

**DRAFT**  
**UNOLS COUNCIL MEETING**  
**The Holiday Inn at Ballston - Ballroom**  
**4610 North Fairfax Drive , Arlington, VA 22203**  
**Wednesday, November 30, 2016**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Appendices:**

<b>I</b>	<a href="#"><u>Participant List</u></a>
<b>II</b>	<a href="#"><u>Non-Operator Committee Report for 2016 Fleet Operations</u></a>
<b>III</b>	<a href="#"><u>Fleet Improvement Committee Meeting Summary</u></a>
<b>IV</b>	<a href="#"><u>Ad hoc Committee on Medical Questions/Medical History Form/Pregnancy at Sea Update</u></a>
<b>V</b>	<a href="#"><u>Post Cruise Assessment Report (PCAR) Update</u></a>
<b>VI</b>	<a href="#"><u>Status of RVSS Appendix B (UNOLS Overboard Handling Systems)</u></a>
<b>VII</b>	<a href="#"><u>Marine Seismic Research Oversight Structure</u></a>
<b>VIII</b>	<a href="#"><u>Public Input Period Now Open for the Next 10-year Federal Ocean Research Plan</u></a>

**Action Items (continuing and new):**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Status</b>
Send a message to the UNOLS ship operators informing them that the RVSS Appendix B has been suspended.	UNOLS Office	Complete
Modify UNOLS STRS Schedules so that each calendar day is accounted for.	UNOLS Office	Programming is underway
Ad hoc Committee on Medical Questions/Medical History Form/Pregnancy at Sea – provide recommendations.	Debbie Steinberg, Clare Reimers, Scott Ferguson, Bruce Appelgate, Brandi Murphy, Chris Measures, Alice Doyle, and Jon Alberts	On-going: Ad Hoc Committee transitioned to Special Purpose Committee
Request results of the WHOI study on harassment for presentation at the Fall Council meeting	UNOLS Office	WHOI presentation will be made in the spring 2018
Science Party Cruise Orientation PowerPoint – Develop a standard deck of UNOLS slides that are similar to those used on R/V <i>Falkor</i>	Subcommittee – Annette DeSilva, Doug Russell, Scott Ferguson, Jon Alberts, and Pete Girguis.	On-going

**Summary of Motions and Recommendations:**

A Council motion was made and passed for the appointment of a second FIC term for Nancy Rabalais.
The Council approved a motion, “In light of the continuing efforts to improve over the side handling systems, the Council decides to suspend the implementation of Appendix B and remove it from the RVSS. The issue remains for further consideration.” The motion was

appended so that an Appendix page would remain to require that the over-the-side handling would be in CFR compliance. This would avoid the need to renumber the *RVSS* appendices.

A motion was made and passed to make the current membership of MLSOC the temporary membership for the MSROC for a three-month period.

The Council agreed to transition the Ad hoc Committee on Medical Questions/Medical History Form/Pregnancy at Sea to a special purpose committee.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

**Call the Meeting:** Chris Measures, UNOLS Chair, called the meeting to order and provided an opportunity for introductions. The participant list is included as ***Appendix I***.

**Non-Operator Subcommittee Report for 2017 Fleet Operations:** The Non-Operator subcommittee provided their recommendations for 2017 Fleet Operations to the agencies prior to the Council meeting. The subcommittee included Gregory Cutter (Chair), Mark Brzezinski, and Tammi Richardson. Greg summarized the subcommittee's review process and the recommendations (his slides are included as ***Appendix II***).

Agency decisions and recommendations include:

- Identify ways to reduce costs
- The science community should consider how best to integrate research strategies with enhanced capabilities yet smaller sizes of *R/V Sikuliaq*, *Armstrong* and *Ride*.
- University of Washington should continue plans for a *R/V Barnes* replacement.

The Non-Operator Subcommittee sent a letter to the agencies with their recommendations (dated September 6, 2016). The main points of the letter included the following:

- There is no need to recommend a non-op period for any ship in CY 2017
- UNOLS cautions that science capability and the number of berths are not equivalent on the new ships. *Ride*, *Armstrong* and *Sikuliaq* need further evaluation to serve large programs. A marketing strategy is needed.
- UNOLS cautions that a 2-ship operation instead of one global is problematic as most cruises share samples and sampling systems
- UNOLS embraces the plans for *Barnes* replacement

Bob Houtman (NSF) and Tim Schnoor (ONR) expressed their appreciation to the subcommittee and UNOLS for the recommendations.

**Summary of Fleet Improvement Committee Meeting and Action Items that require Council Attention** - Jim Swift, FIC Chair, provided a report summarizing the business of the FIC meeting that was held on November 30th. His slides are included as ***Appendix III***.

FIC is keeping abreast of ship design, construction, science verifications, refit, and repair activities including:

- Ocean Class Research Vessels (OCRVs) – *R/V Neil Armstrong* and *R/V Sally Ride*

- Regional Class Research Vessels (RCRVs) - FIC mostly in stand-by at present
- Mid-life refit plans for R/Vs *Thompson & Reville*
- Engine control and other modifications on R/V *Kilo Moana*
- R/V *Barnes* replacement plans
- California state effort to acquire a vessel to replace *Robert Gordon Sproul*
- Polar vessels – FIC supports and has interest in upcoming NSF/PLR ship matters

The FIC is conducting debrief interviews with users of R/Vs *Sikuliaq*, *Armstrong* and *Ride*. *Sikuliaq* debriefs have been carried out since the ship started service in 2014. FIC has reached the point where sufficient data on the new features of the ship have been collected and the debriefs can be discontinued.

FIC reviewed the fleet status including vessel retirements, additions, service life end dates, and optimal year definitions, etc. Charts are included in the slides.

FIC membership was discussed. Two FIC positions will open (one non-operator and one at-large position). A call for nominations will be announced to fill the positions.

Jim requested Council approval of a second term for FIC operator member Nancy Rabalais (LUMCON). A Council motion was made and passed for the appointment of a second FIC term for Nancy Rabalais ( Craig Lee/Tammi Richardson).

The FIC had a lengthy discussion on the Research Vessel Safety Standards Appendix B (UNOLS Overboard Handling Systems). Appendix B is a set of safety standards designed to ensure that all components of an overboard-handling system are designed to meet the loads applied to the system. FIC notes that the goals of Appendix B are suitable but the methods of getting there must be revised to be more realistic. For example no institution has yet been able to meet the current Appendix B requirements. FIC recommends that Appendix B be evolved into a simpler set of guidelines for achieving its goals such that it is both easily understandable and also achievable. When this is worked out, it would also be valuable to provide a road map so individual PIs who own over-the-side handling equipment can get their equipment into Appendix B compliance.

The FIC greatly appreciated a talk by Vicki Ferrini (LDEO and Multibeam Advisory Committee/MAC), who provided an update on sea acceptance tests of Multibeam systems on new vessels and MAC resources.

The FIC is beginning work to draft Science Mission Requirements (SMRs) for Global class ships. A FIC subcommittee was formed to draft mission scenarios. They will gather UNOLS community input and engage federal agencies. Lessons learned from recent vessel construction projects will be referred to and they will examine modern non-US global-ranging research ships.

The FIC would like to develop a liaison with the UNOLS AAIC to jointly provide input regarding US polar ship refits and acquisitions.

Discussion:

- Deb Steinberg – What are the issues with Appendix B? Al Suchy – Compliance is complex and expensive. They need to be more easily achieved.
- Sandy Shor – Without compliance, there is a liability to the operators.
- Chris Measures - This is very important issue and will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Ad hoc Committee on Medical Questions/Medical History Form/Pregnancy at Sea – Update on activities and recommendations** - Jon Alberts presented the update. His slides are included as **Appendix IV**.

Members of the ad hoc committee include:

- Clare Reimers/OSU
- Bruce Appelgate/SIO
- Debbie Steinberg/VIMS
- Scott Ferguson/UH
- Chris Measures/UH
- Brandi Murphy/UW
- Assisted by: Jon Alberts and Alice Doyle/UNOLS

Actions completed to date include:

- Survey UNOLS ship operators to gather information on procedures and policies regarding medical history forms, pregnancy and nursing mothers policy, and harassment preventions procedures.
- MTS Sexual Harassment Prevention Video- This video is on board the ships.
- Added the UNOLS home page banner titled: “ Discussing the Gender Climate at Sea”.
- UNOLS *Research Vessel Safety Standards* - 10th Ed. Chapter 6- *Personal Behavior and Individual Safety*. Also added Appendix E- *Harassment Prevention*.
- Guidelines and Recommendations Document, dated August 11, 2016, ver: 3 has been distributed. The main points of the document are:
  - Importance and availability of Operator’s policies
  - Types of documents collected and purpose for collection
  - Importance of security in handling, storage, and disposal of documents
  - Pregnancy policy and accommodations for nursing mothers with examples from Navy, US Coast Guard, and cruise lines
  - Harassment prevention and importance of harassment free workplace
  - Tools available, guidelines and suggestions on how to handle a situation

The next steps will be to track Federal Agency plans and collect Title IX contact information for all operator institutions.

The Council was asked if the ad hoc committee should be transitioned to a UNOLS special committee.

Chris Measures next reported on the Title IX's role. UNOLS doesn't want to mandate something that will be in conflict with an institution's Title IX office. Chris has spoken with the University of Hawaii's (UH) Title IX office on jurisdiction when a ship returns to port. During cruises there can be many participants who are not from the ship operator institution. Chris has asked the UH Title IX office to take the lead. The UH Title IX office is gathering contact information from each UNOLS operator institution. Chris reviewed a flow chart (see **Appendix IV**). When there is an incident at sea, the captain and a designated person will have to deal with the situation at sea.

Discussion followed:

- Mike Prince – The respondent might not be from an operator institution. Chris - As a first step they are starting with the ship operators.
- Sandy Shor – Some of these incidents may be criminal (rape). Dennis Nixon – A crime at sea will be a federal charge. He has dealt with three cases. None resulted in criminal charges and all were settled.
- Rose Dufour – We have a lot of faith in Title IX office, but sometimes they work within their own interest. There have been situations when the captain and marine superintendent didn't know that there was a case in progress.
- Chris Measures – If there is someone who has been found guilty, they will be on a list. The Title IX office can recommend that the individual does not sail.
- Dennis Nixon – Some Title IX offices don't even realize that their institutions have ships.
- Rose Dufour – If the ship is federally owned, shouldn't they follow federal rules? Dennis Nixon – The federal process is to delegate to Title IX.
- Lisa Clough – There are things that come up that don't rise to Title IX, but are bad. We should address these situations as well.
- Dennis Nixon – Years ago he recommended to the Deans of oceanography schools that there be 1-credit required course for students who plan to go to sea. The course would cover acceptable behavior practices.
- Rose Dufour – Not all ships are showing the sexual harassment video. It is not mandatory.
- Mike Prince – He has heard that the video is not specific enough. Australia has a very good video and it is mandatory. Both agencies (NSF and ONR) are supportive of a new video.
- Mark Brzezinski – He has taken the training. There should be specific situations and cause and effect.
- Craig Lee – There needs to be multiple channels for reporting. Chris Measures – Agrees and at least one should be female.
- Lisa Clough – The *Palmer/Gould* has a very good reporting process. If you don't want to report to someone on the ship, you can pick up the phone and report the incident free of charge.
- Mark Brzezinski – The non-operator UNOLS institution Title IX offices might not be interested in these cases. Chris Measures – This is a reason why it is good for the communication to be on the Title IX to Title IX office level.
- Peter Ortner – The shipboard people who are designated in the reporting chain, should be trained on how to handle situations.
- Sandy Shor – At UH, if you are approached about a sexual harassment case, then you have to report it To Title IX.

- Lisa Clough – Although this is gender issue, it can also be same sex.
- Lisa Clough – NSF also has a Title IX office and they have also formed a safe climate committee.
- Rose Dufour – The new NSF cooperative agreements will come out in the spring and they must be in compliance with the RVSS.
- Sean Higgins – If someone is in an investigation, do we sail with that person? He is interested to see where this goes.
- Dennis Nixon – Legally, there cannot be a black list of bad crewmembers or scientists.
- Chris Measures – Should the UNOLS group remain as an ad hoc committee?
- Tammi Richardson – She would like to see the ad hoc committee transitioned into a UNOLS special purpose committee. It helps to demonstrate that the Council considers this as an important issue. As an ad hoc committee it doesn't seem as important.
- Mike Prince – The Council can make ad hoc committees or special purpose committees. A standing committee requires a vote of the UNOLS membership. A new title could be, Special Committee on Safe Climate at Sea.
- The Council agreed to transition the ad hoc committee on gender climate to a special purpose committee.

**Post Cruise Assessment Reports (PCAR): Subcommittee Report and PCAR Submittal Rate –** Jon Alberts presented the report. His slides are included as **Appendix V**.

The Post Cruise Assessment Committee members include Ben Van Mooy/WHOI, Brandi Murphy/UW, and there is one vacant position (a volunteer is needed). Jon thanked Scott Ferguson/UH, Joe Malbrough/LUMCON, and Wilf Gardner/TAMU for their past service on the committee.

Jon presented the PCAR return rates for 2016 from the Captains, Chief Scientists, and Marine Technician by Ship (Q1 - Q3). The Fleet-wide percent return for PCARs for 2006-2016 was provided. The plots are included in Appendix V.

Eight Ships have increased response rates since last year. An online form in STRS has helped with recordkeeping and convenience. In August 2016, an auto reminder system was instituted that sends an e-mail message out to each Chief Scientist. In September 2016 the response rate increased 7.76%. Typically, we see an increase in PCAR submittals at the end of each year.

Ben Van Mooy is the new Chair of the PCAR subcommittee and he brings some new ideas that will hopefully help boost return rates. Some things under consideration include:

- Three separate forms, one for the Captains, one for the marine techs, and one for the Chief Scientists.
- The UNOLS Office will contact each Operator to determine how they tell PIs about the PCARs.
- UNOLS Office will also work with Operators to gather feedback from Captains and Techs about the PCAR Process.

Feedback from the agencies and ship inspectors regarding the PCAR form and process is welcome.

Discussion:

- Rose Dufour – She is pleased about the PCAR automated reminders, but she is still worried about the quality versus quantity of the return. Jon Alberts – This is a concern and something that we are looking at.
- Brian Midson – Do the NDSF Pls get reminders? Annette DeSilva – They get personal reminders.
- Rose Dufour – Timely responses are also very important. There is not much we can do to respond to a late PCAR. She feels that the PCAR should occur right at the end of the cruise while everything is fresh in the mind.
- Masako Tominaga – On some cruises there is a mid cruise meeting and it can be effective in identifying issues. Some ships do this and some do not.

### **Break**

**Status of RVSS Appendix B (UNOLS Overboard Handling Systems)** – Jon Alberts began the report. He explained that Alice Doyle has been assisting with RVSS Appendix B over the last few months.

Alice continued the presentation. Her slides are included at **Appendix VI**. The purpose of Appendix B is to insure that you are operating a winch in a safe way and that training is provided. The plan for addressing RVSS Appendix B as of November 2016 is as follows:

1. Assess the fleet in terms of Appendix B compliance
2. Compile and post Sample Documents relevant to Appendix B:
  - a. Sample MCD
  - b. OHS Operator Manual
  - c. Simplified Appendix B Assist Sheet
  - d. FAQ
3. Review the assessment
  - a. Where are we?
  - b. What is giving us trouble? How to remedy?
    - i. Training?
    - ii. Resources?
  - c. Is partial compliance possible?
4. Assess feasibility and way forward

Discussion:

- Al Suchy – How was it discovered that ships were not in compliance? Alice Doyle – Operators were talking about it and in part from the ship inspections.
- Dennis Nixon – This is a complicated issue from the insurance perspective. Ship policies are typically wrapped up into the institution policies. Insurance agencies try to understand what research vessels are and they compare them to fishery and towing vessels. These vessels have challenging safety records. However, when looking at research vessel records,

we are hard pressed to find claims. Over-the-side handling systems have been typically safe. If the RVSS is not followed, there can be implications. This is a standard that we are being asked to comply with, yet equipment is always changing. The new Ocean Class Research Vessels (OCRVs) were not designed to comply with Appendix B. Dennis asked NAVSEA if the OCRVs were designed to operate safely. NAVSEA replied, “yes.” Dennis feels that we can approach safe over-the-side operations without requiring Appendix B. We are taking a very good (current) situation and trying to move to perfection at a high cost.

- Chris Measures – We would like to request that the safety committee evaluate the issues and recommend a way forward.
- Jon Alberts – this should be addressed as quickly as feasible.
- Deb Steinberg – Who wrote the Appendix B standard? Reply – Engineers, experts, and consultants. The Council approved them.
- Mike Prince – Do we want to stay out of compliance, or should we change the compliance date? Peter Ortner – we should either move the date, or remove the date until we better know the realistic time required to meet the revised standard.
- Chris Measures – He recommends that the compliance date be suspended.
- Mike Prince – By doing this we are still required to meet safe handling.
- Rose Dufour – The NSF inspection program examines over-the-side handling. Even if the date is removed, the ships are still required to meet the appendix.
- Dennis Nixon – We can remove the Appendix B and stay within compliance.

Dennis Nixon suggested the motion, “In light of the continuing efforts to improve over the side handling systems, the Council decides to suspend the implementation of Appendix B and remove it from the RVSS. The issue remains for further consideration.” (Ortner/Ricketts.)

Rose Dufour suggested that to avoid the need to renumber the appendices, we should indicate that over-the-side handling would be in compliance with CFRXXX.

The Council vote on the motion as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

It was recommended that a message be sent to the UNOLS ship operators.

**Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee Structure** – Jon Alberts presented the path forward for the MSROC. His slides are included as **Appendix VII**.

It is proposed to transition the Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee to the Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee (MSROC). The purpose of the MSROC is to:

- Provide Scientific Oversight
- Asset Coordination
- Strategic Advice for NSF Supported Marine Seismic Facilities
- Represent the Marine Seismic Research Community for broad access to all marine seismic assets.

The specific tasks are to:

- Work to develop a regional plan for operations



- Encourage and help facilitate advancement of cooperative international programs
- Review technical capabilities of existing marine seismic assets and advocate for upgrades based on compelling scientific needs.
- Promote engagement and training of next generation marine seismic researchers
- Liaise more closely with IODP and OBSIP
- Provide outreach tools and feedback mechanism to the community

The membership of MSROC will include nine members:

- At least three with 2D & 3D experience
- Two members with ocean bottom seismology experience and one of whom can serve as a liaison to/from the OBSIP Advisory Committee.
- A member to serve as a liaison to IODP
- One or more members from the international geophysics community

The MSROC terms of reference are part of the proposed revisions to the UNOLS Charter that is before the UNOLS membership for vote.

Discussion:

- Nathan Bangs – This is a very big change. It is much broader with not as much a focus on R/V *Langseth*. The *Langseth* references have been removed from the terms of reference. This is of concern among the MLSOC members. The OBS will still have oversight. A subcommittee will likely be formed to address *Langseth*.
- Peter Ortner – There is little reference in the terms of reference to infrastructure and specifically *Langseth*. Nathan Bangs – Yes, the OBSIP still is referenced, but *Langseth* is not and there seems to be a mismatch.
- Sandy Shor – Is *Langseth* still considered a UNOLS Facility? Annette DeSilva – Yes, it is still referenced in Appendix II of the Charter.
- Nathan Bangs – In that case, he feels that it should also be included in Appendix IX of the Charter. The committee is certainly struggling on how to address this.
- Rick Murray – It is very clear that the elephant in the room is the status of the R/V *Langseth* and what its role will be in the future. He understands the ambiguity of the situation. *Langseth* is very important and hopes that it will continue to be important in the future. What does science want in the future? What are the capabilities needed to meet the science? The lack of the reference to “*Langseth*” isn’t bad; the terms are designed to expand beyond *Langseth* to all seismic science. This is why it is going in this direction.
- Nathan Bangs – The MLSOC chair position is already very demanding. With the new responsibilities of the MSROC, he worries about the time commitment. The need for a deputy chair is clear.

**Public Input Period Now Open for the Next 10-year Federal Ocean Research Plan** – Rick Murray (NSF) reviewed the request for input for “Ocean Research in the Coming Decade.” Details are included in **Appendix VIII**.

The Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST), under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), is requesting written input on the structure and content of its

upcoming 10-year ocean research plan. This new Plan will supersede the NSTC's "Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States for the Next Decade: An Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy," that was published in 2007 and updated in 2013. They would like a total rewrite and a much shorter report (about 30 pages). The Plan will describe the most pressing research questions and most promising areas of opportunity within the ocean science and technology (S&T) enterprise for the coming decade. It will set the stage for actions across Federal agencies and with non-Federal entities to address societal needs and issues of national importance.

A public input period on the Plan is open until January 1, 2017. Co-Chairs of the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology are Rick Murray, Richard Merrick (Fisheries Chief Science Advisor and Director, Science Programs, NOAA), and Fabien Laurier (Senior Policy Advisor, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy)

Rick encouraged UNOLS feedback. There will be town hall at the fall AGU meeting as well as meetings around the country.

The first feedback phase is for all stakeholders. In the first quarter of 2017 the comments will be reviewed. This will be followed by a draft public plan that will be available for public comment.

Additional information is available at the Federal Register Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/10/28/2016-26118/plan-for-ocean-research-in-the-coming-decade>

Input can be submitted at: <https://contribute.globalchange.gov/plan-ocean-research-coming-decade>.

General inquiries may be directed to [oceanresearchplan@nsf.gov](mailto:oceanresearchplan@nsf.gov).

**Suggestions for future UNOLS goals** – Chris Measures suggested that since we just transitioned the ad hoc committee to a special purpose committee on gender climate at sea, we will keep this as an important goal.

#### **Committee Activities and Issues requiring Council Attention:**

- Sandy Shor suggested that once the MSROC is approved by the membership during the Annual Meeting, committee members will be needed. A motion was made and passed to make the current membership of MLSOC the temporary membership for the MSROC for a three-month period. (Bangs/Ferguson).
- Nathan Bangs – There was a recent workshop at LDEO, partly driven by IODP. International partners participated and the benefit of international collaboration was noted. Is this something that can be supported for MSROC? Chris Measures – This is the sort of thing that MSROC should be considering.

**UNOLS Winter/Spring Meeting** – Venue suggestions included UW and OSU. The UNOLS Office will follow-up on plans.

***Adjourn*** – *A motion was made and passed to close the meeting (Kipp Shearman/Peter Ortner)*

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