

TRILATERAL SLC Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2000

Submitted by Charles H. Hamilton

This meeting was held at the 2000 EERI Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. The attendees were Omer Erbay and Juan Caicedo of MAE; Ani-Natali Sigaher of MCEER; and Charley Hamilton, Lelli Hose, Tara Hutchinson, Allen Jones, Annie Kammerer, and Sandrine Lermite of PEER. The primary purposes were to address items of concern to the three SLCs and to coordinate efforts among the students to improve the programs of the EERCs.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION PROBLEMS

All of the SLCs face problems with student involvement. The majority of the current participants were recruited by enthusiastic faculty members. Conversely, faculty who are opposed to participation effectively quash involvement of their students in any activities. How do we overcome this obstacle? Consensus was that directive must come from Center headquarters to avoid conflict between students and faculty.

OVERVIEW OF SLC PARTICIPATION AT THE CENTERS

Each Center's SLC representatives gave a brief overview of how their Center functions, what its mission statement and objectives are, and how the SLC fits into that picture. These overviews are omitted here, but the presentations should be available from the individual SLCs.

SLC GOALS

Comparisons followed during which the three groups came to better understand how each could contribute to the success of their own Center and the Centers as a group. General suggestions arising from the meeting were:

- Greater involvement of students from **all** member campuses in student activities and SLC leadership
- Attracting more undergraduate participation, especially in cases where direct funding of undergraduate research (as a primary researcher, not as an intern) is not part of the Center's research plan
- Recruitment of REUs via the three SLCs. Assist Centers in advertising and recruiting for positions. Selection of REUs and other interns still rests with center leadership.
- More detailed information (in the form of a web page?) on all Center projects so that REUs can more effectively obtain information on projects in which they might want to participate.
- Poster boxes (glass-front cases) at the Centers and member campuses to advertise PEER research and SLC participation
- Coordinate review of web-based course modules among the three SLCs. Review not only home Center's modules, but those from other centers as well.

JOINT SLC REU/INTERN RESEARCH JOURNAL

PEER publishes a set of proceedings following the completion of the annual NSF-REU and PEER Intern programs which contain the reports submitted by student participants. The other Centers have similar proceedings documents from REU and Center interns. It was suggested by Juan and Omer that a joint-SLC journal be assembled in which these reports would be published. The reports would be peer-reviewed by the SLC members, and other interested graduate students, at the three Centers, then passed along to an executive editor who would assemble the journal issues. It was suggested that issues be thematic rather than chronological, since all research was completed at approximately the same time. Juan volunteered to head the committee developing the idea. Natali is to identify a participant from MCEER, Charley is to contact Ken Cox about participating from PEER. It was commented that UWEB (University of Washington Biomaterials ERC) may already have such a journal in action. Juan to check this out and report back.

NEXT MEETING: 2001 EERI Annual Meeting in Monterey, CA.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Progress on joint REU/Intern journal, development of programs at the three centers, coordination with EERI student chapters