

UNOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Oregon State University Marine Center, Newport, Oregon

June 12, 1973

MINUTES OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the UNOLS Advisory Council was convened at 0830. Present were:

Dr. J. V. Byrne CHAIRMAN

Dr. J. P. Craven, Member

Dr. D. W. Menzel, Member

Dr. A. F. Richards, Member

Dr. R. A. Ragotzkie, Member

Dr. W. S. Wooster, Member

Dr. A. E. Maxwell, Chairman UNOLS

R. P. Dinsmore, Executive Secretary

Dr. A. G. Greene, NSF observer

Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of Agenda

The Draft Agenda was adopted as submitted.

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous regular meeting on January 9-10, 1973, were reviewed and approved following the correction of several typographical errors.

Agenda Item 3 - Discussion of UNOLS Annual Meeting 22-23 May

Dr. Byrne reviewed the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of which the Summary Report was distributed to all members. Dr. Byrne considered that the Advisory

Council in its Annual Report should be prepared to comment on the issues raised at the meeting and identified by UNOLS Members in their statement. These include the priorities for NSF projects on UNOLS ships and the constraints explicit to NSF ship support funding. There followed a great deal of discussion on each of the six points raised in the UNOLS Statement of 23 May and to be transmitted shortly by Dr. Maxwell to Dr. Owen.

Dr. Wooster submitted that the broad issue is the relationship between NSF facilities money and NSF research projects, and that until a satisfactory function is developed and implemented, the present difficulties will remain. He asked if anything further had resulted from Dr. Maxwell's efforts at the January Galveston meeting. Dr. Maxwell reported that except for the work at the special April meeting there was no new progress.

Dr. Craven submitted that the issue was not so much with NSF research projects - there being no question that they could and should be covered - but the issue was the relationship between NSF facilities money and non-NSF projects. There followed a general discussion on block funding vis-a-vis project funding with the only conclusion being that NSF is now on a project funding basis whereas UNOLS is still block-funding oriented. Dr. Byrne summed up the discussion with the following points of urgency:

1. To develop procedures to insure that all NSF projects are accommodated. This includes timely information on NSF ship time requirements.
2. To develop lines of communication with other agencies than NSF and ONR in order that a responsible portion of ship time requirements is funded. This includes AEC, EPA and Sea Grant.

3. To develop a rationale and responsibility for shipboard science not covered by 1 & 2 above.

Dr. Maxwell pointed out that whether or not a ship survives financially to do (1) & (2) above may well depend on (3).

Agenda Item 4 - 1973 Annual Report

A draft outline for the Annual Report was circulated by the Executive Secretary. The outline suggested a report similar in scope and nature to the 1972 Report.

Dr. Maxwell proposes that the report should deal with a few central issues and pound them home. Dr. Wooster suggested that the earlier identified issues (Agenda Item 3) be the central theme of the report and that "housekeeping" items be included as a short back section. Dr. Byrne submitted that ship replacement and construction should be added to the key issues inasmuch as the outlook for Federal support in this area appeared to be getting worse. Dr. Richards added that support for submarines was even more acute and ought to be included as a key issue. The foregoing elements were agreed to and the Executive Secretary was instructed to restructure the report along this avenue.

Dr. Menzel asked what specific recommendations the Advisory Council was prepared to make - especially in the areas of funding and in ship construction. He considered the latter of significant importance and that he personally thought the needs for small coastal vessels was greater than ever. Dr. Wooster stated that the existing Advisory Council recommendations were clear in this regard and suggested they be continued. This was agreed to. The Executive Secretary submitted that current ship construction experience showed an advantage - almost to the point of necessity - of considering "multi-ship" buys and that this might be particularly advantageous in the case of coastal vessels. He suggested that this concept be adopted as a recommendation.

The Executive Secretary was instructed to update existing and incorporate new recommendations into the Draft Report and distribute for review. He hoped to have this done by August 1st.

Agenda Item 5 - Near and Long Term Strategies for UNOLS Action

Under this Agenda Item there was a wide range of discussion grouped principally about the problems now facing the oceanographic community and how to overcome them.

The key issues emerging were:

1. How to convince policy makers on the value and viability of oceanographic research and how to show impacts to the nation on any reductions in Federal support.
2. The distribution on available funds:
 - How to get the best research for the money?
 - Where and what should the facilities be?

Various suggestions were raised which generally evolved around studies and reports of a preeminent nature, and which appeared to interact with NACOA and OAB. Dr. Maxwell reported that NACOA was not addressing the research facilities issues at this time. Dr. Byrne reported that OAB was concerned in a similar way and it was to be included in a forthcoming OAB meeting on August 20, 1973 at Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Byrne proposed that a joint ad hoc working group meet then to discuss areas of mutual interest and actions. From UNOLS Drs. Byrne, Craven, Maxwell and Wooster and Captain Dinsmore would be present. It was agreed that this proposal would be transmitted to Dr. Morse, chairman of OAB, for his approval.

On more immediate issues of facilities support, Dr. Richards submitted that much of the problem occurred as a Federal interagency matter and could be eased if NSF were in some manner designated as a "lead agency" to assume responsibility for putting together Federal Support requirements. This was endorsed by all

members present and the Executive Secretary was instructed to develop this as a recommendation for the Annual Report.

On other issues applicable to strategy, the points set forth in the UNOLS Statement of May 23rd were endorsed to be included in the Report especially point one dealing with the unique responsibility of NSF to support science.

Agenda Item 6 - Changes to the UNOLS Charter

The Executive Secretary reported that several issues dealing with the Charter arose at the Annual Meeting in May. These included terminating Annex I with the request that a more effective set of procedures be devised for the Annual Ship Schedule Coordinating Session(s), and that Section 2(e) of the Charter appeared too restrictive in that the UNOLS Chairman could only be elected from the "designated representatives" to UNOLS. Each of these matters was discussed in the order to serve as guidance to the Executive Committee whose role is to recommend changes in the Charter.

In regard to the election of officers it was suggested that the Charter be amended to read that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of UNOLS be elected from among member institutions vice designated representatives.

In regard to schedule coordination sessions, it was agreed that the present practices of each member reviewing his schedule and then submitting to requests was not particularly effective. Requests appeared to be better handled by mail through the UNOLS Office. The schedule coordinating session should be more slanted toward an analysis and comparison of the schedules on a temporal and regional basis. The Executive Secretary was requested to examine this idea and determine what changes, if any, were needed in Annex I in order to accomplish the intent of UNOLS members and the spirit of the foregoing concept.

Agenda Item 7 - Other Business

The Executive Secretary called attention to the "Long Range Facilities" Plan to which the Advisory Council was committed. A draft concept of a plan was circulated based on information the UNOLS now holds. The Advisory Council appreciated the action of the Executive Secretary but expressed concern that the element of a "shopping list" still prevailed and too little data existed to yet assign numbers. Dr. Byrne submitted that this again was a matter which interrelated with the goals of OAB and it be discussed jointly with that body at its August meeting in Boulder, Colorado. This proposal was accepted.

The proposal by Dr. Niiler of Nova University to UNOLS for consideration of a Current Meter facility as a National Oceanographic Facility was postponed to a future meeting.

Agenda Item 8 - Next Meeting


Dr. Byrne proposed that the next meeting be held at the end of September possibly in Boston, Massachusetts with M.I.T. (Dr. Stommell) acting as host.

Dr. Menzel submitted that a one day meeting for the Advisory Council was ineffective and too costly for its results. He suggested fewer but longer meetings as a means of becoming more effective. Dr. Byrne concurred along with the several remaining members present.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1730 June 12, 1973.

Submitted June 22, 1973

J. V. Byrne, Chairman



R. P. Dinsmore, Executive Secretary

