



# University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System ~UNOLS~

## UNOLS Non-Operator Committee Report for 2016 Fleet Operations





**Agency Letter-** Dated: July 27, 2016  
NSF, ONR, UNOLS Executive Secretary  
Submitted to UNOLS Non-Op Committee

**Subject:** 2017 U.S. Academic Research Fleet Operations Support  
Findings and Recommendations

**Main Points:**

Ship-time to be considered at both NSF panels, February and August, with caveat that Global and Ocean class requests be considered for 18 months out

As of July 27, 2016, we had 2114 funded days and 970 days pending. With 30 % success on pending, we would have 2405 days. As of Nov 16, 2016, we had 2640 funded and 631 days pending.

Letter cautioned there are many days beyond “charge days” when ships are working. i.e. ports days for mobilization/demobilization in home port.



NSF/OCE is taking a holistic approach to funding the portfolio which includes coordination with other divisions within NSF Directorate.

NSF still reviewing options for *R/V Marcus Langseth* as per Sea Change Report

### **Agency Decisions and Recommendations**

- Identify ways to reduce costs
- Recommends that the science community considers 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.



## **Members of the 2016 Non-Operators Committee:**

- Greg Cutter/ODU
- Tammi Richardson/U South Carolina
- Mark Brzezinski/UCSB



## UNOLS Council Non-Operator Subcommittee Letter- dated September 6, 2016

### Main Points:

Thankful no need to recommend a non-op period for any ship in CY 2017

Cautions that science capability and the # of berths are not equivalent. *Ride*, *Armstrong* and *Sikuliaq* need further evaluation to serve large programs.  
UNOLS needs to prepare a marketing strategy.

Embrace *Barnes* replacement

Cautions that a 2-ship operation instead of one global is problematic as most cruises share samples and sampling systems



## Main Points continued

- Fleet Utilization is declining driven by overall funding and not a lack of scientific initiative.
- Global demand will shift upward with large interdisciplinary programs like GEOTRACES, EXPORTS, and Ocean Observatory Initiative