

Minutes of the Marine Science Consortium, "Spring" Meeting of the  
Academic Advisory Council held at the Dixon Center, Harrisburg, PA, June 9, 2007.

Present: Al Answini, Wendy Ryan, John Callander, Jim Case, Sue Morra, Sean Cornell, Jonathan Kidd, Julie Ambler.

Agenda and Minutes from 2006 Fall Meeting at Shippensburg were approved.

John Callander handed out the MSC BYLAWS which have been approved by the five University Presidents. In February 2007, the five presidents decided their level of support for the MSC which is stated in the Bylaws. The actual date of approval then would be between Feb. and June. The Board of Directors includes the Presidents of the Senior Full Members (Kutztown University and East Stroudsburg University) which have two votes each and the Presidents of the three Full Members (Millersville University, Shippensburg University, Slippery Rock University) which have one vote each. The President of the Board of Directors changes between the President of Kutztown University (Javier Cevallos) and the President of East Stroudsburg University (Robert Dillman). On June 8, 2007, Dr. Cevallos became President and Dr. Dillman became Vice President.

Item III. B. (Organization of Academic Advisory Council) was deferred to after Items IV. Reports and V. Other Business.

General overview of the Marine Science Consortium. Reports by John Callander.

Facilities and Planning Report. John C. gave a handout on "Marine Science Consortium Campus Revitalization," which included an aerial photograph of the MSC (buildings marked with an X have been torn down—three buildings at southwest side of campus and old cafeteria. The handout also included architect's plan for the campus (See A-7).

The plan. The MSC campus will be enclosed within the loop road, and there will be two building phases. Phase I (blue buildings) includes building Pre-College Dorms, Administrative Offices, Pre-College Instructor Housing, Permanent Staff Housing, and a Maintenance Building and Yard outside of loop. After these buildings are in place, the Pre-College Labs can be built, since they require the present Pre-College Dorms to be torn down and replaced by the new Pre-College Dorms. The second phase of building (orange) includes College Dorms, College Labs, and Elderhostel Housing.

Wendy questioned whether the College Dorms and Elderhostel Housing will be necessary. The Pre-College Dorms will house 224 people (see figure MSC PC Dorm 1<sup>st</sup> Floor). There are 16 modules with 8 on each floor. Each module has 4 bedrooms which have three rooms with 4 students each and one room for two counselors, or a total of 14 people per module. For the college students, the Precollege dorms could be used with two students per room. Each module has a bathroom and a separate outside entrance, so that pre-college, college and Elderhostel students could all be staying in the same building but be separated. It was noted that no other Elderhostel program has a dedicated building. Al said that this building could be shared with NASA and be used as a motel type housing for out of town guests and apartments. The earliest that building could start would be Dec. 2007. John Callander and Presidents from ESU and KU are working on financing of the first building phase. Loans for building will come from Accomack County but bank financing remains to be finalized.

NASA Agreement. In addition to the longstanding MSC-NASA agreement about use of the boat basin, water and sewer, fire and other items, an Academic Component has been added. This Academic Component includes a guarantee of internships and more involvement with research. The Presidents are excited about this unique agreement and it is one of the major reasons they are supporting the MSC plans. The agreement has been possible in large part to the good relationship between Al Answini (MSC President) and John Campbell (NASA Director). NASA would like to have one point contact with the MSC and help its neighbor, the MSC, improve.

Wallops Research and Education Park will be 200 acres total and include the MSC campus inside the loop, Northrup-Gruman south of Mill Dam Road, Company that builds airplane interiors north of the loop, the existing

Navy Recreation Center, and an Wallops Education Center (multipurpose workforce training, classroom instruction room, incubator for small business) west of the loop. MSC will receive revenues as rent of this land.

Operations Report. The PARKER has had \$10,000 spent for maintenance of the manifolds, installation of a full electrical system and new RADAR and GPS units. New hydraulic and a longer cable will be installed for the trawl. Four used diesel buses were bought: three from VA Beach's schools (\$2200) and one for \$3500. Monitors are in rough shape and break down frequently. If Presidents approve, one monitor with the same capacity will be replaced this year, either as a triple pontoon fiberglass boat or a fabricated monitor with the same design as the present monitors. A new mover was purchased. All nets were replaced. All life vests were replaced due to Coast Guard inspections. Six trees were knocked down during a nor'easter.

Finances Report. All five presidents are making a very big investment in the MSC. From June to Dec. 2006, each of the five universities on the MSC Board invested \$112,500 to pay debt service and maintain operations. This year (2007) each university is paying their yearly \$12,500 and also \$50,000. The two lead universities, Kutztown University and East Stroudsburg University, will be paying substantially more for debt service for the first phase of building. The five universities are the five stakeholders at present. Lock Haven University is paying 50% full support at present, but is not a full member at present.

Academic Affairs Report. John C. gave the following data on program enrollments.

Enrollments	Change at Present	Projected Change
Precollege Spring and Summer	Down 3-4%	Down 10%
College weekend Spring	Up 10%	
College Summer	Up 24%	
Elderhostel	Up 112%	Up 50-60%

John C. has organized and marketed a Three Day Teacher's Workshop to a five state area. The workshop is free for the teachers and includes hand on experiences to encourage teachers to bring their classes to the MSC during the school year. Twenty to twenty five teachers have signed up for this year. He hopes to make this workshop an annual program. Sue Morra said that she taught a teacher's workshop 5-6 years ago and the teachers were very excited about it. Sean Cornell said that J.R. Stewart from Shippensburg University is also interested in education workshops. Wendy Ryan reported that Lauren H. and she presented a poster at the last meeting of the National Association of Biology Teachers. This year they will be presenting a workshop with hand on classroom activities at the November NABT meeting.

Research Report. ODU graduate student is using the Greenbackville lab to study brown tides. Faculty at Kutztown (Chris Sacchi), East Stroudsburg (Shawn Hu) and Shippensburg (Larry Klotz) Universities have a contract through NASA to do a vegetation survey for NEPA requirements for the research park. They are using NASA equipment and computers to produce a publishable data set. Interns will be using GIS to do maps of range and intensity of RF (radio frequencies) during the summer and fall.

Julie Ambler gave an update on the COBY cruises which are part of the Coastal Observation System at NASA headed by Drs. Tiffany and John Moisan. We have had 24 COBY cruises through May 30, 2007. Nancy Butler and Julie Ambler have been funded by NASA for student salaries, stipends, travel and supplies to participate in these cruises from Nov. 1, 2006 to Aug. 31, 2007. This contract was submitted by John Callander through the MSC and included funds for the PARKER. There will be no new funds for the Coastal Observation System next year, but funds from previous years will be used to cover NOAA's main objectives which include Education and Outreach as number two. Nancy and Julie will be funded at the same level as last year. Julie presented an education powerpoint at the Coastal Observation meeting on June 7, 2007; see attachment. The OASIS platforms (remotely controlled "unmanned boats" with sensors) have had successful sea trials but the buoy has not been deployed yet. Electornics developed for the OASIS platforms will be used in the buoy (COBY).

Organization within the Academic Advisory Council (AAC), Wendy Ryan, President of AAC, presided.

The President of the AAC will be a faculty member from Kutztown University or East Stroudsburg University for a three year term and alternate between these two universities. The AAC needs a secretary and one or more people for the following committees: College Programs, Research, Precollege Programs, Elderhostel, and other. We decided to let people think about which committee they would like to do and “sign up” at the fall meeting.

MSC College Summer Courses. Wendy requested that all AAC members send her the curriculum that involve and/or require MSC courses from their respective institution. She wants to coordinate the demand for certain courses so that students will be able to take the MSC courses that they need. She would like us to plan 2 years in advance for our summer courses so students could also plan ahead. That would be planning for summers 2008 and 2009.

Expansion of academic programs. Wendy stated that MSC Faculty have had a hands-off approach to Pre-college and Elderhostel programs in the past, but that we could provide help to these programs. Lauren is developing a Wallop 2 curriculum for spring pre-college students that have been to the MSC before. New areas of instruction could include teacher education and NASA interns. The NASA interns may do their work during fall and spring semesters, and this brought up the idea of the MSC providing college courses during the school year. Several models were presented. Sue Morra mentioned that St. Francis and another university close by are teaching courses together. MSC Faculty could teach for three weeks at the MSC during a semester, teach at the MSC and also online, or teach the whole semester at the MSC. Are there other potential instructors near the MSC who might be interested in teaching college courses at the MSC? Possibilities include community college instructors (lower division courses), retired teachers living in Chincoteague, and distance learning.

Frequency and location of AAC meetings. We agreed on the following schedule: two meetings in person and two meetings via conference call.

1. Early Fall Meeting tentatively planned for Sept. 29 at the Dixon Center, one day for AAC meeting and then committee meetings.
2. Late fall conference call.
3. Early winter conference call.
4. Spring meeting.

Sean Cornell told us about his Fall Break trip for three Shippensburg classes (Environmental Sociology, Environmental Action and Chesapeake Bay Land Use Change). About 40 students from these three classes will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rachel Carson’s birth and book “The Sea Around Us.” At the MSC, the students will be doing service projects with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge. Projects will include bird banding. There is an online Book Club discussion about “The Sea Around Us.”

Everyone thanked Al for all his efforts. At the Board meeting, the Presidents presented Al with a plaque for the Cafeteria which will now be known as Answini Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ambler  
Temporary Secretary

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2009