

Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island, VA
Fall Meeting of the Academic Advisory Council
Saturday, September 21, 2013
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Attendees:

Dominique Didier – Chair, AAC; Millersville University
Ajoy Kumar – Millersville University
Bob Vaillancourt – Millersville University
Sean Cornell – Shippensburg University
Pablo Delis – Shippensburg University
Nathan Thomas – Shippensburg University
Jay Hunt – East Stroudsburg University
Ben Galluzo - Shippensburg University
Shixiong Hu – East Stroudsburg University
Wendy Ryan – Kutztown University
Steve Seiler – Lock Haven University
John Hrantitz – Bloomsburg University
Cindy Venn – Bloomsburg University
Steven Hughes – Cheyney University
Marietta D’Antonio-Madsen – Cheyney University
Amber Parker – Executive Director, Marine Science Consortium
Anne Armstrong – Program Manager, Marine Science Consortium
Ali Redman – College Program Coordinator, Marine Science Consortium

Invited guests:

Tom Tauer-East Stroudsburg University

AGENDA

- I. Open Meeting; Approval of Agenda
 - a. Any additions to the agenda-None proposed
 - b. Motion-Sean, Pablo Approval

- II. Review minutes of Spring 2013 meeting-Dominique
 - a. Thanks to Sean; welcome new secretary Ajoy Kumar
 - b. Approval of minutes
 - c. Motion-Sean, Vaillancourt Second-All approved

- III. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Welcome new members and visitors
 - i. Introduction: at 8.51 a.m.
 - ii. Corrine Taylor-Wellesley College
 - iii. Ben Galluzo - Shippensburg University

- b. AAC chair – Dominique mentioned that she will be stepping down from the AAC Chair position Spring 2014 and hoped for spring transition and new Chair appointed in July 2014.
- c. Ben shared about a NSF sponsored Workshop for MATH Teachers May 19-24, 2014 at the MSC. It will involve 15-20 participants and open to all faculty. Sean shared that an invitation will go out to all member universities. John mentioned that PASSHE is discussing a similar type of grant that will involve all PASSHE schools. Tom Tauer mentioned that this information is presently not available on the PASSHE web site.
- d. Marietta Madsen from Cheney University talked about a new Arts Course that she has been involved called Healing Arts Projects. This project will involve Biology/Ecology students to identify plants with artistic qualities, take photos, and give to artists (Marietta). The Arts students will use graphic design, photography to make silhouettes (of photos) of plants, cut shapes of wood and work with residents to get life story, paint images of life on plant silhouette. Marietta will then take the art work and have the retirement facility prepare greeting cards, calendar telling stories of residents and students. Discussion involved if similar course (7.5 week course or 15-week) can be offered at the MSC. Marietta donated a mural of the work done previously to the MSC.

IV. MSC news

- a. Unveiling of new name and logo – Amber Parker
Name changed to Chincoteague Bay Field Station (CBFS) and approved by the Board. Designed by Bull (Ali's Husband), it features the Black-necked Stilt.
- b. New Website – Ali Redman
New Web page: www.cbfieldstation.org. MSC's Parker designed the website. Ali showed the features of the new website that is under construction. Ali requested photos, course info, etc to be included on the new website. Other items that will feature in the new website includes number of students enrolled and on waiting list, photos of our boats, MSC partners including NASA, interactive maps etc. Wendy requested the photo on students diving in the marsh to be removed and replaced with other relevant photos. Ali requested information on faculty biographies and research projects that needed to be added on the website. Discussion on how to arrange research or creative activities on the website. Sean/Steve motion on a marketing sub committee for outreach and marketing College courses. Approved. Vaillancourt suggested webpage have information regarding latest findings, research output etc.

V. Academic Programs, Curriculum and Planning

- a. New course proposal:
 - i: “Techniques in Biological and Chemical Oceanography” by Robert Vaillancourt. Course will be offered at the 400 level, Summer 2014.
 - ii: Steve would like to offer an Aquaculture course that will be two weeks online and one week visit to local aquaculture facilities.
Discussion on aquaculture and coastal restoration, courses being more expensive and more students from environmental majors taking MSC courses. Jay suggested a new higher level Marine Conservation Genetics class in 2015. Discussion on water courses are really needed at the college level. Amber suggested having a AAC strategic meeting on academic planning in Spring 2014 meeting. All approved.

- b. Registration System
 - i. Wufoo – did it work? Suggested changes? Dominique mentioned that the CAA will be meeting in November to sort out issues regarding registering courses for the summer classes. Amber mentioned problems with collecting dues owed by students who have taken classes in Summer, 2013. Jay suggested increasing deposit for Coral Reef ecology to \$500.00. Disclaimer needed that instructor or courses may change due to problems encountered the previous year.
 - ii. Visiting student forms and transcripts; ongoing problems – any solutions? Problems still exists but CAA meeting may sort out most of the difficulties.
 - iii. Registration dates: Open Nov 1 for seniors, Nov 15 for everyone else.
- c. Schedule for Summer 2014 developed (tentative)-see draft document in appendix
- d. Course requests; equipment, boats, etc. – Faculty will be using online request for boats, etc. Some modification in online forms from previous years.
- e. Winter and Value-added course proposed including boater safety certification, SCUBA, kayak building, Fish tank care, Neo-tropical biology, Marine Carbonates, Winter Ornithology, etc. Course certificate programs, and letter of completions on students transcripts for these courses will add value. Steve suggested sending out information about all the courses to all campuses.

VI. MSC Programs – Anne Armstrong & Ali Redman

- a. Summer 2013
 - i. Student numbers and breakdown by university, year etc.
Redman showed and discussed the breakdown of various college programs. Of the 22 courses in summer 2013, 16 courses offered, four in each session. Students enrolled in college programs stayed almost the same ~194. On the average, second session had more college students enrolled (82) and other three sessions remained almost the same (62). Redman mentioned that there are 300 beds in the college dormitories 64 in the new a/c dorms. Also there are 10 labs and seven classrooms available at the MSC.
 - ii. Things that were new this year and how they fared; (Volunteer Program, Resident Coordinator, Kitchen, RA system and a few other small things)
Redman mentioned that the new RA system worked very well. Small glitches that occurred for some faculty will be looked into for the summer 2014. Discussion on the new weekend meal plans for the students. Very few students purchased the weekend meal plan. Wendy suggested that there is a disconnect between students from Friday to Monday because of the new meal plan. Sean suggested putting names of students on the doors of their dorm rooms. This can help in identifying students during the weekends. Good response for volunteer positions last year.
 - iii. Student feedback results: Mixed results on Cafeteria food. Need to keep food in labeled boxes to avoid disappearing food in student kitchens. Students kitchens need to be kept clean.
- b. Updates on Special and School Programs : Anne mentioned about the Special programs and Roads program. Dominique was concerned with poor interaction between college and high school students mainly because of confusion about how much interaction is allowed between these two groups. Another problem was the logistics issue where high school students couldn't travel in the college students Anne mentioned that the problem arose because of breakdown of school buses used to transport high school students.

Parker is developing lecture series in winter. Anne will communicate with faculty about the lecture series. Digital photography course well received. New partnership forged with Virginia Space Flight Academy. There was decline in school groups this past year mainly due to funding received by school districts. New partnership with local schools increasing but not money making. Anne mentioned that she and Amber attended the Wallops Climate Adaptation Workshop. Anne also mentioned the alumni weekend reception and other activities and encouraged everyone to pass the word around to retirees and alumni and to attend the activities scheduled for October 26th, 2014. More information of these activities can be found in the MSC website.

- c. Vessels
 - i. R/V Parker recently underwent a \$15,000.00 renovation. Use of R/V Parker reducing (only 12 trips per year last year). Vaillancourt suggested joining the UNOLS program to increase the use of R/V Parker. New Captain has taken a lot of care of the vessel recently.
 - ii. Whaler is available at 6 people and 4 with gear. Marine radio, flares, chairs, fire extinguisher available with the Whaler for rent. Boaters safety card and permission of Captain required to use the Whaler.
- d.
 - i: New marketing push at nonmember universities, Colleges within commuting distance, non-residential to attract more students for summer courses, especial low enrollment courses. Cindy Venn and Adrienne Oakley recruited to help with marketing college programs. Please send your ideas and any other information directly to Cindy or Adrienne.
 - ii. Ambassador program: Anne mentioned that students were trained to give presentations and then return back to their respective universities to advertise via face-to-face, facebook and other social media. Wendy mentioned that there is a lot of student turnover for this program. Sean mentioned that faculty need to download their data files on the S-drive of the Faculty computer available at the faculty office.

VII. Research

- a. NASA GSFC WFF Research Collaboration Annual Report – Tom Tauer distributed the 2013 NASA-MSC annual report. He also talked about existing and new collaborations with NASA and MSC.
- b. Amber mentioned about the new MACRI (Mid-Atlantic Coastal Resiliency Institute) Institute. This is a collaboration of researchers on the Eastern Shore- Virginia to Delaware. The goal of this institute is to understand the activities that are taking place at the Eastern Shore by a large group of researchers from this area. The idea of the institute started with the Climate Adaptation Workshop held at NASA, followed by another meeting at VIMS. Timeframe for the formation of the new institute will be March, 2014.
- c. Greenbackville – Sean Cornell mentioned about the new Toyota grant proposal funding (\$64,000) to help with oyster restoration, restoration of marshes and outreach with local community at the Greenbackville site. The grant will be for one year (September 2013-2014). Work will begin Nov. 2nd and Dec. 16th will be the community Night at Captain's Cove and establish the first three ICON sites.

- d. NSF-REU proposal - John Hranitz discussed ideas about the NSF REU proposal. Kumar mentioned that he will be contacting everybody with interests to offer research ideas attached to the NSF REU proposal.
- e. Research committee updates and overview of current year projects and updated tracking system/protocol: Sean mentioned about the work of the research committee to regularize and archive research work done at the MSC. Sean will email faculty with further updates on protocol on research subjects. Forms available online. Vaillancourt has joined the research committee.
- f. Marine Science Consortium Contributions: The AAC approved the numbering of peer reviewed publications at the MSC starting with Julie Ambler and Ajoy Kumar's accepted paper in Continental Shelf Research as 1301.
- g. The Keystone Journal of Undergraduate Research (KJUR). Nathan is the new editor of KJUR. Nathan encouraged submitting papers in this journal with a review time of six weeks.

VIII. The next Spring meeting of the AAC will be on Friday, February 22nd in Harrisburg. Faculty are encouraged to provide meeting reports at least two weeks earlier. A reminder that Strategic discussion on summer courses will be discussed at the next meeting.

- a. Adjourn formal meeting (~4:00 pm) Motion Sean-second Vaillancourt.