Marine Biology Graduate Degree Program Plan

1) How was the number of enrolled students determined?

Since 2003, the number of applicants for the marine biology graduate program specialization has ranged from 67 to 186 for an average of 114 applicants each year. The number of students admitted from this pool is an average of 15% or 17 students annually. By offering the Marine Biology Graduate Degree Program we feel that the number of accepted applications can be raised to 30 in the first year and grow to 50 students after 5 years.

2) Explain why the number of faculty are 1 – 4.

No new faculty are proposed to be hired for this new program since the University already has a wealth of faculty capable to offer classes under this new degree program.

In addition, Dean Ditto of the College of Natural Sciences has pledged full support of the program in terms of future strategic faculty hires and sufficient administrative and clerical support (letter attached).

The planned faculty requirements are to offer the following courses. The program plans to offer two courses for 4 credits each in the first year. The next year fours classes for 4 credits each will be offered. For the next four years the curriculum will offer six classes for 4 credits each.

3) How did the calculation for Non-Resident/Resident come out to $713.00 per credit?

The tuition rate per credit was calculated using the average rate of residents and non-resident enrollments for the Spring and Fall of 2011. The number of residents enrolled is 67.7% and non-residents are 32.3%. The actual rate of tuition for the Marine Biology Graduate Degree will probably average higher than calculated since the majority of graduate students are non-residents but transfer to the resident rate as they continue in the program.
4) Explanations on the other income in line H. – are there commitments for the 6 years shown in the budget?

Financial commitments from external sources have been identified for the first five years through a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service. This grant which has already been established at HIMB is specifically supports the hiring of a faculty member specializing in marine population dynamics. Recruitment for this position is currently in process. Future funding is anticipated due to a NOAA study in 2008 which identified the need for high quality scientific research in stock assessment and fisheries population dynamics.