

National Sea Grant Advisory Board Futures Committee

Formation

The Futures Committee of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board was established by Board action at its November meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mayor Jeremy Harris was selected by the Board to serve as Chairman. The Committee was formed as a Committee of the Whole and, as such, all Board members are on the Committee. The first meeting of the Futures Committee is on January 20 & 21, 2009 at the Sea Grant Office at the University of Hawaii.

Task

The National Sea Grant College Program was established by Congress in 1966. Since that time the program has produced an admirable record of accomplishment in marine research, education and extension services. Despite this fact, the program has failed to grow to realize its full potential.

The task of the Futures Committee is to examine why this has occurred, to assess the successes and failures of the program and to help chart a new course of growth for the program at this time of transition for our country.

The Committee will examine Sea Grant's relationship with NOAA and the Department of Commerce and make recommendations to the Board about Sea Grant's future position and role in the Federal government.

The Futures Committee will also explore Sea Grant's image and brand and make recommendations to the Board on how these important assets can be enhanced.

Finally, the Committee will examine opportunities for Sea Grant to be immediately responsive to the severe environmental and economic challenges that confront our nation by developing initiatives that fully utilize its superb nationwide research and extension talents.

The Committee will also assume any other responsibilities assigned by the Board.

Tenure

The Futures Committee will deliver a preliminary report to the Board at its February meeting and complete all its work by January 2010.