

Summary of initial meeting of Academic programs Committee: 30 November, 2005

Purpose and Scope of Committee:

To aid in the implementation of the educational mission of HMSC as outlined in the strategic plan (SP). Key questions to address: How should the limited personnel and financial resources available for education be allocated? What are the most important educational objectives outlined in the SP? What is the tradeoff between maintenance of existing programs and development of other/new programs? How will this be affected by the level of university support? How should university-level educational programs interface with K-12, and Free-Choice programs? How can HMSC maximize relationship with agencies and community college.

Committee Membership:

David Sampson, Janet Webster, Shawn Rowe, Paul Sikkell, George Boehlert, Michael Harte, Hal Weeks, Kathleen O'Malley, Patrick O'Connor, Sally Hacker. All members present. Frank Moore (involved in drafting of the SP) was also present.

Issue: Should additional members be added? *No, but interests of K-12/Sea Grant, and other OSU departments/programs (e.g., liberal arts) need to be represented by existing committee members.*

Discussion 1: Review of Strategic Plan Educational Objectives:

Issue: What are strengths of HMSC and in what areas can it best make an educational contribution to the university and the region?

- 1) **Presence of agencies:** Excellent asset, but need to determine better ways of linking agency scientists with students, given constraints of agency structure.
- 2) **Research:** Research is the focus of HMSC activities. Involving students, especially undergraduates in research is arguably the best type of education HMSC can provide. Need mechanisms to create more opportunities for undergraduate research. Need courses that integrate research and teaching, less lecturing.
- 3) **Lower-division courses:** Strong need for courses open to freshman and sophomores, both to serve OSU main campus local community colleges. Challenge: current funding model does not provide support for courses, other than those taught in summer.
- 4) **Free-choice learning:** Clear strength and well supported/funded by OSU. May become focal point for education programs.

5) **Target groups:** Need for more interdisciplinary/non-majors courses such as writing. Also need courses designed for environmental science majors. Paul is working with Shawna Harvey and other on-campus advisors to increase appeal and diversity of HMSC offerings. Pat O'Connor to provide more info. on needs of community college students.

6) **Aquaculture/Aquarium Science:** Clear strength, unique programs, offer best opportunities for professional education.

7) **Youth ed:** Ways for coexistence (at worst), and mutualism (at best) between the college-level and youth education missions of HMSC need to be explored. Ideal model = K-20 +, rather than separation between K-12 and 13 – 20.

Issue: What items in strategic plan are most important and are these realistic? Should we focus more on slow growth and achieving long-term goals, and what should these be? How can we document importance/benefit of field courses?

1) Strategic plan focuses primarily on short-term goals that are difficult to measure and may be difficult to attain, given limited personnel and funding.

2) Potentially useful long-term goal may be to conduct longitudinal studies/surveys, possibly with help of OSU Institutional Research Office.

3) Comparison of FW and Zoology students who have and have not taken courses at Hatfield may be useful but there are many confounding variables. Need multivariate analyses with large sample sizes.

4) While outcomes are difficult to assess, we can do our best to offer good programs and intensify recruitment efforts to ensure students have at least been exposed to what we have to offer.

Summer 2006:

Objective: Provide an interdisciplinary program open to majors and non-majors at all levels. Cannot compete directly with Friday Harbor and OIMB, at least for now. Three year timeline to develop summer program. Importance of advertising early. Suggestions made for reaching more OSU grad. students. Need to begin developing courses for summer 2007.