

**FIO Fall Council Meeting  
Meeting Notes – November 15, 2018  
University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida**

**Introduction - Philip Kramer, Director**

- Florida Marine Science Symposium to pick back up next year (in 2019)

**USFSP Regional Chancellor Introduction – Martin Tadlock**

- Having a city like St. Pete in our backyard is key. Right in the middle of the Innovation District- 600 scientists working in the region with a growing downtown. Excited about what the future will bring. Consolidating USF, recommendations will be released in February and submitted to SACS for accreditation requirements. A lot of new programs will be offered at USFSP

**Call to order; Roll Call – Chair Crosby (Mote)**

- **Council members present in-person or via teleconference:** USF (Wilcox), FAMU (Long), UF (Allen), FAU (Sullivan), FIU (Fourquarean), FSU (MacDonald), New College (Gardiner), Eckerd (Hastings), DEP (Runnels), UWF (Jeffery), CMS- USFSP (Dixon), FIT (Fiedler), UM (Shay), FWRI (McRae), Mote Marine (Crosby), FL Board of Governors (Long), JU (White), SCCF (Milbrandt), SPC (Boehme), FGCU (Parsons) FL Aquarium (Oliver), Hubbs Sea World (Megan), SRI International (Tyler). UNF (Gelsleichter),
- Also Present/Telepresence: Robert Kamphaus (Oceans 360), Nancy Thompson (KML-phone). ROFF's (Megan Stolen), Al Hine (USF), Cam Ngo (phone) Libby Fetherston-Resch/Marianna Torres/Chris Sharp/ Brendan Baumeister/Andrew Warren/Rob Walker (FIO)
- **Crosby-** "Welcome, glad to see that so many people are on the phone"- Consortium growing. Brief overview of coral disease- 80% mortality rate. Harmful Algal Blooms- both Red Tide and Lake Okeechobee- scientists finding the linkage between the two and solutions to address because "Red Tide is not going away." Going to be an exciting and challenging year for FIO, we need to facilitate and coordinate and leverage assets between the institutions within the organization.

**FIO Director's Report**

- **Kramer-** greeting and intro presentation. Numbers of users and how FIO impacts research and education. Going over metrics- Ship usage, KML usage, courses supported by FIO assets, Grants and number of projects and grants supported by FIO infrastructure. Number of students touring FIO vessels and number of media pieces that featured FIO and KML.

- *Infrastructure update*- Had to rebuild the bow thruster on the Weatherbird. Cost us \$300K to replace. Weatherbird is in great operating condition, doing a haul out and inspection in December for WB. Allocated quite a bit of funds for that shipyard period. Hogarth got a lot of work over the Summer, been out sailing a lot. Haul out in December on Hogarth for repairs. Rudder posts leaking water, seals need to be fixed, CTD operation is clunky and will be modified (suggested by scientists such as building a small platform), crew berthing is not sufficient. This vessel is much different than Bellows, needs more crew to ensure on-board crew has enough rest- building a 5th berth for a 5th crew member. Too much growth on stainless steel pipes, closing off flow to A/C and water maker. Pipes will be addressed- cut up into 2-foot increments so that pipes can be cleaned out efficiently and regularly. Exploring improvements- telepresence, technological improvements- it's part of the Marine Operations Review. The FIO Ships Committee will be looking at survey results to determine what kind of modifications will be made moving forward.
- *Personnel update*- filled Asst. Capt. position (Healy) and Asst. Engineer (Rhodes). Webmaster and Admin Asst. positions are on hold. Vacancies include Asst. Capt on Weatherbird, Deck Hand, and Cook.
- *FLRACEP Audit Report Findings*- Centers of Excellence Program no issues related to compliance in regards to sub-award administration. However, they found that sub-recipient monitoring is insufficient. FIO's response was accepted by the audit organization, McConnell & Jones. Audit was focused on the money, not on the science. Will put more burden on the accounting side in order to increase quarterly fiscal reporting requirements for sub-recipients.
- *FLRACEP Update*- RFP 1 is closed out. RFP II Shelf Project had a science review in July: Counting fish eggs for stock assessments was not going to be doable. Project management team putting together a proposal with a more narrow scope. Egg DNA barcoding across entire West FL Shelf. RFP III will be a new haul of proposals released in January. Wildlife grants include studying birds, dolphins, whales, sharks, and more. We're expecting a little over \$1M. Developing systematic standards for the state of FL on mapping.
- *Budget Update*- E&G Carry forward funding helps to pay for unexpected things like bowthruster repair. We maintain reserves of about \$400K. Auxiliaries (including revenue coming from ships and KML) is 1.1 million. Our expenses will exceed our revenue 2019-2020, we are going to be running into a deficit issue if we don't change FIO's business model. Vessel charter days are going up which will increase revenue and will defer the budget situation. 102 days per year of ship time average, mostly Weatherbird. Looking at 130 days at sea for 2018-2019 with another 70 being inquired about. This demonstrates that we have a good product that scientists want to use. Bottom line- if we can sail our vessels at 100 days a year each will really address our budget concerns. We've been heavily subsidized by USF and the state- we need to place emphasis on chartering vessels and move to a greater independence. Looking for more involvement within the FIO Consortium in terms of usage of FIO assets Potential to become a UNOLS operator. Will diversify users, increased emphasis on accountability and performance, joint fundraising- increased investment in new technological capabilities.

## **FIO Committee Reports**

- **New Members Committee: Quinton White** on phone- we're looking at new membership criteria, do we need to expand it? Do we need to develop new clusters of membership? Having those conversations and hope to have recommendations for committee next year. Hold off considering new members until these new standards are developed. **Crosby**- Should we be looking at different levels of representation for different levels? I think membership committee is extremely important. **Kramer**- we have until July 2020 to have our next Strategic Plan finalized so we have some time to discuss membership clusters, requirements, and levels, etc. **Crosby**- institutional level of representation needs to be prioritized. We need stronger collaboration to deal with this budget issue, let's increase our firepower. Council needs to come up with solution to increase representation. **McRae**- we have lack of engagement and attendance from current members. **Runnels**- do we have criteria and requirements for participation for members? **Kramer**- We started to log member involvement metrics last year. Nobody has been voted off FIO, though. **Wilcox**- we can add amendments in terms of responsibilities. We need representatives who are empowered to represent their organizations and are willing to advocate for FIO in Tallahassee or DC. **Kramer**- been meeting with a lot of VP's of Research and Provosts and because of turnover, a lot aren't very familiar with FIO and what we do and the services we provide.
- *Quinton makes motion to not initiate memberships for potential members in 2018-2019; postpone until membership responsibilities are more clearly defined next year. <Motion approved unanimously>*
- **Ship Advisory Committee: Fourqurean**- Proposal process discussed and receiving more proposals a good thing but we don't have budget to fulfill all the requests. Change the due date for proposals to accelerate proposal. Change the deadline to March 15<sup>th</sup> with award letters going out April 15<sup>th</sup>. (Right now proposal process letters go out in June of every year). Let's set categories to provide the SUS days prioritization as SUS days are more valuable for Undergraduates as they don't typically have enough funds for this educational service. We should allocate SUS days for every institution that requests it and we should set up two workshops on how to write proposals for charter and how to write proposals for SUS.
- **Education Committee: Marine Field Studies Course; Mike Allen** (UF)- looking at UF involvement: 2 cohorts instead of 1 but keep the same number of students. Cohort for graduate course. 3 long weekends at three institutions. Students start on Friday and leave Sunday. Focus on fisheries and sampling. FL Peninsula, looking at lodging and traveling costs. 12-16 students, it's a work in progress. **Milbrandt**- we're discussing a Marine Technology Workshop, perhaps hosting here in the labs and on the ships. We can come with our instruments and can show prep and execution and engineering. **Kramer**- education committee looking at sending out a survey as a tool to the committee. **White**- have we discussed credit hours or tuition? **Allen**- We're looking at a 2-credit course, student would register as a special class within their respective institution. **Thompson**- please consider KML as a host for this course. **Sullivan**- are Faculty volunteering their time? **Allen**- that's been part of the constraint to get faculty on board. Looking at easing the burden thru webinars, etc. **Gelsleichter**- We paid our faculty for summer assignment. **Runnels**- Has FIO allocated resources to curriculum development? **Crosby**- Where is the value added? What does FIO provide that institutions are not currently providing?

**Kramer-** we need to be careful that we're not overlapping and competing with current curriculum at universities. **Gardiner-** New College is very interested in being involved with Field Studies course, we can take on another cohort if we get two going at the same time. New College can take on responsibilities. There are things that aren't offered at universities in the state, especially in the Summer when students have more time to focus on field study techniques.

- **Marine Operations Review; Robert Kamphaus** from Oceans 360: Won bid for review (3 month process) on FIO's operations. Findings and Recommendations: Review was conducted by Kamphaus and Mike Devany, retired NOAA Captains & Vice Admiral. Report shows: Hogarth is highly capable, good capabilities from technology perspective. Weatherbird gets high user feedback. Feedback from FIO Vessel Users overall was extremely high- higher than institutions usually receive. Our 3 main issues center on safety, personnel issues, and organizational health. Safety- Lack of policy and procedures, non-compliance with STCW regulations, and a relaxed safety culture. See packet for outlined issues. 24 recommendations provided (also in packet). **Crosby-** How do the STCW standards differ from institutional standards. **Kamphaus-** They are the industry best practice standard essentially. UNOLS focuses on research ships. NOAA has standards for small boats that might apply to FIO. **Hine-** Has anyone determined the maximum operational days per year? **Kamphaus-** 100 days per year per vessel seems reasonable. They could not operate above that with current staffing and budget levels. **Wilcox-** thank you for the thorough review. Safety is priority number 1 and we are going to act on these recommendations accordingly. Had a lengthy discussion with Kramer and Dixon and we're not waiting for the full report- the two cruises scheduled in the next month are pending to conduct a risk assessment. I will be looking at those risks before signing off on upcoming cruises. **Kramer-** our main priority is to implement these recommendations in the next 90 days. We are in the midst of a bit of a crisis here and are going to address it. **Crosby-** incredible report, very thorough.
- **FIO Budget Financial Constraints and Contingency Planning Process: Provost Ralph Wilcox-** We have some big decisions to address collectively as we move forward. **Nick Setteducato, USF Resource Management-** Over the last few months, we've been working closely with Phil Kramer, Cam Ngo, and VP Nick Trivunovich to address how we can move forward after the impact from budget cuts from a few years ago. What we're charging for the new vessel, the Hogarth, is well under-market. We need to look at seriously increasing that rate which will boost revenue and ultimately get FIO to a "break even" point. If not, FIO will require an additional \$500-750K in order to operate and take on additional salary requirements (Director of Marine Ops) and maintain adequate reserves. We are proposing sharing some of the costs for these infrastructure resources with other state institutions unless we can advocate for additional funds from legislators in Tallahassee.
- **Wilcox-** What are the cost reductions and what are the potential revenue increases? We need to look at the value proposition of Keys Marine Lab. We need your best ideas as a council. **Setteducato-** Hire more full-time employees. **McRae-** What's driving that drop in funds? **Kramer-** The revenue includes charter days and we don't have many booked. **McRae-** The drop is due to declining charter days? Based on projections? **Kramer-** This

is the same projection model we always use. **McRae-** The revenues that come in outside of the base operating budget are KML days and Ship days ship time. So the subsidized ship time days- do you know what the value of those days is in dollars? **Kramer-** Generally about \$5K a day so \$400K-\$500K for the year. KML got a couple subsidized days as well, awarded grants. **McRae-** FIO might not be able to afford subsidizing ship days any more. Seems to be pretty simple. **Wilcox-** Rather than eliminating subsidized days, we may end up charging for fuel. **Fourqurean-** The blue line is going down because of declining charter days but also declining fixed, carry-forward funds. I think the review is eye-opening, we need to see a thorough review of KML before pursuing this discussion of solutions. **Allen-** A similar analysis for KML needs to be done so we can compare costs, revenue, etc. from an apples-to-apples basis. **MacDonald-** UNOLS ship has 156 days booked, what are they doing that we're not? **Kramer-** UNOLS NSF grants drive their business. We're looking at doing 100 charter days per vessel and still doing 40 subsidized days. If we're able to do that, the ships pay for themselves in terms of crew, fuel, etc. Miami's research vessel is at about 80-100 days a year so the Pelican UNOLS vessel is higher than average in terms of usage. **MacDonald-** Can we do something from a marketing or holistic or collaborative perspective? **Kramer-** We need to raise our visibility country-wide. We are working with New Hampshire for the first time after developing a relationship with them. Making a more concerted effort and to provide a higher-level of service is essential but it's borderline right now. We're not at that level. **Hine-** FIO should become a permanent member on the UNOLS council. Crew pay needs to be raised. Ship rates should be increased, we're under-selling. FIO needs to raise its national profile. **Crosby-** How do we put FIO on the national map? How do we stay viable as an organization and longer term- how do we provide a significant value-added for our members? What is the number one value added to our members? I propose that we get back together and discuss solutions beyond this meeting today. **Gardiner-** If we pay full rates, what kind of model for utilization from a university perspective will come out of it? **Wilcox-** If we propose salary increases, they're covered by USF. We have to factor some of that into our budget planning, as well.

- **AISO Bylaws Update: Gerard Solis-** Non-SUS members in executive committee might put FIO in non-compliance with AISO. Changing bylaws might be able to fix this issue. It's 3-2 Non-SUS to SUS members currently and requirement is 51%. **Wilcox-** the first step is to amend the bylaws. **Kramer-** We have to activate the bylaws committee.
- *Dixon: Motion to task the bylaws committee with amending the current bylaws or change language in bylaws before next Executive Committee Election period next October.*  
<Unanimously approved>
- Fourqurean and MacDonald are willing to serve on Executive Committee temporarily to address 51%.
- *McRae: Motion to add FIU and FSU to Executive Committee pending bylaws amendment.* <Unanimously approved>
- **Strategic Plan Update: Kramer-** we have a year to update AISO and Strategic Plan. I have met with some presidents to ask if they want to compete with USF as host institution (FAU, FIU, FSU, FGCU are not interested). We've also been looking at vessel rotations so that a vessel is berthed at Harbor Branch for a portion of the year. FIU we have some ongoing discussions with in terms of KML operations and sharing some of those resources. We should have full responses from everyone by next meeting. Some

institutions are already taking on portions of the Strategic Plan. In the next 6-8 months, committees will have progressed along and can present at the FIO Spring Council meeting then we might have an Executive Committee meeting over the Summer.

- *Proposing Next Council Meeting: -FIT most votes as location for Spring Council Meeting.*
- **\*Meeting Adjourned\***

Approved 6/3/2019