

## Faculty Report Template

<b>Name</b>	Dr. Walter C. Oechel
<b>Faculty/Rank</b>	Professor
<b>Department</b>	Biology
<b>College</b>	Sciences
<b>Office phone</b>	619-594-4818
<b>Other phone</b>	619-594-6613
<b>E mail address</b>	oechel@sunstroke.sdsu.edu
<b>Proposal title</b>	Developing the basis for an international curriculum in ecology and environmental science with CIBNOR in La Paz, Mexico
<b>Country/ies visited</b>	La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico
<b>Institution visited</b>	Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noreste, La Paz, B.C.S, Mexico (CIBNOR)
<b>Dates of travel</b>	November 14-18, 1999
<b>Number of student participants:</b>	2 from SDSU, 5 CIBNOR
<b>Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates):</b>	none
<b>Have all required reports been submitted?</b>	yes
<b>Other funding for this activity available/applied for:</b>	We are investigating the possibility of a Joint NSF International program with Mexico's equivalent organization: CONACyT

**Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):** This proposal is to further develop a framework for collaboration and exchange. One goal will be to work with CIBNOR scientists to develop databases of regional climate, vegetation, ecosystem productivity, topography, and land use. These data bases will lay the foundation for predicting future

responses to the regional aspects of global climate change and land use. It is felt that these activities will form the basis for developing a joint ecology curriculum.

## **Travel report:**

- I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity** In Spring 1999, SDSU's President Weber and CIBNOR's Director Mario Martínéz signed an agreement for cooperation in teaching and research. The Biology 535 Plant Ecology class has already taken a field trip to La Paz to study the ecology of southern Baja California (May 1999). Director of Natural Sciences, Dr. Arturo Muhlia visited the Sky Oaks Biological Field Station with CIBNOR Director of Graduate Studies Sergio Hernandez in late May. Both see great educational and research potential for CIBNOR students and faculty at the Sky Oaks Biological Field Stations MedCO<sub>2</sub>RE (Mediterranean CO<sub>2</sub> Research) Facility. However, additional development is necessary to make real the student exchange potential between SDSU and CIBNOR.
- II. In preparation for the trip abroad** Initial contact was through Dr. Tom Ebert at SDSU who was the major professor for Dr. Arturo Muhlia's masters degree at SDSU in 19890 ([amuhlia@cibnor.mx](mailto:amuhlia@cibnor.mx)). Dr. Ebert promoted interaction with CIBNOR and Dr. Ebert, Dr. Gordan Fox and myself visited Dr. Mulia, who is now an Assistant director at CIBNOR, and Dr. Martínéz in La Paz in January of 1999. Both a Biology Field trip (535) to La Paz (15 SDSU graduate and undergraduate students) and a visit by the director of CIBNOR, Dr. Mario Martínéz, Mario Martinez ([mmartine@cibnor.mx](mailto:mmartine@cibnor.mx)) his assistant Elena Enriquez ([eenrique@cibnor.mx](mailto:eenrique@cibnor.mx)) and Dr. Sergio Hernandez, dean of graduate studies ([shernan@cibnor.mx](mailto:shernan@cibnor.mx)) took place in May. During the visit by CIBNOR administrators to SDSU, a cooperative agreement was signed between SDSU and CIBNOR by President Webber and Dr. Martínéz. Contact was made with José Luis León de la Luz ([jlleon@cibnor.mx](mailto:jlleon@cibnor.mx)), coordinator for the Third Baja California Botanical symposium. It was arraigned for myself, Steve Hastings (adjunct faculty, SDSU, [shasting@sunstroke.sdsu.edu](mailto:shasting@sunstroke.sdsu.edu)), Joe Verfaillie ([josephv@sunstroke.sdsu.edu](mailto:josephv@sunstroke.sdsu.edu)), Joint-Doc student Rommel Zulueta ([zulueta@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:zulueta@mail.sdsu.edu)), Stephen Bullock (on sabbatical at SDSU from CICESE, [sbullock@sunstroke.sdsu.edu](mailto:sbullock@sunstroke.sdsu.edu)), Franco Biondi (adjunct faculty, SDSU) and Rachael Craig (Kent State University, [rcraig@geology.kent.edu](mailto:rcraig@geology.kent.edu)) to attend the conference.
- III Upon arrival/specific activity** The visit allowed us to make face to face contact with the CIBNOR researchers as well as researchers interested in the biology, ecology, and natural history of Baja California. Specific activities included presentation of four papers at the meetings, a

poster presentation, and informal discussions about each others research interests.

**IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?** It was readily apparent that there was strong terrestrial and aquatic research facilities, and activities at both institutions that each institutions respective faculty and students could benefit from via an exchange program. A major goal as a next step will be to try and procure a joint, international grant focused on regional estimation of carbon flux. This will serve to focus interests from each institution on a common goal and provide opportunities for student involvement.

**V. Additional Information**

**All information should be sent to The Office of International Programs via e mail:**

**[oiip@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:oiip@mail.sdsu.edu)**