School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
A Brief History

The origins of Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) date to the early 1960's. That era was the infancy of the modern environmental movement, whose birth can be roughly dated to the publication of Rachel Carson's book, Silent Spring, in 1962. Interest in understanding the natural environment and its workings was everywhere growing, as was concern about the changes to the natural environment caused by human activities, changes that seemed to be popping up everywhere. The marine environment, then as now the least studied and most poorly understood part of Earth's biosphere, was the focus of particularly intense interest.

The early 1960's also saw the fortunes of the State University of New York (SUNY) system rise dramatically under the governorship of Nelson Rockefeller. Created by Governor Thomas Dewey in 1948, the SUNY system was the *last* state-sponsored system of higher education to be established among the contiguous 48 states (New York had long been recognized as a leader in *privately*-financed and administered higher education). SUNY was limping along in 1959, when Rockefeller took office. He established a commission to design and lay the foundation for a major expansion of the SUNY system to spur economic and social development in the Empire State and to catapult New York into a position of national leadership. Investment in SUNY soared and the number and size of its affiliated campuses grew.

As SUNY grew, University planners became aware of the need to 1) integrate the disparate parts of SUNY (which eventually comprised nearly 70 separate campuses) into a semi-coherent whole to increase the overall efficiency and productivity of the system and 2) ensure that the system was responsive to emerging scientific, economic and social issues. In response to these concerns, the University Board of Trustees periodically authorized the creation of University-wide Research Centers to provide inter-campus leadership in research, education and public service in selected fields, the facilities and services of said Centers to be available to personnel of all SUNY campuses. The1964 SUNY Master Plan called for the creation of a Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC) on the Stony Brook campus. On 11 March 1965, the SUNY Board of Trustees formally authorized the establishment of MSRC. Other University-wide Research Centers were established in atmospheric sciences (SUNY/Albany, 1961), nuclear research (SUNY/Buffalo, 1959), immunology (SUNY/Buffalo, 1966), water resources (SUNY College of Environmental Sciences & Forestry, 1966) and polymer research (SUNY College of Environmental Sciences & Forestry, 1966). The Trustees' resolution was reflected in the Stony Brook campus element of the 1966 SUNY master plan, calling for the creation of MSRC.

Professor H. Bentley Glass, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Stony Brook, assumed the acting directorship of the Center. September 1966 saw the first appointment to the MSRC faculty: Dr. Peter Weyl (Earth and Space Sciences); Dr. George Williams (Department of Biological Sciences) and Dr. Stephen Obrebski

(Department of Biological Sciences). Additional technical and clerical staff joined MSRC in 1967 and 1968. MSRC got its first full-time Director in September 1968 with the appointment Dr. Donald F. Squires, an expert in invertebrate zoology, systematics and coral reef ecology. Development of program direction was assisted by a formal SUNY-wide advisory committee.

MSRC was established as an Organized Research unit whose purposes were 1) to facilitate interdisciplinary research in the marine environment and 2) to provide facilities and support services for instructional and training programs administered by other Stony Brook or SUNY units. MSRC was not an academic department and it did not offer its own educational programs. The initial formulation of the University-wide Research Center concept called for the appointments of faculty members affiliated with such a center to be made in a traditional academic department. It was the written policy of SUNY that "titles of full academic rank shall not be conferred by organized research units nor shall academic tenure be acquired solely through service in such a unit." In the earliest years of MSRC's existence, most MSRC faculty had full academic appointments in either the Department of Biological Sciences or the Department of Earth and Space Sciences and research appointments at MSRC

The fledgling Center was initially located in the Physical Laboratories Building, known today as Harriman Hall. In November 1968, MSRC moved into a 9,000 ft^2 space in the newly constructed Earth and Space Sciences (ESS) building. In addition to administrative and faculty offices, the ESS space included three research laboratories: for geochemistry; physical oceanography and biological oceanography. In 1968, discussions were held and then plans laid for the construction of a new 68,000 ft^2 building for MSRC, to be located somewhere on the Stony Brook campus. In light of the extensive new construction program then underway on the campus and the competing priorities for creation of new space, it soon became clear that the most likely scenario was for an existing appropriately-sized building to be rehabilitated to meet the special needs of the Center.

Missing from the facilities list at the time of MSRC's founding was a marine laboratory located anywhere near the Stony Brook campus. In the mid-1960's, SUNY and the New York State Conservation Department had worked together to procure Flax Pond, a relatively undisturbed temperate salt marsh located along the southern shore of Long Island Sound, 3 miles north of the Stony Brook campus. The Conservation Department purchased the property from a real estate development firm and, immediately thereupon, SUNY was given an easement to use the State property at Flax Pond for the development of a center for the study of marine sciences as well as other research and/or educational purposes deemed appropriate by the SUNY Board of Trustees. The initial plan was to remodel an existing, large two-story wood-frame house sitting adjacent to Flax Pond (the Childs Mansion) into a functional marine laboratory. This impractical plan was, however, soon jettisoned in favor of a plan to raze that structure and secure capital funding from the SUNY Construction Fund to erect a modern marine laboratory in its place. This new 15,000 ft^2 facility would provide MSRC and other scientists with the running seawater experimental facilities required for much marine research. First submitted in Spring 1969, and to be completed by the summer of 1972,

this capital budget initiative was never successful. Lack of a functioning seaside marine laboratory remained an important constraint to the development of MSRC research programs for the first decade of the Center's existence.

The Discovery Bay Laboratory, on the Caribbean island of Jamaica, was founded by the University of the West Indies (UWI) in 1965. In 1967, Stony Brook President John Toll arranged to have the laboratory jointly administered by UWI and Stony Brook. One-half of the laboratory director's salary and two technician positions were supported out of the MSRC operating budget. Dr. Thomas Goreau, the father of modern coral reef science, joined the MSRC faculty in 1967 and was appointed Director of the Discovery Bay Laboratory. The laboratory facility operated primarily as a field station for visiting scientists conducting research and advanced educational program on coral reefs and other tropical system studies. The Discovery Bay Laboratory, like that developed at the Isles of Shoals (described below) was seen as providing SUNY-wide access to an attractive and unique research and educational setting through the mediation of MSRC, contributing to the fulfillment of the Center's University-wide mission. Dr. Goreau's untimely death in 1970 dealt a setback to the development plans for this facility.

By 1970 MSRC administered or co-administered the following facilities: 146-acre Flax Pond Research Area; Discovery Bay Laboratory on the island of Jamaica (with the University of the West Indies) and the Isles of Shoals laboratory off Portsmouth, New Hampshire (with Cornell University). The earliest mention of a research vessel operated by MSRC is of the R/V Frump, an apparently aptly-named 23' inboard. In 1968, Frump was replaced with the R/V Mic Mac, a 40' wood-hulled Nova Scotia lobster boat whose operations were restricted to the protected environs of Long Island's various embayments and Long Island Sound.

In April, 1970, MSRC was authorized by the Stony Brook administration and SUNY Central to initiate its first formal education program, the Marine Environmental Studies Program (MESP), in the College of Liberal Studies. A masters degree program designed for practicing professionals and recent college graduates with varied academic backgrounds, the MESP Program offered a strongly interdisciplinary examination of the diverse factors affecting the marine environment to prepare students for careers in the then-rapidly expanding fields of coastal management, environmental monitoring and protection and resource management. Prior to the establishment of the MESP program, faculty appointments at MSRC were research appointments, with the person also having a regular academic appointment in a traditional academic department. Appointed as Director of the MESP Program was Dr. George Williams. With the development of the MESP program, three new faculty positions were created at MSRC, jointly appointed with other University departments. These new appointments were the first non-research faculty appointments at the Center and were funded through the University's Instructional and Departmental Research (I&DR) budget, as opposed to its Organized Research (OR) budget. MESP enrollment in the 1970-1971 academic year was 23 students, 9 of which were part-time students. By the 1973-74 academic year, a total of 40 students were matriculated in the MESP program, 32 of them on a part-time basis. By 1972, Dr. Williams had transferred to the Department of Ecology and Evolution and Dr. Ron Caplan was appointed Acting Director of the MESP Program. That year, an

intern program component was added to the MESP program; initial internships were with the Fire Island national Seashore and the in the office of the Science Advisor to the New York State Legislature., in which

Coincident with the establishment of the MESP, MSRC faculty participated in the planning and development of a Master of Science and a Ph.D. program in marine biology, both programs to be offered under the aegis of the Division of Biological Sciences. Neither degree program was ever officially offered to Stony Brook students.

In January 1970, Mr. Fred Roberts was appointed Associate Director of MSRC with main responsibilities for the internal administrative management of the expanding Center and its activities.

In 1970, MSRC administrators and faculty began a collaboration with Cornell University and the University of New Hampshire to develop a seasonal (summer) research and instructional laboratory on Appledore island, one of the rocky Isles of Shoals, located in the Atlantic Ocean 10 miles off Portsmouth New Hampshire. The first session of this program was planned for summer, 1971 with a total enrollment of 60 undergraduate students; a minimum of 20 of these were expected to be Stony Brook students

In 1971, MSRC moved from the ESS building into Building "J" on Stony Brook's South Campus. South Campus had been developed in 1970 to temporarily house new University units and departments while their permanent quarters were under construction on Main Campus. MSRC was originally scheduled to occupy Building "L".

The National Sea Grant College and Program Act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966. Soon after his arrival, MSRC's founding Director Don Squires began to promote the idea of developing a Sea Grant program in New York. MSRC received a planning grant in March 1970 to develop an institutional proposal for a Sea Grant program in New York. That proposal, which described a program undertaken as a collaboration between SUNY and Cornell University, was submitted to the National Science Foundation (the initial administrative home of the national Sea Grant program) in November 1970. Dr. Squires, the architect and lead investigator of the successful proposal, assumed the directorship of the New York Sea Grant program in November 1971. The program was initially but only briefly headquartered at/within MSRC. Because of the state-wide mission of Sea Grant, in Spring 1972, the program was moved to Albany, New York, the capitol of New York State and the center of state government. Albany is approximately equidistant from New York's marine and Great Lakes coasts. In assuming the Sea Grant directorship and relocating with the program to Albany, Squires did not relinquish the formal leadership of MSRC and continued as Director of MSRC until replaced in this capacity by Dr. J.R. Schubel (see below). However, having an off-site director eventually resulted in a number of administrative and management problems for MSRC. In Spring 1972, Stony Brook's Provost of Biological Sciences, Dr. Raymond Jones, was designated the responsible University officer for MSRC and Mr. Fred Roberts was named Executive Officer, in charge of its daily operations.

This unusual, if not awkward leadership situation prompted the University to conduct a review of the history and progress of MSRC since its establishment and to more broadly assess the status of research and instruction in the marine sciences on the Stony Brook campus. Dr. Sidney Gelber, Stony Brook's Academic Vice-President, empanelled the Marine Sciences Study Committee during the summer of 1972 to conduct this assessment, with special reference to the opportunities presented by MSRC to maximally stimulate the field of marine sciences at Stony Brook and the organizational and administrative arrangements that would conduce to this effect. The Committee was comprised of representatives from the College of Engineering, the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, the Department of Ecology and Evolution and MSRC. It was chaired by Dr. Jones.

The Marine Sciences Study Committee delivered its report in December 1973. Among its recommendations are the following:

- establish a campus-wide Marine Sciences Advisory Committee to provide general direction and guidance to the furtherance of marine sciences at Stony Brook

- develop an undergraduate, interdisciplinary minor in the marine sciences by developing appropriate tracks within existing degree programs (e.g., marine geology track in B.S. in earth science program)

- retain the MESP Program within MSRC and retain all other marine sciences graduate academic programs within academic departments or divisions

- build faculty numbers & expertise to backstop teaching needs in marine science undergraduate and graduate programs

- the appropriate role of MSRC in aiding the above is to:

    ♦ develop scientific bases for rational management of New York's marine environment

    ♦ facilitate multidisciplinary research in marine sciences, drawing on resources SUNY-wide, especially though provision of suitable facilities and inter-campus arrangements

    ♦ compliment the academic marine sciences programs at Stony brook and throughout SUNY

    ♦ assure continuity of Stony Brook/SUNY marine sciences research and educational programs, and interactions with management agencies, by maintaining a permanent in-house scientific and technical staff.

- improve the administration of MSRC by:

- ♦ having MSRC Director report to the Stony Brook Academic Vice-President

- ♦ Stony Brook administration providing adequate support to MSRC to fulfil its mission

- ♦ through joint appointments, afford MSRC faculty the opportunity to teach in marine science degree programs offered through other Stony Brook units

- ♦ remove the burden on the MSRC budget to bear certain annual administrative costs associated with the Discovery Bay and Isles of Shoals laboratories, these costs ($26,500) to instead be born by the Office of the Academic Vice-President and end Stony Brook's support of two full-time staff positions at the Discovery Bay Laboratory (also part of MSRC's operating budget) be ended, with the Center able to reprogram these dollars.

This set of recommendations had variable impact on the fortunes of marine sciences on the Stony Brook campus and on the fortunes of MSRC. The campus-wide committee on marine sciences was never established, or, if it was, no record of it comes down to present times. Undergraduate marine science minors (concentrations) are offered under several degree programs, but they are not popular. The number of marine science faculty at Stony Brook has certainly grown since the early 1970's, primarily at MSRC. As a result of this report, the MSRC Director came to report to the Provost of the University. Soon after this report was issued, Stony Brook/MSRC cut its ties to both the Discovery Bay Laboratory (in February 1976) and the Isles of Shoals Laboratory (in March 1975).

In early 1973, the Stony Brook administration committed to replacing the aging R/V Mic Mac with a vessel to be built from the keel up as a coastal oceanographic research vessel. Funding for the vessel's construction would be split between the campus and the Center's Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR) account, which would be the depository for charter income associated with the vessel's operation.

In June, 1974, the arrangements for leadership of MSRC resumed a degree of normalcy with the resignation of Dr. Squires as MSRC Director and the appointment of Dr. J.R. Schubel to replace him. Schubel was a geological oceanographer from The Johns Hopkins University, where he had been serving as the Associate Director of the Chesapeake Bay Institute. His appointment marked the beginning of a period of rapid expansion at MSRC and an elevation of its reputation as a center for the study of coastal oceanography.

In Fall 1974, in light of the difficulty of securing additional state-funded faculty lines by which the Center might grow, MSRC established a Professional Research Staff (research faculty) with formalized appointment policies and an appointment hierarchy paralleling that of State-supported faculty. Research faculty appointments were not tenure-granting and salary and other support for them were derived solely from external grants and contracts. Research faculty at MSRC were encouraged but not required to participate in the Center's educational programs.

As the Center and its programs grew, the age and capability limitations of its principal research vessel, R/V MICMAC, rendered it less and less able to support MSRC's research and instructional programs. By late 1973, planning was well underway to secure a replacement for MICMAC. In October 1974, MSRC took delivery of a new coastal oceanographic research vessel, the 55', steel-hulled R/V ONRUST. The boat's name perhaps warrants some explanation. In the late fall of 1613, Dutch explorer Adriaen Block and his shipmates became marooned on Manhattan Island when their vessel, TYGER, burned at anchor. In the spring of 1614, Block and crew built ONRUST from TYGER's residual timbers and new lumber from the forests that then blanketed the island. "Onrust" is Dutch for "restless", and the Dutchmen were restless to either continue their explorations of the New World or return to the Netherlands. Once the new vessel was completed, Block sailed ONRUST through what is now the East River and explored and charted the perimeter of Long Island Sound, including his namesake island, located at the Sound's eastern end. Intercepted off Cape Cod by a rescue boat sent to look for the long-overdue TYGER, Block decided to return to the Netherlands. He turned ONRUST over to his second-in-command, who continued to use her to explore the southern New England and Mid-Atlantic coasts of the New World. Her specific movements and ultimate fate are lost in the mists of time and history. The name of MSRC's new vessel reflected this bit of local maritime lore and the spirit of restless inquiry that animates the study of the sea.

With the seakindly hull of an offshore lobster boat, ONRUST was built in Snug Harbor, Rhode Island. She is pictured below.

[ONRUST PHOTO]

From its inception, MSRC had lacked a full-service, dedicated harbor-side ship support facility. R/V MICMAC had been kept at a municipal marina in nearby Port Jefferson, but this was an inadequate arrangement, including the lack of any storage space at the marine available to or controlled by the Center. Thus, ship-related equipment was stored at the Center's South Campus location and had to be trucked back & forth to the vessel when needed, an unwieldy situation to say the least. In Spring 1975, Suffolk County purchased an old coastal sand mine located at the northeastern corner of NEARBY Port Jefferson Harbor. The County agreed to assign 3-7 acres of McAllister Park for the purposes of developing a ship support facility for MSRC. However, funds to construct an appropriate building(s) and dock at this site were never raised.

In spring 1975, MSRC underwent its first external review, as required by University policies governing institutes, centers, and other entities established as Organized Research units. The review panel consisted of Dr. Donald W. Prichard, Chief Scientist at the Johns Hopkins University's Chesapeake Bay Institute (chair), Dr. Robert Gordon of Yale University, Dr. Lee Koppelman, Executive Director of the Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Board and Dr. Bernie Manowitz of the Brookhaven national

Laboratory. Among the recommendations of the review panel was that MSRC establish a high quality P.h.D. program in coastal oceanography. An internal assessment initiated by Director Schubel had come to the same conclusion. In April 1976, MSRC submitted a proposal for such a program to the University's Graduate Council. Additional recommendations of the review panel included:

- a mandatory apprenticeship program with natural resource management agencies be added to the Marine Environmental Studies graduate program (MESP)

- MSRC be moved into larger quarters on South Campus (Buildings F, H and G)

- a field facility be establish along the shore of Long Island Sound encompassing both research laboratories and vessel operations support

During the 1975-76 academic year, MSRC conducted an internal review of the MESP graduate program, including a review of the curriculum and extensive consultations with students then matriculated in the program and MESP alumni. As a result of this review, the program name was changed to "Marine Environmental *Sciences* Program" and the program focus was shifted more towards hard science, with somewhat less emphasis being given to management and specific environmental problem-solving.

In July/August 1976, MSRC vacated Building "J" on South Campus and moved into expanded quarters nearby in Buildings "F", "G" and "H."

In April 1978, the Board of Trustees of the NYS Education Department approved MSRC's P.h.D. program in coastal oceanography. The following September, the program was approved by New York Governor Hugh Carey

As MSRC grew during the 1970's, its need for a seawater-equipped laboratory became more and more of a constraint to its research programs. In 1970, the NYS Conservation Department had drawn upon federal funds to construct the Flax Pond Marine Laboratory along the southern shore of Flax Pond. At the time, the Department intended to develop its own internal program of marine research. In subsequent years, however, as it was charged with implementing an increasing array of environmental laws, the agency decided to forgo internal science programs and activities in favor of regulatory and policy activities. This decision, and a series of "flat" operating budgets in the years after the lab was built, left the agency with little use for the science facilities available at the Flax Pond Laboratory. In the early 1970's, MSRC and DEC struck a series of one-year agreements by which Center faculty and students were given access to the lab and its facilities for their research. This culminated in 1979, with SUNY and DEC executing a 25-year agreement under which SUNY assumed responsibility for operation and maintenance of the Flax Pond Laboratory, with DEC reserving the right to occupy 25% of its internal space on an "as needed" basis." Under this agreement, MSRC was dedicated as the cognizant unit of the State University of New York at Stony Brook to administer SUNY's interest in the building. This original agreement expired in 2004; it was succeeded by a similar agreement made between Stony Brook University and DEC in 2005 for another 25 years.

In June, 1979 Dr. D.W. Pritchard appointed MSRC Associate Director for Research.

From its inception, MSRC's formal education programs had been offered exclusively at the graduate level, although many of its faculty had always offered research experiences in the laboratories to undergraduate students. This changed in September 1982, when the Center offered its first undergraduate marine science courses. These courses were MAR 101, Long Island Sound: Science and Use, MAR 302, Marine Microbiology and Microbial Ecology and MAR 333, Coastal Oceanography.

During the 1982/83 academic year, MSRC initiated two new programs designed to enhance the diversity and breadth of interests represented at the Center. Supported from private funds, the Coastal Marine Scholar Program brought two bright, creative newly-minted Ph.D. scientists for a term of up to three years as post-doctoral fellows. The primary criteria for selecting these individuals were the level of their demonstrated scholarship and the degree of congruency between their scientific interests and those of one or more MSRC faculty members. Academic year support for Coastal Marine Scholars was provided by the Center; sponsoring faculty picked up their summer salary support. The Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program provided an opportunity for world-class scientists to visit MSRC for one or two weeks to interact with Center faculty and graduate students and to give at least two public lectures/seminars on topics of the scholar's interest. The objective of the program was to provide an incubator that would hatch plans of future collaborative research and other activities involving MSRC and its scientists with the scholar and colleagues at his/her home institution.

Through the 1980's, MSRC grew rapidly, as measured by the size of its faculty, the amount of external research funding and the diversity of its research programs and activities. Much of this growth came through the establishment of issue-focussed units and programs subsumed within the Center's administrative structure. These new units typically brought the Center additional resources (faculty and/or staff lines, uncommitted funding) with which to address their thematic targets. The list below identifies these several units, the year of their creation, their initial funding source(s) and their mission. Those units in **bold** are still extant within the successor to MSRC, the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS).

• Marine Biomass Program. 1980. New York Sea Grant, Gas Research Institute, General Electric Corporation and other industrial sponsors. The objective of the Marine Biomass Program, conducted jointly with New York Sea Grant, was to assess the potential for local marine algae, primarily macroalgae (seaweeds), to serve as feedstock for alternative natural gas through large-scale cultivation on marine farms. Methane prices had skyrocketed as a result of the energy crisis of the 1970's.

• Beach and Nearshore Processes Unit. 1981. State and private foundations. This initiative was designed to increase MSRC's capabilities in the study of the complex physical, geological and other processes that occur along shorelines and to use this knowledge to help develop effective strategies and actions for managing human activities along dynamic shorelines.

• Coastal Ocean Science and Management Alternatives (COSMA) program. 1982. William H. Donner Foundation & NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center. The goals of the COSMA program were to develop methods and mechanisms to improve the effectiveness of the use of scientific data and information in environmental decision-making in the coastal zone and to use these tools to assess and evaluate the relative merits of alternative approaches to attacking specific environmental problems.

• Waste Management Institute. 1985. State funding. In the late 1970's MSRC had developed the CWARP (Coal Waste Artificial Reef Program), a research initiative to assess the technical feasibility and environmental consequences of using stabilized ash from coal-fired power plants as base material for the construction of cinder-style blocks and the use of these blocks as building materiel for artificial reefs in nearshore marine environments. This initiative eventually morphed into a more broadly-cast assessment of potential productive and beneficial uses of a wide variety of waste materials produced by modern human society, including and especially the ash produced from municipal waste incinerators. The Waste Management Institute was re-named the **Waste Reduction and Management Institute** in 1993 to reflect a growing awareness that a *reduction* in the volume of wastes produced would be an essential element in an overall plan to manage waste materials.

• **Living Marine Resources Institute.** 1985. State support. In the early 1980's, with the appointment of a number of new faculty members with interests in fisheries, MSRC became increasingly involved in problems associated with the biology, population dynamics and other aspects of local marine fish and shellfish of ecological, commercial and/or recreational importance. A prime issue was the severe decline then underway in the population of hard clams in Great South Bay, a waterbody that in the mid-1970's was the most important clam-producing area in the United States. Initially formulated as an attempt to establish a New York State Aquaculture and Fisheries Experiment Station, modeled after New York's Agricultural Experiment Station at Cornell University (including a marine disease diagnostic component t at the NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell), the Living Marine Resources Institute brought MSRC new faculty and technical staff lines, as well as significant additional state funds, to expand the Center's capabilities in research on living marine resources and to work with environmental managers, fishermen and others to help craft management policies that would conserve these renewable resources, while at the same time allowing their sustainable harvest.

Among the academic units at Stony Brook, MSRC had a unique mission that encompassing both basic and applied marine research and a commitment to working with others to use research results to forge unique and uniquely effective solutions to coastal environmental problems. To achieve this mission required that 1) the Center establish effective working relationships with a wide variety of public and private entities outside the University and 2) the directions of its growth and development reflect the most pressing and important of the issues society faced in dealing with the coast and its resources. To help ensure that the Center's development was guided, and assisted, by a broad social consensus of key leaders and decision-makers for various societal

sectors in New York, Director Jerry Schubel formed the MSRC Visiting Committee in 1984. This group was comprised of a small number of select of renown, well-respected individuals (scientists, engineers, corporate heads, policy-makers) who met periodically with the Director and senior MSRC faculty & staff to identify opportunities to continue to build MSRC in ways that responded to its mission and to chart a course to achieve that development.

December 1985 - JRS appointed acting vice-provost for research and graduate studies
September 1986 - JRS appointed Acting Provost, MSRC Associate Director for Research, D.W. Pritchard, appointed Acting Dean & Director of MSRC

1992, ITPA becomes part of MSRC

The State University of New York at Stony Brook established the Long Island Groundwater Research Institute (LIGRI) in 1994 to marshal the resources and expertise of the University for the study of groundwater hydrology and chemistry. The Institute was served by faculty in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, the Department of Earth and Space Science, and the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

November 2004 - JRS resigns from SBU