



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

ORU Review - Bodega Marine Lab

January 30, 2015

ORU 5-year review: Bodega Marine Lab. The review is provided for Academic Senate review and feedback.

Council of School & College Faculty Chairs (ENGINEERING)

February 12, 2015 1:12 PM

No response at this time.

Graduate Council

January 30, 2015 2:03 PM

Response continued on next page.

January 30, 2015

RFC: ORU Review – Bodega Marine Lab

The Graduate Council, based on a memo from its APD Committee, forwards their recommendations for the aforementioned RFC.

The Academic Planning and Development (APD) Committee met on January 30, 2015, and considered the review of the ORU Bodega Marine Laboratory.

The APD Committee agreed with the generally positive aspects of the review and appreciates the BML's successes. Graduate students said they were attracted to UCD by BML. However, several aspects of the current situation at BML create challenges for graduate education.

Recent funding constraints has resulted in the loss of a post-doc that organized a seminar series, discussions, and other activities that enhanced graduate educational opportunities at BML, and the loss of funds for inviting speakers.

Short-term housing costs for graduate students near or at BML represent a hardship, especially because many students have to pay for both the short-term housing and their more permanent Davis-based domiciles, so low-cost housing at BML should be created. Similarly, low cost short-term housing for BML based graduate students should be provided at UCD.

Travel costs between UCD and BML can be expensive. Related to this is the travel challenges (time and expense) that decrease the attractiveness of undergraduate internships with graduate students at BML. APD recommends that regular low cost transportation options be developed.

The problems concerning lack of UCD and Davis infrastructure (such as day-care support) that UCD based graduate students face when working at BML should be addressed.

APD agreed that video conferencing could improve the isolation of BML graduate students from campus seminars and programs. An enhanced orientation for BML graduate students would help their adaptation to the lab environment.

APD noted that although the review mentioned the Bodega Marine Reserve, it did not elaborate sufficiently on the tremendous opportunities that the BMR creates for graduate (and undergraduate) education at BML.

Sincerely,



Kyaw Tha Paw U, Chair
Graduate Council

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C: Gina Anderson, Academic Senate Executive Director

Planning & Budget

February 18, 2015 11:53 AM

CPB has reviewed and discussed the Bodega Marine Lab (BML) ORU review. CPB agrees that Bodega is clearly doing important research and has generated substantial grant funding. Much of the report is dedicated to requests for substantial resources including housing, equipment, facilities, transportation, and staff. Before these requests are considered, CPB strongly recommends that BML develop a long-term strategic plan that not only addresses the concerns enumerated below, but also takes into consideration likely revenue streams over time, and given those streams, develops a prioritization of capital expenditures.

Other concerns expressed by CPB members include the following:

- The summer courses have been well below capacity. It is possible that these courses will have to be delivered on a pro bono basis. Some CPB members felt that the teaching load should meet the expectations of the college in which the member belongs.
- CPB agrees that graduate students should be encouraged to conduct research at BML, but this will require less expensive short term housing. One option may be to institute video conferencing between BML and the Davis campus. In addition, CPB agrees that interaction with the Coastal Marine Science Institute (CMSI) should improve activity and increase the synergy between BML and Davis.
- The question of ORU versus center or institute was mentioned in the report. There is fear that if BML transitions to something other than an ORU it will fall lower in the priority of funding and will only receive funding that passes through CMSI. BML would like to remain an ORU as they feel that there is greater stability and flexibility in funding since report directly to the Vice Chancellor for Research. This reporting structure is much more efficient than reporting to multiple colleges. In addition, remaining as an ORU may be best for maintaining interdisciplinary character and independence.
- CPB notes that there were some specific budget issues identified in the review. For example, additional supplements for faculty with FTEs in other units should be considered. There is precedence for remuneration of mileage and lodging to faculty required to teach on the main campus but housed elsewhere. These supplements should be taken from overhead return since their main lab space is not on campus and overhead return goes back to departments for faculty that generated the funding.
- Finally, BML receives \$2.2M to support salaries, benefits (including academic), administrative services, instructional support and research, facilities, and infrastructure. They note that increased benefit rates have eroded actual operating funding, even though it appears that the budget increased according to the budget data provided. Addressing budget pressures due to benefits should be part of a strategic plan as well.

As noted in the introductory paragraph, CPB strongly recommends that BML develop a strategic long term plan. At the minimum, this should include an analysis of the operating costs and capital costs. Bodega is in dire need of funding for equipment and for housing and transportation simply to be able to continue to operate. In addition, CPB recommends that a comparison between other units relatively the same size be conducted by the campus. This information is needed so the Provost, Vice Chancellor, and the Director of the Bodega can implement the long term plan.

Research

February 9, 2015 11:59 AM

COR discussed the Bodega Marine Lab (BML) ORU review. The majority of the committee agrees that BML is an outstanding facility, probably one of the premier marine labs in the world, which showcases UC Davis excellence to the world and should be supported with a greater level of commitment from the campus. It has an excellent reputation, excellent faculty that are world leaders in their fields, and it attracts top-notch graduate students and research scholars.

The research at BML seems adequate to excellent, based on the ad hoc committee's input. The point about an emphasis being "temporally opportune studies of climate change and ocean health" is a bit obscure, but the committee assumes the primary reviewers had something in mind when they wrote that. The review shows that "some" participants have high profile fundamental research, so it does prompt interest in whether some faculty aren't as successful. Basic, applied, and conservation-related science are all great outcomes as long as the research is good.

COR notes that the geographical location of the lab serves stakeholders well, for example in the important studies of ocean acidification during global climate change. Ocean sciences, including physical oceanography and marine biology, are widely applicable to current and pressing societal issues (food supply via capture fisheries/ aquaculture, climate change including warming and acidification of the oceans, species conservation, to name only a few). Long-term data curation was suggested as a worthwhile direction. COR is unsure if such curation should occur at BML or at the main Davis campus where it would potentially have great use (or both, digitally).

Just as any other marine lab, BML requires significant funding, support, and investment and the majority of COR agrees that the campus should continue to not only keep the current level of support but to increase its commitment and level of support of BML. It appears that BML attracted \$26M, approx. 5M/year, in outside funding which suited the ad hoc review committee. This fits with the ad hoc review committee's concern that there be a strategic plan. It is important that there be base funding, which cannot ever be taken for granted in this state, and funding for training and research. COR agrees that a well-articulated and very specific strategic plan is crucial. The lack of funding for faculty travel and the completely inadequate current housing and plans for future housing are very important funding considerations as well. There is a recommendation to hire an outreach coordinator. Further exploration and a cost analysis should be done during strategic planning. Could facilities be rented? Could there be a gift shop? What are the real potentials for gaining revenue through outreach? How would this manifest as not only an outreach and education opportunity but also "more than paying for itself" as the review claims?

The financial relationship between BML and CMSI were a bit confusing- it will be very important that core funding for BML be strong, in particular in light of the strong teaching mission even while reporting to the Vice Chancellor for Research. COR agrees that BML needs access to more of the indirect cost return from grants from its faculty and to more funds for teaching. The plans from Office of Research for renovation are encouraging. Graduate student training appears strong now, but COR agrees completely that the budget

costs for post-docs and seminars seem unfortunate and investment in technology to broadcast to and from main campus seem worthwhile. COR was generally pleased with the graduate student training and research described in the review.

The review included a question of whether BML should be remaining as an ORU. COR realizes that closing the unit is not really an option, and therefore gathers that the implicit question is whether it should be operated as a research unit within the Office of Research or aligned more fully within a college as an integrated research and teaching unit. As teaching to date seems to be going well, COR wouldn't recommend fixing something that isn't broken and there is a plan for investment by Office of Research. On the other hand, COR perceives throughout the review a lot of congratulations for excellent research and teaching mixed with fear for the future because of budget cuts, lack of long-term planning, and lack of a business model. COR definitely agrees that BML needs more attention for its future than it has had and that can be expected from marine biologists and ecology faculty not trained to encourage a remarkable but possible quirky or niche unit to achieve its greatest potential.