

Senate Update



Bermuda Institute of Oceans Sciences

For the Faculty

Strengths

Accomplished, highly productive, currently well funded

Instant critical mass in Oceans Sciences (an area of interest in EES strategic plan)

Offer new perspectives--drive new areas of research/collaborations

Ability to offer new/expanded range of courses

Weaknesses

6 - 7 BIOS expected to join EES / Biology departments

- Would be housed here but research would be in Bermuda

Incorporating existing BIOS faculty circumvents autonomy and self-determination of EES and Biology

Some instructional/POPs at BIOS would remain in Bermuda--strain departmental resources without direct benefit

BIOS Facility

Strengths

Prestigious

Scholarly Excellence

Offers potential for new course offerings/designs

New/strengthen research opportunities for students/faculty

Oceans//Robotics

Climate/Education/Finance

Weaknesses

Labs need renovations/equipment updates

On-site residences for faculty/staff/students need of update

Cost of maintaining facilities/ship currently met with soft money but would remain ongoing liability

Sustainability: Currently relies on soft money to run operations

Opportunities

Strengthen BIOS ability to attract and retain talent

Other departments/colleges (Rossin, CAS, COH) may be able to attract new researchers

Rossin sees strategic alignment with BIOS (robotics/CS)

Lehigh- attract new group of students

Threats

Threat to existing departmental identity (EES / BIOS)

Long term risk of financial liability not communicated to faculty / Deans

- Current environment of budget reductions
- Uncertain future of government funding

Clear plan for integration not communicated

Shifting rationales for acquisition

(climate institute/Ocean Sciences/Robotics/Grant Stream)

Unanswered Questions

Home for BIOS (CAS / Provost)

Financial Impact

Divert funds from other Lehigh
Initiatives

Faculty integration (existing BIOS
with existing departments)

Can benefits be realized without
acquiring BIOS?

Next Steps

Waiting on BIOS *Pro forma*

Make summaries/ reports available
to all Senators

Take a "Sense of the Senate"
resolution

Communicate to the broader faculty
Senate position on BIOS
