

Academic Research Funding in Ocean Sciences

6 DR. COLEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During
7 our preparatory times yesterday and this morning, we
8 deliberated our final six major issue areas and we have
9 examined the rationale that was present to make the
10 recommendations that I will now put forward to the
11 entire Commission.

12 (PowerPoint slide presentation in process.)

13 ACADEMIC RESEARCH FUNDING IN

14 OCEAN SCIENCES

15 DR. COLEMAN: The first area is an academic
16 research funding in Ocean Sciences, which to the
17 academic community is very important. We have four
18 recommendations. I should add that under each of these
19 recommendations there will be the rationale in the main
20 body of the report, the rationale for them, and an
21 elaboration on what these minimum recommendations are
22 that have been reduced down to one slide.

1 First, we recognize that there has been a
2 deterioration in the funding and the research budgets
3 for the funding of ocean and coastal sciences. We
4 propose that at a minimum that they double the federal
5 research ocean budget from today's, roughly, \$630
6 million to \$1.3 billion over the next five years, and
7 that will simply bring it back to parity with what it
8 was in real dollars in 1982.

9 The second major recommendation is we
10 recommend a federal research policy that urges Congress
11 and demands the Administration to develop a coordinated
12 five-year science plan to improve the stability of the
13 research base. At the present time, each agency goes
14 their own way. There is no coordinated effort to look
15 to the future. It is sort of following the flow of
16 things.

17 For example, when El Niño hit, all of a sudden
18 every agency jumped into the El Niño. If you had had a

19 long-term climate research policy, you would have looked
20 at those aspects. We believe that the National Oceans
21 Research Leadership Council should be responsible for
22 implementation and oversight of this policy.

1 Our third major recommendation is to recommend
2 that the federal ocean agencies adopt a unified grants
3 process within each agency that employs at least a
4 three-year potential grant. What has been happening
5 over the last several years is that researchers have had
6 to respond on a yearly basis, on an annual basis, and by
7 the time many of the contracts are in place the grant
8 time for the research is already nearly over. By at
9 least extending the granting process, from a research
10 standpoint, it allows a researcher or researchers to
11 plan a program, not respond to an individual research.

12 The fourth recommendation is one that has been
13 around for many years. It has been said, but we thought
14 it was worth reciting, that the NORLC should develop a
15 mechanism that provides transition from the academic
16 research to agency mission needs. Very often, research
17 is proposed, funded and completed and that is the end of
18 it and never goes beyond looking at the agency mission

19 needs. Now, some agencies, however, do have that within
20 their priorities.

21 We believe that NOAA should lead this effort.

22 We looked and reviewed the pattern of ONR's funding

1 strategy, that is the 61 funding, the basic research,
2 and that we feel would be a good model on which to
3 follow.

4 Mr. Chairman, what I would like to do is cover
5 all of these and then open it to the Commission, if that
6 is okay.

7 John, is that all right?

8 MR. EHRMANN: Yes. If you want to go through
9 each set of recommendations, then we will go back and
10 bring the slides back up and then have discussion on
11 each of your set of the various topics, that is fine, if
12 that is the way you would like to proceed.

13 DR. COLEMAN: Yes, I would prefer to do it
14 that way.

15 MR. EHRMANN: We will just track the total
16 time that we have.

17 DR. COLEMAN: Those are the four under the
18 research funding. Now, I should remind you that within

19 the dialogue and the body of the report there will be

20 justification for all of these and expansion of them.

**FOR THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC,
GO TO:**

National Ocean Research Leadership Council

This workgroup presented all of its draft policy recommendations and then moved to the discussion phase, which included all of the following topics:

- Academic Research Funding in Ocean Sciences
- Exploration
- International Leadership in Ocean Sciences
- Technology Development
- Existing and Required Ocean Science Infrastructure
- National Ocean Research Leadership Council