

**National Sea Grant Advisory Board Virtual Meeting  
January 6, 2022  
Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, January 6, 2022**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 4:25pm – 4:35pm ET

Dr. Helmuth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ms. Holmes (Designated Federal Officer (DFO)) read an official federal statement explaining her role to the group and took roll call of the members of the Board. Ms. Holmes (DFO) thanked everyone for their diligent work in preparing for the meeting, discussed the ground rules of the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Helmuth who thanked everyone for a good 10 years and serving as Chair of the Board. He then passed the gavel to Ms. Deborah Stirling (New Board Chair) who then called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

*Members of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Board):*

Mr. Dale Baker, Dr. Peter Betzer, Dr. Paulinus Chigbu, Dr. Rosanne Fortner, Dr. Gordon Grau, Ms. Judith Gray, Dr. Brian Helmuth, Dr. Amber Mace, Dr. Jim Murray (Vice Chair), Ms. Kris Norosz, Ms. Deborah Stirling (Chair), Dr. Jonathan Pennock – (*ex officio*) Director of the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP).

*Other National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) staff in attendance:*

Ms. Susan Holmes – Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Board, National Sea Grant Office, Ms. Donna Brown – Project Administrator, Ms. Elizabeth Rohring – (alternate DFO).

*Other Participants:*

Austin Shelton (Director, Guam Sea Grant) and Fran Castro (Associate Director, UOGSG).

**3:00pm – 3:10 pm – Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Ms. Deborah Stirling, Board Chair)**

*Agenda*

Ms. Stirling gave an overview of the agenda and asked for a motion to approve it.

Motion to approve the January 6, 2022 agenda: Dr. Peter Betzer

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Judith Gray

Vote: All in Favor

*November 2021 Meeting Minutes*

Ms. Stirling asked for a motion to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 4-5, 2021 Board meeting with a correction on page 13 of the draft minutes regarding a statement Ms. Judith Gray made at the November 2021 meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 2021 meeting: Mr. Dale Baker

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Kris Norosz

Vote: All in Favor

Ms. Stirling thanked Dr. Helmuth for his outstanding service on the Board and the last couple of years as serving as the Chair. Ms. Stirling also stated that Dr. Helmuth had provided a great model to follow and she hopes she can do just that.

**3:10- 3:15 pm - Executive Committee Membership Changes (Ms. Deborah Stirling, Board Chair):**

Ms. Stirling provided an update of the Executive Committee Membership Changes. There will be some folks rolling off and those who are coming onboard. These changes are as follows: Chair: Ms. Deborah Stirling (January 2022 – December 2023), Vice Chair: Dr. James Murray (January 2022-December 2023), Past Chair: Dr. Brian Helmuth (January 2022 – December 2023), Member-at-Large: Dr. Carole Engle (January 2021 – December 2022), Member-at-Large: Ms. Kristine Norosz (January 2022 – December 2023).

**3:15 – 3:25 pm - Strategic Planning: Board Representative Announcement (Dr. Jonathan Pennock, NSGO, Director):**

I want to thank Dr. Helmuth for your leadership over the last couple of years and Ms. Stirling for filling that seat. Dr. Pennock provided an update about the two year extension of the last 4-year cycle and as such it is once more time to start the strategic planning for the next 4-year omnibus. Dr. Pennock went over the timeline and noted that all strategic plans should be in place by fall 2022. Dr. Pennock solicited the Board's interest and willing to assist in the process, to be participants from the board.

Discussion

Dr. Gray and Dr. Engle responded positively to the request, with interest in participating.

Mr. Baker inquired about the new incoming Advisory Board Members.

Dr. Pennock mentioned that he isn't able to say much about those members quite yet, but he believes that the package that the national office put forward has passed down and out of NOAA and now in the hands of Commerce. He also noted that even if it gets the Secretary's clearance it still has to go through another phase of security clearance. The national office will make the announcement when we are able to share it with you.

Ms. Stirling asked if there are any other questions, in which there was not.

Ms. Holmes suggest taking five-minute break in order to not get ahead of Guam discussion time as noted on the agenda. Took break and to return at 3:25pm.

Break – 3:20-3:25pm

### **3:25 – 4:25 pm - Guam Institutional Status Report (Ms. Judith Gray):**

Ms. Gray thanked the members of the committee for their hard work during this program status review, Dr. Betzer, Dr. Murray, Dr. Richard DeVoe, Dr. Rebecca Briggs and Dr. Joshua Brown.

Per the Sea Grant Institutional Status Application Guidance, the review committee assessed the program according to the evaluation criteria and found that the program met the ranking criteria and rated highly in all of the qualifying areas.

The Process: The committee conducted its review in accordance with the Sea Grant Institutional Status Guidance provided to the University of Guam Coherent Area Program and based on Section 15 CFR Part 918.3(b), which describes “Guidelines for Sea Grant Colleges and Regional Consortia.” The University of Guam Sea Grant (UOGSG) Letter of Intent for Institutional Status was submitted on June 12, 2020. The review committee evaluated the 2021 Institutional Status application materials and briefing book, the 2018 Site Visit team report and response from UOGSG, the UOGSG 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, and the 2018-20 UOGSG Annual Reports. The zoom review dates were October 4-14, 2021.

The evaluation criteria we used was based on leadership, organization, relevance, programmed team approach, education & training, advisory services, relationships, productivity, support and continuity of high performance.

Findings: We found that UOGSG meets the evaluation criteria based on their exceptional briefing materials, materials provided by the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), and the well-coordinated and impressive virtual site visit in October 2021 that included excellent testimonials and briefings from experts and partners.

Conclusions: In its initial manifestation, the UOGSG was a small, narrow program. Dr. Shelton and his staff have transformed it into a fully functioning Sea Grant program. The progress and accomplishments since the recent site visit in 2018 are remarkable, particularly given a global pandemic. The program’s high productivity is a direct result of the commitment of the UOG, the Guam government and legislature, and especially the UOGSG leaders, Dr. Shelton and Ms. Castro, and their staff. The review revealed the passion and professionalism they bring to the program.

The truly collaborative relationships between UOGSG and its partner organizations will be a great asset to the territory of Guam as they connect throughout Micronesia and the Pacific seeking opportunities to advance the region’s goals for natural resource management, climate resilience, food security, workforce development, and education.

The review committee commends the UOGSG for their leadership in bringing the program to a level where it is ready for Institutional Status. That this has occurred over just the last few years and during a global pandemic is highly commendable.

The review committee finds that UOGSG meets all the requirements for Institutional status, and unanimously recommends they be granted the designation of Sea Grant Institute.

The review committee recommends that the National Sea Grant Advisory Board communicate to the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program an unqualified recommendation that University of Guam Sea Grant (UOGSG) be designated a Sea Grant Institutional Program.

Discussion:

Dr. Murray noted that this is one of the best reviews that he has ever participated on. It was good we had the opportunity to meet the President and it was very clear that the UOGSG is the center of everything going on in that environment.

Mr. Baker asked about funding a half million dollars per year or if it is a onetime amount?

Ms. Gray said it was recurring.

Mr. Baker inquired about institutional status and funding levels that they receive from Sea Grant.

Dr. Pennock said that over the last few years the program's core budget for GUAM was \$425,000/year and that 2 million will be provided after the program becomes an institutional program. Dr. Pennock mentioned that he was impressed with the review and all that the program accomplished. He also mentioned that getting the monies in and through with the different priorities we have is an issue with the continuing resolution. We will move very hard towards resolution.

Ms. Norosz shared that she learned a lot from the report and that she had many questions, which were answered based on the report. Very interested in some of the programs. What territories and Island's is Guam working with?

Ms. Gray addressed the question stating, American Samoa, Marshall Island and Micronesia

Dr. Shelton also added that through the Alliance grant, the Guam program is also working with the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, but they haven't done any close work with the Samoa Islands yet.

Ms Gray mentioned that the recommendation from the review committee is vote to approve the recommendation in the report and send the report to the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program.

Ms. Stirling asked for a motion to accept the recommendations in the report and forward the report to the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program: Dr. Mace

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Stirling

Vote: All in Favor

Dr. Pennock thanked everyone for being on the committee and Dr. Shelton for hosting the program review.

Ms. Stirling asked if there were any other thoughts or comments? No comments.

Ms. Holmes suggested to take a short five minute break before we open the lines for the public commenting period.

Break: 4:11pm - Meeting Resumed at 4:17pm

**4:20 – 4:25 pm – Public Comments (Ms. Holmes):**

Ms. Holmes mentioned that no public comments were received. She then turned the meeting back over to Ms. Stirling.

**4:25 – 4:35 pm – Wrap Up (Ms. Stirling):**

In terms of wrap up I want to start out by again thanking Dr. Helmuth from the bottom of my heart for his great leadership this past year – he’s thrived at Northeastern University and is and have always been a joy to work with. So thanks again for all the work that you continue to do. I have truly enjoyed working with you.

Ms. Holmes thanked Dr. Helmuth for the leadership he brought to the board and mentioned as a tradition in passing the gavel from one Chair to the next, a chocolate gavel was presented to Dr. Helmuth in appreciation for time as Chair of the Board.

Dr. Helmuth mentioned that it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the board and noted that the board is in good hands under Ms. Stirling’s leadership.

Ms. Rohring mentioned that she has had a great time working with all of the Board members and she looks forward to continuing working with the board.

Ms. Stirling reminded the board that the next meeting is March 7 and 10, 2022.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:33 pm**