

***Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee
(MLSOC)***

December 4, 2011

***San Francisco Marriott Marquis -Salon 6
55 Fourth Street, San Francisco, California***

Executive Summary

The Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee, MLSOC held their winter 2011 Meeting just prior to the start of the AGU meeting on December 4, 2011 in San Francisco, CA.

Minutes:

MLSOC Chair, Dr. Graham Kent called the meeting to order at 2 pm. Introductions were made around the room.

NSF Report-

Jim Holik provided news that the NSF budget increased 2.5 %. The SSSE and Instrumentation proposals are due December 11, 2011, with panels to be held in February 2012.

ONR Report-

Tim Schnoor reported that NRL is doing a seismic cruise in January/February 2012 for Dr. Warren Woodwork off South Africa. They will be using the SIO portable seismic system off the R/V Melville. ONR continues to follow marine seismic research activity.

ONR will deliver 2 new ocean class ships to UNOLS in 2014/2015 to replace the Knorr & Melville. It has been determined these ships will not be an option for the WHOI Long Core System and the study to deploy this off the Langseth will continue.

UNOLS Council Report

Bruce Corliss- UNOLS Council Chair gave an overview of UNOLS Council activities this past year. He reviewed progress on the ocean class ships, the regional class research vessels, the Alvin upgrade and NOAA collaboration. See Power Point slides.

Jon Alberts-UNOLS Exec. Secretary-

Jon provided a Power Point presentation on UNOLS activities of interest to the MLSOC. The new Alaskan ship Sikuliaq will be highlighted in a town hall session Thursday night and a portable seismic system may be deployed off this new ship. Recent staffing changes at UNOLS were reported. Our UNOLS project assistant left in November and we are working to fill this position now. UNOLS is working on an outreach speaker

series and we are looking for volunteers. UNOLS can provide outreach materials. UNOLS has been working with Fleet Improvement Committee Chair, Dr. Clare Reimers/OSU on the Chief Scientist training workshops. The Ch. Scientist training workshop would be a good model to bring in new users of the Langseth. The UNOLS Deep Submergence Science Committee, DESSC, brought 32 early career scientists to DESSC. This may be a good model for the MLSOC to use. A short trip for undergraduates or a student cruise should be considered.

LDEO Operator's Report

Sean Higgins provided an extensive review of the recent upgrades to the Langseth. Approx. 8 million dollars have been invested in the ship in the past 3 years. LDEO is hoping to successfully close-out the business systems review soon. For the 2012 schedule the ship has 195 operating days on the current schedule. In 2013 the Langseth has on the draft schedule potential cruises for Sawyer, Canales, Canadian Geodetic Survey, USGS extended continental shelf cruises, Ifremer- 3D cruise in the western Mediterranean and GeoPrisms.

In 2011 new equipment was purchased/donated included 40 kilometers of streamers and (6) new lead-ins.

The Long Coring Design study is continuing with the stability aspect of the long core system being reviewed now.

LDEO has a new Chief Scientist for the Langseth, Dr. Helene Carton. For staffing, 3 to 4 techs will be needed in 2012.

For summary statistics, in 2011 we had 90 % uptime. This can be attributed to be aggressive preventative maintenance.

LDEO is working with ION Geophysical as they are interested in a platform to do research and development work. This could provide a good opportunity for science and technicians.

Overview of the Bangs 3D CRISP cruise.

Nathan Bangs provided some details on his recent Langseth cruise off Costa Rica.

A few issues to note are that the addition of steering capability from the lab would be a good improvement as there were some communication issues between the lab and the bridge. The cultural change may be difficult to give the conn up to the lab from the bridge watch.

We had a good number of techs onboard which is difficult to estimate as we don't have a constant workload flow.

There was a loss of power during the cruise, but the streamer recovery winch worked well.

It is important that we cross train other techs, especially in the area of navigation. There is a tendency to rely on certain people which can be risky.

MLSOC Report

The glossy 10 +2 brochure which came out of the Incline Village workshop was completed. It is with the graphics department now and will be published in February 2012.

Upcoming cruises- The 3D seismic cruise with open access was not funded, however the 2D open access cruise was funded for Cascadia Margin. This will be a 10 day cruise with 5 institutions and 1 student from each institution in July 2012. The plan is to process the data at the University of Wyoming at Laramie in the summer of 2012 and students can use the data as they want.

The Planning Letters have been coming in and MLSOC will need to decide what to do with them. It was noted that without a stable budget it is difficult to put together future plans.

EM 302- Paul Johnson provided data results from the new Water Column Module.

Committee Members update.

Graham Kent, MLSOC Chair will rotate off the committee after this meeting. Steve Holbrook and Paul Johnson also rotating off.

UNOLS will do a call for nominations and an election will be held with committee members.

Meeting Adjourned- 5:00 pm