

**FIO Fall Advisory Council Meeting  
Minutes of November 11, 2019  
Florida Institute of Oceanography, St. Petersburg, Florida**

Chair: James Garey, Present Chair M.Crosby not present at meeting.

Attending Council Members:

In person: USF Provost Ralph Wilcox, Mike Allen(UF), Gil McRae (FWRI), Gary Mitchum (USF Alt), , Jim Sullivan (HBOI-FAU), Disraelly Cruz (BOG), James Garey (FIO), Heather Judkins (USFSP), Randy Runnels (FDEP), Amy Siuda (Eckerd),

Online/Phone: Quinton White (JU), Jim Gelsleichter (UNF), (UF), Richard Long (FAMU), Wade Jeffrey (UWF), Nick Shay (UM), Tristan Fiedler (FIT Alt), Brad Gemmell (USF), Puspa Adhikari (FGCU), Jayne Gardiner (New College), Mike Martinez (FAMU-Alt)

Absent: Chair-Michael Crosby (MOTE), Jim Fourqurean (FIU), Graham Worthy (UCF), Ian MacDonald (FSU), Amber Whittle (Fl.Aquarium), Libby Tyner (SRI), Don Kent (Hubb-Seaworld), Valerie Paul (Smithsonian), Mathew Upton (Roff's), Heather Bracken-Grissom (FIU) Mike Shirley (DEP Alt), Megan Stolen (Hubb-Seaworld Alt), Buddy Powell (Clwater Aquarium), Linea Boehme (SPC), Dick Dodge (NOVA), Terry Parker (FPU), Jackie Dixon(USF), George Maul (FIT), Florida Sea Grant (vacant), Eric Milbrandt (Sanibel)

Other attendees: Rob Walker (FIO), Libby Fetherston-Resch (FLRACEP), Cam Ngo (FIO), Chris Sharp (FIO), Lisa Tipsword (FIO)

Call to Order:

- I. Meeting call to order by Acting FIO Director, James Garey at 9:05 AM.  
Group decided to handle the administrative tasks while they wait for Provost Wilcox's call.
  - a. Request for approval of November 8, 2019 agenda  
Heather Judkins motioned to approve November 8, 2019 agenda. Gil McRae second. Agenda approved unanimously.
  - b. Request for approval of minutes from June 3, 2019 meeting  
Jim Sullivan motioned to approve June 3, 2019 minutes. Gil McRae second. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Welcome Remarks (Provost Ralph Wilcox):**

We be looking to renew and re-affirm AISO status for FIO. That process will be coming up in next 12-18 months. Provost Wilcox thanked Jim Garey for stepping in as Acting Director and providing leadership while he is also Vice Provost.

There will be an international search for next director soon. Thank executive committee and council for providing support and addressing highest priority- the three major assets FIO operates; the two vessels and KML. Provost reiterates that safety is priority number one for USF and FIO. The Oceans 360 review was necessary due to some incidents that occurred. An internal review from the USF Environmental

Health and Safety office have also conducted a review and made recommendations which FIO staff is also working on. The high-risk recommendations was addressed and corrected; but there are still some low-risk items that need to be fixed and Dr. Garey has directed FIO staff to do so.

Provost Wilcox expects, at the FIO Spring Meeting, a comprehensive update and report back to the group, item-by-item, on what has been fixed, addressed, updated, etc. The Provost expresses that he does not want any vessels to leave the docks without being safe.

The Marine Superintendent position has been a priority, and Dr. Garey will provide update on that search. In the coming days, Provost will be extending invitations to the FIO Council for the recruitment search committee regarding the new FIO Director. Wants to have a small, agile, but representative search committee. The goal is to have a new director in place by the end of Spring of 2020, but FIO will not wait for a new director to get things done, FIO will keep moving forward.

The Keys Marine Lab represents an incredibly valuable asset for the state. We need a better strategic direction to utilize the lab to its fullest potential. Provost have asked that FIO brings in a consultant to assess and provide guidance for the lab's operations, safety procedures, how to optimize the facilities at KML and strategic direction to align with FIO's mission. It is also expected by the spring meeting that Dr. Garey presents any findings and a proposed budget for 2021 and with that FIO be embarking on AISO Renewal in fiscal year 2021 when the new director is on board. We want the new director to understand the organization; get to know membership, etc. before having her/him direct the effort for AISO renewal process.

- Gary Mitchum: Executive committee search members must meet software requirements in order to sit on search committee. Wants potential search committee members to know there is a time commitment for sitting on recruitment.
- Tristan Fielder: Gov. DeSantis has been ramping up efforts for water quality, is FIO going to make the effort to get involved? Wilcox: I assume FIO will be called upon to support these efforts. We can see DeSantis is making a big push for ocean and coastal resiliency, combating algae, etc. FIO will not take the lead but we will provide additional infrastructure support for the scientists across the state. Believe you will see these efforts ramp up soon.
- Randy Runnels: Alan Bush is leading a resiliency practicum at Tampa campus, might be helpful to discuss with him how we can work together.
- Tristan Fielder: University of Miami is hosting a climate symposium in January 23-25, 2020 – 3 days symposium.

#### **LBR Update (Jim Garey):**

Even though the council supported the submitted LBR, FIO did not get the LBR for this upcoming fiscal year. We are looking to re-envision FIO toward the unique services FIO provides and the LBR outlined a few of those proposed items which included a 2-week ship-exclusive field course is being proposed, RFP for courses that would be submitted by the faculty amongst the SUS institutions so we can quality students on board. Not getting the LBR doesn't mean that FIO can't still fund the concept, just maybe not fund all, but a portion or a smaller scale of the proposed items.

- Gil McRae: The course was a component that was covered in the non-approved LBR? Would the ship-time funding request include these courses?
- Jim Garey: Yes, it includes the courses and additional university partners.
- Gil McRae: I fully support getting additional support for educational purposes.

- Provost Wilcox mentioned that these types of activities should be part of the budget proposal for the spring meeting.

FIO needs to target more paying customers so an outreach team including Chris Sharp and Rob Walker will coordinate and visit some of our member institutions to “drum up business”, make presentations, meet new faculty, new users and etc. Both Chris and Rob will start these activities in the spring. Gil McRae believes this suggestion is great, and suggest with FIO’s limited funding, maybe conducting ship YouTube of the experience, maybe do some demonstrations on how equipment is deployed. Tristan Fiedler thinks it is a great idea to connect the people and the advanced technologies together. Randy Runnels suggest that maybe a 360 go-pro like what they are doing at DEP and willing to share the concept with FIO.

### **Budget (Cam Ngo):**

Estimated to have \$600K E&G Carry-Forward for operating next year 20/21 that includes FIO reserves required for sudden activities. FIO also has its current carry forward account that have been supporting non-recurring activities and expenditures.

- Provost: Reserves are important for climactic climate change events that occur in the Keys for KML repairs, etc. We have to have that carry-forward for the safety and maintenance issues for the laboratory.
- Garey and Sullivan: They are changing the rules of what we can use Carry-Forward for and worried about subsidized ship-time budget requests being a “hard sell” to the legislature.
- Provost: Future looks pretty bright considering the changing leadership of the state house and senate. Next leaders will be from this area, they understand the importance of our mission. Doesn’t believe FIO is missing any opportunities in absence of a Director and it’s important to USF, as the host institution, have step up and provided leadership on that front.
- Disraelly: What is the return on investment to the state, the state is very bottom-line driven when it comes to education. It is important to relay the value-added to the legislature.
- Cam: December cruise for Weatherbird moved to January.
- Jim: Our job is to get more customers into our pipeline.
- Cam: We need more customers. KML’s peak is Spring and into the Summer. We’re slowing down right now for Winter but we pick back up with KML usage in February.
- Jim: The roofing project is a much bigger undertaking than we originally thought.

### **PERSONNEL (Jim Garey):**

Hogarth’s crew now has a permanent captain and two cooks. We’re not relying on external staffing companies. The new cooks will also help as needed when they are not performing cooking functions. We gained more functionally. We did direct mailing recruitment to research vessel facilities across the country and it proved to be more effective for getting qualified applicants. We have 20 applicants now and the position closes in a week.

### **OPERATIONS (Rob Walker):**

Existing crew has been through STCW training, new crew members are required to go through it.

- Jim: “We’ve been pondering Oceans 360 and JMS recommendations, consulting with Bill Hogarth, Boksa and Duckworth to address concerns. We found out Duckworth had availability to enhance/improve Hogarth in November so we seized that in order to implement the safety enhancements. Agreed to an MOU with the Coast Guard to come in and do assessments every 3 years, asked them to do same process for our vessels as UNOLS does.”

- Rob: “Addressing Randy’s question about DP System and Hogarth- Should be good for calm waters because of improved Bowthruster capabilities. Jim indicated he’s working with General Counsel to hold vendors more accountable in order to get everything working properly.”

#### **R/V Price Discussion**

- Gary: CMS bought the vessel, had a hand-shake deal for FIO to operate so CMS can use it often. FIO has been taking proposals on what to do with it but CMS feels like they should have a right of first refusal since they bought the boat.
- Jim Garey: The mission of FIO isn’t small-boat service especially if it was only going to be used here. With the loss of the LBR, I felt like we needed to focus on our big 3 assets. FIO invested quite a bit of money- a trailer and a truck for towing. I wouldn’t have done that deal if it were me. Realistically, universities can have their own small boats, we’re here to provide the big research vessels to our members. I was told CMS wanted the boat back and wanted the truck and trailer that we purchased. We’ve put a process in place and communicated to the council of the R/V Price. Currently FIO has until Dec 15th to receive proposals and then it’ll go to the Executive Committee for review and recommendation.
- Gary: I wouldn’t have done the deal either. There was an investment from CMS, the trailer and truck are negotiable. We’ve arranged to dock it and put it in the water. The truck and trailer aren’t a requirement. We just ultimately feel like we have a right of first refusal. We have a lot of utility for it here. It can be used for buoy, glider deployment, etc.
- Provost: Can KML use it? We have looked into moving it to KML; staff indicated there is not a use for it.

#### **KEYS MARINE LAB UPDATE (Lisa Tipsword)**

Many infrastructure upgrades going on at KML. They include:

- NSF awarded \$585,000 to expand the sea water system capacity
- New roofs on Marina and Admin building(s).
- Repowered the Island Hopper
- New Reverse Osmosis/DI system
- Increased internet speed and improved Wifi accessibility throughout KML.

We also did a safety upgrade of the equipment for the small fleet which included Oxygen kit inspections, new CG approved life jackets, New EPIRBs for the vessels and added one VHF radio to the vessel.

#### **MULTIMEDIA AND OUTREACH Update (Chris Sharp)**

There have been a lot of modifications to the website. Working with the host institution IT department, FIO was able to develop a cruise plan portal that would house all the cruise plans and data necessary to operate. The portal will also allow FIO admin to track metric reporting data. It is currently Live but the rollout will be official in the next quarter.

FIO’s website has going through a ‘face lift’. It has been revamped to give it story-telling feel of members, vessels, cruises and etc. in one place. The website will start to integrate KML’s current website into FIO’s main. Additional multi-media includes a gallery of photos, 360 degree videos of the vessels and KML.

External archeologist purchased the Bellows and a going away ceremony took place this summer. It featured remarks and anecdotes from those who was on board the vessel over the years.

FIO has been present in programs of the Florida High Tech Corridor, have been performing livestream sessions to STEM classrooms and summer camps to reinforce the marine science topics and showcasing relevant careers. Unfortunately, the St. Pete Science Festival was cancelled due to inclement weather but FIO will be present at the final GOMOSSES 2020 conference in Tampa this coming February.

### **FLRACEP UPDATE (Libby Featherston)**

Anticipate 6 New Marine Wildlife and Estuary Science COEs coming online in 2020  
Long-Term Fisheries Monitoring COE ongoing (RFP II)

- USF has started work on the renewed award
- Continued their Long-Term Fisheries Monitoring Project through 2022
- Three years, \$750,000
- Project will undergo external review in 2021, management team will decide on continued funding
- Project eligible for additional 12 years of funding if successful.

The Program Management Team approved reissuance of an RFP focusing on a Center of Excellence for Benthic Mapping Collaborative; the selected COE be awarded \$350,000 over 3 years to develop a process for developing shared mapping standards for the West FL Shelf.

The FLRACEP next steps and tentative timeline:

- Program personnel will apply to US Treasury Department for the funds to establish and implement the projects that the PMT selected for Center of Excellence funding
- Program will reissue the benthic mapping framework RFP
- FLRACEP will execute subagreements with the new COEs
- Program will have an All-Hands meeting in Spring 2020 for all new and existing Centers, the Program Management Team, and FLRACEP personnel
- PMT determine RFP IV topical area(s) summer 2020 for a Jan 2021 release

### **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE**

#### **FIO SUMMER COURSE UPDATE (Heather Judkins)**

Only one cohort for next year, students enrolling at the host institutions – FAU, UNF, USF, UWF, FGCU. Need to branch out and get more of the state colleges involved in the future, but not so much in 2020. Too much going on with course instructors and the leadership change in FIO. Will have flyer for USF portion developed in the next few weeks. Sending to Chris Sharp for FIO mockup and dissemination.

#### **GRAD COURSE UPDATE (Mike Allen)**

Costs aren't incurred by student but rather FIO and the host institutions. What degree can FIO help with? I don't think they should have to pay faculty salaries. But we have to consider logistical needs- lodging, meals, etc.

- J.Garey: We now have standards set for when a ship can leave, etc. It is also a UNOLS standard. Per our new guidelines, we depart between 8 AM and Noon.
- R.Runnels: We've had camp site cabin rentals for last-minute overnight stays for our guests.

### **SUBSIDIZED SHIP TIME DISCUSSION**

- J.Garey: We want to be able to host one-day educational cruises, they're fantastic and expose future users to our vessels. These cruises weren't prioritized per the matrix prioritization process. Jim had to pull those requests out and award them at his discretion.
- D. Cruz: Have you thought about two separate piles- education and research? Jim: Yes
- R.Walker: In the RFP, you can't fund your ship time using subsidized ship time for your research project if there are students on-board for the educational component.
- A.Suida: So my understanding is then I can use data collected even from educational cruises for research projects in the future or are on-going.
- G.McRae: It's about the impact, we need to prioritize subsidized time for cruises with the biggest educational scope. Maybe we can establish other levels of matching- instead of 10%, what about 50%? Only have that apply to the educational cruises. If there's a blend of research and educational, lean them toward educational.
- H.Judkins: Love the concept but most of us simply don't have the 10% match in our budget, let alone a 50% match.
- J.Garey: It's not going to be one way or the other but it encourages deans of universities to kick in funding for the educational purpose.
- R.Walker: We have had more requests for subsidized ship time than we can fill. We've never hit 100% of awards to requests but we've been able to meet about 75% of the requests.
- J.Garey: We'll combine research impact with matching funds and talk about waiving 10% match for heavy teaching cruises. Will make it more attractive to legislators. A clearer rubric will make things easier as well as providing feedback for where their RFP was prioritized based on the factors.

#### **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Jim Sullivan: Of the 6 committees, 4 do not need any seats filled. We have two committees with two vacancies each and fill the chair vacancy. The full council discussed and unanimously approved, the Executive committee is now comprised of:

- USF-host institution-Jackie Dixon
- FIU- Jim Fourquarean
- FSU-Ian MacDonald
- FWRI-Gil McRae
- UWF-Wade Jeffrey
- Mote-Michael Crosby, Past Chair
- FIO- James Garey, ex-officio
- BOG-ex-officio- Disraelly Cruz

The Ships Advisory Committee is now comprised of:

- FIU- Jim Fourquarean
- UWF-Wade Jeffrey
- USF-Brad Gemmell
- UF-Mike Allen

No floor nominations were made.

The Nominations Committee recommends holding off on selecting a Chair position for FIO/Executive committee when all the ExCom members are present. We could tentatively do an online nomination or at the next Council meeting.

The FIO AISO & Strategic Plan renewal is approaching, committee members thought it would be best to handle this process when a director is been appointed.

Jacksonville University will host spring meeting. Spring meeting date to be determined and will be communicated.

**\*Meeting adjourned\***

Approved 6/11/2020