

Nomination Speech - Talking Points

Thank you Mr. President.

Fellow SCAR Delegates and ICSU Union representatives; I would first like to thank our Russian hosts for organizing the excellent, productive and very successful meetings in St Petersburg and for the beautiful and historic setting for this the XXX SCAR Delegates Meeting at the Russian Academy of Science on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of SCAR.

By way of introduction for those of you who may not know me, I am Chuck Kennicutt. I am currently the Director of Sustainability in the Office of the Vice President and Professor of Oceanography at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. I have a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry and a PhD in Oceanography.

As far experience with SCAR, I have been involved with SCAR for more than 12 years. I have served on:

- 1) Groups of Specialists - Group Of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation (GOSEAC – 8 years) and the Subglacial Antarctic Lake Environments Group of Specialists (SALEGOS)
- 2) Action Groups – The Action Group for Antarctic Fuels Spills
- 3) Standing Committees – Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System since its inception 6 years ago (SCATS) – 2004-2008
- 4) Scientific Research Programs – Subglacial Antarctic Lake Environments (SALE as its – Secretary (4 years)
- 5) Open Science Conference – International Scientific Organizing Committee Hobart and co-Chair of St. Petersburg
- 6) Vice President for finances (2 years) and scientific affairs 2 years)
- 7) US Alternate or Delegate fro 10 years
- 8) Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings – 6 meetings on US Delegation assisting the SCAR ATCM Delegation as needed

In a recent letter to each of you, I outlined a few of the issues we are beginning to address during SCAR XXX:

- 1) Quality, relevance, and timeliness of SCAR science is paramount
- 2) Managing SCAR's relations with and advice to the Antarctic Treaty System – We will hear the report of an Action Group and its recommendations
- 3) A new model for the biennial meetings that will reduce the cost of attendance to ensure wide participation and allow all to host the meetings that might wish to
- 4) Solidifying and enhancing arctic and polar partnerships that will be key to the post-IPY era– I will return to this issue shortly.

In addition, there are significant challenges that SCAR will face over the next 4 or more years including:

- 1) Full engagement of the Antarctic communities within SCAR member nations – participation is often discipline dependent and
- 2) Managing SCAR's role in sustaining the IPY legacy

- a. Coordination and/or possibly merger with other polar organizations while being sensitive to SCAR member nation's needs and interests
- 3) Enhancing SCAR's partnerships with COMNAP to improve coordination and consultation – the COMNAP reorganization provides an unparalleled opportunity to improve our coordination and partnership
 - a. Recognition of the new world dictated by rising fuels costs and the necessity of international collaboration and coordination to reduce redundancy and capitalize on shared infrastructure is essential in planning a way forward.
- 4) The next phase of SCAR Strategic planning will begin in earnest next year for the period 2011 - 2012
 - a. Data Management and Information Strategy, Observing Systems and others will be key components of this planning
- 5) Capacity building in emerging Antarctic Programs
- 6) Mentoring and fostering early career scientists and students – the next generation
- 7) Wisely managing SCAR's limited finances in full consultation with SCAR members based on careful and thoughtful strategic planning
 - a. We need to begin renewed efforts at external funding raising to support initiatives such early career development, student fellowships, and education and outreach (legacy issues)

Much work remains to be done, the challenges are great but the opportunities are unlimited! If elected the next President of SCAR, I pledge to dedicate the time necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this critical office. Thank you!