## ASsquare_logo.tif Coastal Fund Minutes

## Associated Students

Tuesday, 01/18/22, Zoom: <https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/89636182726?pwd=VU14ei8rQnVOV0xmR0xYeHh5MmhPUT09>

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:2 PM**  recorded by Carissa

1. **ATTENDANCE**

| **Name** | **Note:**  absent (excused/not excused)  arrived late (time)  departed early (time) | **Name** | **Note:**  absent (excused/not excused)  arrived late (time)  departed early (time) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ethan Estrada**  **Chair** | **present** | **Joelle CantoAdams**  **Outreach Coordinator** | **present** |
| **Mykala Listorti**  **Co-Chair** | **present** | **Visala Tallavarjula**  **Outreach Coordinator** | **present** |
| **Emma Swanson**  **Undergraduate Rep** | **present** | **Sarah Siedschlag**  **Advisor** | **present** |
| **Erika Chan**  **Undergraduate Rep** | **present** | **Carissa Stewart**  **Administrative Assist** | **present** |
| **Anannya Deshmukh**  **Undergraduate Rep** | **present** | **Ethan Engler**  **Senate Liaison** | **present** |
| **Austen Apigo**  **Graduate Student Rep** | **present** | **N/A**  **Senate Liaison Proxy** | **N/A** |
| **Michaela Sten**  **Graduate Student Rep** | **present** |  |  |

1. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
2. Approval of Attendance and Proxies

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/Mykala*

*Motion language: Motion to approve attendance and proxies.*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: YES (Senate)*

1. Approval of Minutes

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/Austen*

*Motion language: Motion to approve minutes*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: YES (Senate)*

1. **PUBLIC FORUM** (Announcements, appreciations, concerns, requests to have items added to agenda)
2. Sarah’s Secret Ice Breaker
3. Senator Zhang’s Proposal
   1. looking at doing renewable energy for california and santa barbara

1. **REPORTS**
2. Advisor Report: Siedschlag
   1. we had major grant deadline on Friday
   2. we received $285,310 in requests
      1. most requests winter quarter
         1. going 4 per night
      2. if we want to ask for more money from grad students we would need to decide this now and go through the process
         1. want to ask for enough money for the next 5 years but don’t want to double it
      3. average per grant was much higher
3. Chair Report: Estrada
   1. Conflict of Interest Form
      1. if you need to update please do
4. Vice Chair Report: Listorti
   1. find out availability asap for retreat this year
5. Senate Report: Engler
   1. no report
6. Administrative Report: Stewart
   1. currently processing
7. Coastal Service Program Report: Stewart
   1. already more requests than last quarter but still having some communication problems
8. Outreach and Education Report: CantoAdams and Tallavarjula
   1. will get first draft of annual report
   2. open position for administrative coordinator- please send qualified individuals
   3. thinking about starting biweekly webinar spotlights
9. Sub-Committee Reports
   1. Long-Term Funding
   2. External Communications
      1. coming soon
   3. Equitable Compensation
      1. we just established a new meeting date-meeting on Thursday
10. **AGENDA**
11. Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/Austen*

*Motion language: motion to approve agenda and additions to agenda*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: YES (Senate)*

1. **OLD BUSINESS**
2. **Project Title:** Event Co-Sponsorship | World Oceans Day

**Sponsoring Org:** Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

**Project Leader:** Becca Summers

**Board Discussion:**

* not sure with omicron if we want to risk doing an in person event
* can table this for now to see how many people apply next week
* sounds like a great event and something that we would fund
* the tabling isn’t as important to us anymore so would be down to fund without the tabling since it is during finals week
  + before we reject i think we should ask when they need to know by and if we could give them less money and still be viable
    - don’t want to burn a partnership that we already have but we are pressed for funding
    - if they are willing to take less money than that would be good
    - will email and ask those questions

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/Austen*

*Motion language: motion to table discussion on World Oceans Day Co-Sponsorship*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: YES (Senate)*

1. **DISCUSSION**
2. **PROJECT REVIEW**

**Project Title:** CF-202201-01378 | Applied Marine Science: Students Conducting Critical Kelp Forest Monitoring Across the Santa Barbara Channel

**Sponsoring Org:** Marine Science Institute

**Project Leader:** Avrey Parsons-Field

**Summary:**

The PISCO program at UCSB has monitored kelp forest habitats in the Santa Barbara Channel since 1999, with a large portion of data collected by UCSB undergraduate divers. Each summer we collect ecological data at 50 sites both inside and outside of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including UCSB's Campus Point SMCA. We are requesting funding to support four student divers for our summer research team. Importantly, as UCSB rebuilds its scientific diving program following pandemic driven declines, funding provided directly to students will significantly reduce the economic barriers to inclusion and open up this truly unique research and exploration opportunity to participation by any UCSB student regardless of background. The time series data these students collect is core to our understanding of nearshore rocky reef ecosystems, and, when combined with data from statewide collaborators, informs resource managers in regards to how our coastal MPAs are working as a conservation tool.

**Presentation Notes:**

* **Anannya and Mykala are recused**
* **the internship program is a unique opportunity especially for marine biologists exploring different career paths**
* **see covid pandemic as opportunity to reducing barrier to entry**
* **kelp monitoring program is a standard that is used across the california**
* **hundreds of sites across the whole state**
* **the channel is actually an amazing place for kelp monitoring due to the really ecologically diverse area**
* **last december we submitted largest most comprehensive report**
* **11 out of 10 focal MPAs are surveyed by ucsb divers**
* **wanted to focus on the scale and scope of research funding itself**
* **every bit is public data and is online as well**
* **critically the last two years-every site we have been able to survey despite covid in order to have consistent research**
* **support from coastal fund has been critical especially during the pandemic**
* **fudning graduate students to jump in was also crucial**
* **this project has been around since 1999 and coastal fund started supplying help for undergrads in 2019**
* **interns use transects to count fish and algae**
* **good opportunity for undergrads and sometimes the first experience in the field and giving a strong background to use for future careers**
  + **dive all four of the channel islands**
  + **most extensive program in southern california**
  + **do day trips over night trips**
* **really getting undergrad experience with field science**
* **pictures with interns**
* **bring interns in the entire summer with 2-5 field days per week**
  + **paper published by undergrad intern a few years ago**
* **there is a lot of fresh divers coming out of covid**
* **unique opportunity to fill he gap of scientific divers**
* **been thinking about how hard it is to get into diving jobs**
  + **students need to be able to live in santa barbara over the summer**
  + **buying equipment is integral**
  + **rental gear is not something they like to depend on with good gear that is their own**
* **have equipment funding that can provide personal equipment**
  + **will be able to offer that to any intern**
* **training program itself is very important** 
  + **good team of trainers**
  + **also important to be able to take on any eager undergraduate who wants this experience**

**Board Questions:**

* **interested in some of the main ways covid has affected your program and how it has changed the operations**
  + **covid drained their coffers really quickly via boats**
  + **had to use twice as many boats for the same amount of work**
    - **burned through research money**
    - **got all of the work done**
  + **2021 was a little better because they went back to the same operations**
  + **appreciate the undergrads a lot more because they lost all undergrads the last year**
  + **approach to undergrads and interns has changed** 
    - **used to have a program where they had to volunteer before getting paid**
  + **really coming to the conclusion that there are too many barriers and where we can make it more accessible we should**
* **how important is the work to continue with thee interns**
  + **the work itself is absolutely critical the mpa network in california is one of the largest ecological experiments is insane both in time and place**
    - **starting to answer question that we weren’t before**
    - **how are mpas working what are the reactions between each other**
  + **been able to show that the time scale has changed from a decade**
    - **starting to see changes because they are ten years old and will see more changes soon**
* **how important are undergrads to this operation**
  + - **they are super important**
    - **following this path is how he got into his career**
    - **the undergrads are as important to the ucsb project as a whole and for the kelp forest monitoring in general**
* **do you anticipate relying on graduate students** 
  + **we are as sure as we can be he aus class is full right now and hoping to get undergrads from that**
  + **as long as that class happens then we should be able to get the undergrads**
* **wondering if you could talk more about the cohort of people you would be able to help out and how much gear what you be able to purchase**
  + **able to take in students with little to no experience this year**
  + **before covid we would have only two undergrads but this year we have four undergrads which is a lot more than we are used to**
  + **part of this would be because of turnover but covid cut that off so we are looking at 2022 as a jump start year in order to get back to pre-covid levels because there is so much need for the experience**

**Board Discussion:**

* **Neat to see that they were able to adapt to the pandemic and a big hallmark is consistent timeline**
* **equipment funding is dope**
* **other funding is being used for equipment funding**
* **cool that they thought about inclusion-agree with the sentiment with putting money where our mouth is**
* **not totally on coastal fund to fund for holding them up to their highest ideals**
* **but if we can we will**
* **support of funding them hopefully because they are taking in new students and giving them the opportunity to go out and do these projects**

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/austen*

*Motion language: motion to table discussion for CF-202201-01378*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: YES (Senate)*

**Project Title:** CF-202201-01351 | Supplies for Undergraduate Scientific Divers and Trainees

**Sponsoring Org:** Environmental Health & Safety

**Project Leader:** Molly Banks

**Summary:**

Research SCUBA diving is widely important and applicable, especially in the Santa Barbara Coastal area. Gaining a better understanding of our coastal ecosystem is key to successful restoration and conservation efforts, and research diving plays a large role in learning more about this environment. One challenge for undergraduates who want to become authorized to conduct scientific diving for UCSB is that diving equipment is inherently expensive. SCUBA equipment is expensive because it must be made at the highest quality and must be reliable and dependable to help keep divers safe during this high-risk activity. Funding for our proposal will be used to enhance undergraduate students’ training and education by making some resources available at no cost to undergraduate students, reducing the overall costs associated with scientific diving at UCSB. Supplies from this proposal will benefit both students taking the AAUS dive safety course and current undergraduate UCSB divers.

**Presentation Notes:**

* **Mykala is recused**
* **funding to purchase equipment for scientific divers**
* **had a lot of opportunities because of this internship**
* **lots of internships because of scientific diving**
* **shown different potential career pathways**
* **realized this course is really valuable and think that anyone interested should have the opportunity**
* **its expensive to dive**
* **ucsb research diving program is the biggest in the nation**
* **super grateful for the scientific dive safety fee support program**
* **grant is different because trying to support equipment as a communicable equipment**
* **smaller dive program since covid but still working on it**
* **expect program to exceed pre-covid levels**
* **this class opens u opportunities for undergraduate and opens program for a much lower cost**
* **the dive masters in training help teach the aus dive safety course**
* **in order to become involved they have to complete a 100 hour training course**
* **students are taught common surveying techniques and safety techniques**
* **there is currently already a program for people to borrow gear while there gear is being serviced or while they are replacing**
* **scuba gear is expensive because scuba is a high risk activity**
* **this high cost is preventative for safety**
* **number one high cost is regulators and BCDs**
* **ucsb doesn’t have additional fees to maintain in scuba**
* **places charge for equipment testing and inspecting-which saves ucsb students a lot of money**
* **requesting the most replaced equipment pieces**
* **the divers are able to borrow lots of items for no cos**
* **borrowing a bcd and regulator set is the biggest money saver**
* **this gear is accessible for all ucsb divers**
* **gear does last for a very long time**
* **the largest group of divers at ucsb are undergraduates**
* **undergraduates are very valuable to the ucsb scientific diver program**
* **majority of items are for all ucsb students to use and undergraduates benefit the most**

**Board Questions:**

* **what is the expected life span of some of the gear**
  + **the bcd and regulators can last as long as they pass their gear servicing and maintenance**
    - **a couple decades old**
    - **when people rent the gear they agree to wash the gear regularly and they maintain the gear themselves**
    - **this expands lifespan**
* **are these items just the most requested gear**
  + **some of the gear like the mask caps,hoses etc**
  + **some of these pieces need replacing**
  + **other things like dive lights and weight belts are used mostly for scientific purposes and they just might not have the gear yet**
* **sometime the coastal fund doesn’t have enough money to fully fund-what are some items that we would not fund**
  + **one of the full sets of scuba gear would be the first thing to go**
  + **the second thing to go would be the second full set of scuba gear**

**Board Discussion:**

* **liked it**
* **pretty cut and dry**
* **don’t know how it relates to our priorities yet but it does seem important**
* **don’t have any issues about grant**
* **supports a very large community of students**
* **seems like something we would normally just fund**

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/Austen*

*Motion language: motion to table discussion for CF-202201-01351*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: YES (Senate)*

**Project Title:** CF-202201-01340 | Impacts of Regenerative Land Management at Jalama Canyon Ranch: Measuring Ecosystem Indicators for Regenerative Agriculture

**Sponsoring Org:** White Buffalo Land Trust

**Project Leader:** Ana Smith

**Summary:**

Our proposal is to engage 4-5 UCSB Bren School graduate students on a project to evaluate the impact of regenerative agricultural practices introduced at Jalama Canyon Ranch, a 1,000 acre property owned and operated by White Buffalo Land Trust (WBLT). The students approached WBLT with the idea to collect data to demonstrate the benefits of regenerative practices. These students will play a key role in creating and implementing systems to measure key indicators and will present their findings to the community. The data will support WBLT in obtaining regenerative agriculture certifications. The project will also give the students an invaluable opportunity for professional development and networking while getting hands-on experience in data collection and analysis skills that will serve them in their degree and careers. The resulting data on the benefits of regenerative agriculture in our region will help WBLT incentivize other ranchers to implement regenerative practices.

**Presentation Notes:**

* **measuring ecosystem indicators for regenerative agriculture**
* **regenerative agriculture is a set of principles and context specific practices that integrate natural systems into the production of food, fiber, medicine, and other materials, all in support of healthy communities**
  + **all about turning degraded soil into healthy soil that aids with carbon sequestration**
  + **how can we increase biodiversity to create more pollinators**
  + **how do we create more nutrient dense food**
  + **how do we do we it in an ecological way and that also respects the farmers and ranchers**
    - **all about holistic way of growing instead of destroying**
* **do research at Jalama canyon ranch**
* **demonstrate the power of regeneration at scale**
* **center for education, training, and research**
  + **representative of ranching across the Santa Ynez Valley and California**
* **agronomic value which is generated by the agricultural product**
* **ecological value which is shown by restoration of ecosystem services**
  + **can be quantified by ecosystem services, markets, certification, and verification programs,**
  + **can help lower barriers for farmers who want to get into regenerative farming**
* **rather labor and financially intensive**
* **multiple programs to choose from**
  + **lack of crosstalk between programs**
* **work with 3-5 bren students who would help us identify key indicators of regeneration**
* **through a summer internship they will identify the best quantification methods**
* **develop protocol that will stream line data collection**
  + **will communicate this to larger farming community**
* **hoping to provide internships to 1-2 master students**
  + **will conduct field research to measure indicators of regeneration such as soil carbon, soil moisture, bare soil, etc**
  + **use field data to ground truth satellite data**
  + **will help students with professional development**
* **will hope to ground truth to satellite data**
* **will inform future data**
  + **will have opportunities to work with leaders in regenerative field**
* **for the project the budget will be $20,000 which will provide for two internships, some staff management, and transportation costs, and other related costs**

**Board Questions:**

* **what are the practices that are causing changes in soil and vegetation and what is the composition of the landscape is and what farming practices are being manipulated**
  + **400 acres of rangeland which was being conventionally grazed without rest**
  + **will be focusing on with this project**
  + **also have viticulture and coast oak woodlands, will be focusing on range land and looking at having adaptive multi-pactic grazing**
  + **will be manually moving cows through scientific data**
    - **will have vegetation cover, index, soil index etc.**
  + **the satellite data is really exciting**
  + **discussion in scientific world about the data from satellite data**
  + **gives a lot of credence to satellite data if it works**
  + **its much better to quantify how much the regenerative agriculture is working better**
* **wondering if you could talk about how which student will be paid and how the responsibility will differ if they are not being paid**
  + **as bren master student they are required to do a group project**
    - **1-2 students are looking at interns**
    - **it would be more beneficial that the students who are working for the project are also getting paid to do the internship data**
* **how will the information you gather be shared and how will it be accessible**
  + **excited to be very open about the data- if practice isn’t working they want to make sure they share it**
  + **want to be able to say how positive the regenerative practices are**
  + **want it to be accesible especially of the land**
  + **hub for holistic management- had a ten day course with 25 students who could walk around the land and learn about the regenerative processes**
  + **part of the reason for professional development is to help the students help them to get the word out**
* **wondering where this is on the bren timeline, has this been approved as a project and where is that**
  + **the project has just been applied for and we will find out in march if it has been accepted and what students will be assigned to the project**
* **can you talk about the certifications and why you chose those**
  + **the ecological outcome verification certification is very established and it is one of the most widely used and one of the most scientifically robust certifications**
  + **the region grassland plus is important because the barrier to entry is lower and they also work with regenerative systems and they are very open to sharing the data**
  + **the regenerative organic alliance are pioneers in the field**
* **you mentioned briefly the benchmarks, can you talk more specifically about methodology**
  + **the big art of bren is to identify more indicators**
  + **will take soil samples for soil nutrient**
  + **done water infiltration tests**
  + **big part of project is to help figure out more scientifically robust field methodologies**
  + **hoping to develop a methodology that is more standardized**

**Board Discussion:**

* **confused about how the bren projects work**
  + **how only 1-2 students would have an internship is pretty standard**
  + **the project itself is a lot of new stuff for ethan- the satellite data debate is interesting**
* **new when Kaley asked about what they would be looking for they mentioned that they weren't completely set on every single indicator and that would probably change**
* **threw her off because there wasn’t any specifics**
* **is there any way they can come back to us and give more specifics about the indicators**
* **as the coastal fund don’t know how much ranching and rangelands has to do with our mission statement**
  + **don’t love that the parameters of their research hasn’t been defined yet**
  + **think its important to have a question that you are researching**
  + **important to know how some of the studies will be proved**
* **think its problematic that they said they are accessible without it being better defined or plans to have it promoted** 
  + **thought it was concerning**
* **concern about the connection between the project and our mission statement**
* **love this as a bren project but the things that make it a great bren project make it not a good fit for what we fund**
  + **practice for master students who are doing a project**
  + **valuable as a program for people practicing stuff-its a great bren project but don’t think its inline with our values**

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/Erika*

*Motion language: motion to table discussion for CF-202201-01340*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: YES (Senate)*

**ADJOURNMENT AT PM**

*MOTION/SECOND: Ethan/Erika*

*Motion language: Motion to adjourn at 9:01 PM*

*ACTION: Consent*

*Additional approval required: NO*