is a state owned vessel, the USCG could commandeer it for oil spill response work. There was a lot of pressure from the USCG to turn over the ship, but LUMCON was able to hold them off.

Gender Climate at Sea – Annette DeSilva provided the report for Kenneth Coale. Kenneth, Bruce Corliss, and the UNOLS Office staff have reviewed the on-line training courses on Unlawful Harassment Prevention offered by Workplace Answers. Kenneth suggested the following implementation strategy:

- Have the small committee select one of the existing Workplace Answers training courses
- Engage Workplace Solutions and run the chosen existing training as a UNOLS pilot program
- Collect information from users for a year's period
- Summarize the findings and get back to Workplace Answers with more concrete suggestions from scientists and crew.
- Develop a customized program if needed.

This approach would get a program up and running quickly and provide a wider range of feedback and more relevant suggestions for eventually customizing the content. The estimated cost is about \$15 per training session. Bruce Corliss added that the on-line training courses are valuable, but need to be shortened.

UNOLS Involvement at Future Science Meetings – Robin Muench reported that he will begin his term as an AGU officer in July 2010 and that he has begun to explore options for a UNOLS Plenary session at a future AGU or Ocean Science meeting. The fall AGU meeting is quite large and UNOLS might want to consider a smaller, more focused ocean society forum. Topics for a UNOLS plenary session are needed. If UNOLS was to have a plenary at the 2012 Ocean Sciences meeting we would need a topic by May/June 2011. Robin said that he thinks a UNOLS poster session might be a good idea.

Discussion:

- Bruce – There is a lot going on within UNOLS: fleet renewal, a new Ocean Observing Science Committee, new partnerships with polar programs, etc. These are hot topics that impact the community.
- Wiebe – Perhaps UNOLS could host a special session.
- Robin – At Ocean Sciences there is Technology Section and UNOLS would fit well in that session.

- Dan Schwartz suggested a panel session on the future of science research? Field work versus modeling
- Nancy reminded the group that presenters can only give one talk and that potential UNOLS presenters might have other commitments.
- Robin - Town Hall meetings at Ocean Sciences will be during the lunch hour and this could be a good forum for UNOLS.
- Bruce – It would still be good to keep the AGU meeting on the table.
- Robin – He will look into this further. Both the town hall and special sessions.
- Nancy –Town Hall sessions might work at both meetings – AGU and Ocean Sciences.
- Robin – This doesn't rule out a poster session.
- Peter Wiebe – UNOLS hasn't had a booth in a while.
- Peter Girguis – We need to reach out to the younger scientists.
- Annette provided some feedback on previous years when there was a UNOLS booth. In years when we were trying to introduce a new UNOLS feature or get feedback from the community, the booth was useful. However, in other years when we were simply presenting general information about UNOLS it wasn't as effective. Visitors to the booth were often already familiar with UNOLS.
- Clare – We need to explore ways to reach the younger scientists. This came up at the last meeting.
- Robin – Yes, this might also tie into the low ship time demand.

UNOLS Outreach/Mentoring Initiatives Update – Annette DeSilva reported that Erin Jackson contacted PIs with cruises this year to ask if they needed watchstanders or had bunks available for volunteers interested in participating in cruises. In response, there are now a couple of new cruise opportunities listed on the website. The updated UNOLS Cruise Opportunity Website is available at: http://www.unols.org/info/cruise_opportunities.html#volunteer_list.

RVOC ad hoc committee on Medical Issues – Pete Zerr reported that the Safety Committee has been very active. They plan to poll the UNOLS ship operators to determine if they have medical screening at their institution. They will also consider whether the screening process should be standardized across the fleet.

Discussion:

- Annette – The UK has had stringent medical requirements for both crew and the science party. Has the Safety Committee contacted the UK to determine the impact of these medical requirements? Pete – He can check with the UK to determine if they have had any positive impact from the stringent medical requirements.
- Dan Schwartz – At the RVOC meeting Dennis Nixon reported that there were six recent deaths in the Fleet. Would there be an advantage to expanding the medical screening to include the science party and technicians? Pete – They would have to evaluate the cost versus effectiveness.
- Robin – If you are older than 50, you must undergo heart tests if you want to use the U.S. polar ships. We need to look at a cost benefit analysis. It needs some serious discussion.
- Jon –The safety committee will take this on.

Rolling deck to Repository (R2R) Project Update – A written update on R2R was provided by Bob Arko and is included in Appendix III. Jon Alberts reported that R2R is making great progress and he encouraged the Council to visit the R2R website.

Consortium for Ocean Leadership – Jon Alberts reported on the Ocean Leadership’s Working Group to Develop Future Funding Models for New Ships that was adopted by their Executive Committee on March 3, 2010. The Working Group shall review existing models to fund and support the academic research fleet and shall develop alternative approaches that can be prioritized and recommended to the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP). Members of the Working Group include Mark Abbott (Chair), Jon Alberts- ex officio, Vernon Asper, Susan Avery, Rob Dunbar, David Farmer, Steve Lohrenz, Shirley Pomponi, and Nancy Rabalais.

The Ocean Leadership Board Meeting will be held on October 21 & 22, 2010. UNOLS will attend.

Marine Technician Recruitment and Retention Pilot Program – Jon Alberts provided an update on the pilot program headed by Alice Doyle (details are included in Appendix III). Alice has talked with all of the institutions’ technical managers about their operations and has visited URI, OSU and the *Langseth*. She has gathered training and salary information. Alice has talked with MATE about their program and how UNOLS interacts with them. She has also talked with SEA about their program to see if there could be more exchange between them and UNOLS.

Alice is helping to coordinate technician transfers. An easier means of accounting through the carry-forward funds has been developed. She is developing a list of technicians who may be available on a contract basis to assist UNOLS institutions and is looking at easier ways for hiring these technicians. Some of the initial results of the Pilot Program have been:

- Scripps technicians are working at Delaware and Bermuda
- A Miami technician at Washington and Bermuda
- Contract Technician at Bermuda

Alice is working with MATE to develop a long-term technician internship program.

Alice has investigated various technical and ship condition form database systems within the UNOLS community. She is working with NSF and the tech managers to better understand what data is required and what is the best and simplest way of capturing the data.

Alice is also looking into an “available berth policy.” The goal would be to use available berths for marine technician training.

Rich Findley commented that he has been working with Alice on the technician transfers. The transfers had also been done in the past. In terms of the available berth policy, there is some resistance from the science parties. They don’t want to take the risk of taking inexperienced people to sea and having them get sea sick and in turn impact the potential success of their cruise objectives.

UNOLS Dues – The UNOLS Office proposes an increase in membership dues as follows:

Operators:	From \$150 to \$200
Non-Operators:	From \$ 50 to \$100

The Council endorsed the dues increase.

Break

Committee Activities and Issues requiring Council Attention - Committee Chairs had an opportunity to raise issues requiring Council attention.

- SCOAR – Dan Schwartz reported that Phil McGillivary and Nick Shay have been appointed as new members. SCOAR will meet at CIRPAS on 22-23 June, 2010.
- MLSOC – John Diebold reported that the workshop held at Incline Village to discuss the R/V *Langseth* operating mode was very successful.

The meeting adjourned.