

COMMENT FORM
for
DEAN/DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION

Date: December 2, 2008

Reviewer: Dr. Denis A. Wiesenburg, Dean, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

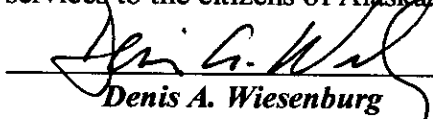
Candidate: Mr. Richard Steiner, Professor, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

In my post-tenure review of Mr. Steiner in 2005, I noted, "Mr. Steiner could be more productive if he would channel his significant energies into working within the MAP program objectives to help us meet the goals of MAP within the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences." One of the strengths of the Marine Advisory Program is the collective talents of the MAP faculty network. Rather than working within this network as I have asked Mr. Steiner to do, he has chosen to be a maverick and to work independently. While the material submitted shows a high level of activity (much done "on his own time"), very little of his efforts are directed to the goals of MAP as defined in its strategic plan.

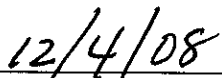
Mr. Steiner has devoted some of his energy in the review period to publically attacking Alaska Sea Grant program activities with which he does not agree. Although this material was not provided, Mr. Steiner was the signatory of a letter attacking Alaska Sea Grant and participated in a press conference attacking an Anchorage workshop that Sea Grant was conducting. The keynote speaker at the workshop was UA President Mark Hamilton. The actions by Mr. Steiner attracted the attention of the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) who noted that those funded by Sea Grant are expected to be "Neutral Brokers of Information." Their handbook on the Fundamentals of a Sea Grant Extension Program states, "But as neutral providers of science-based information to decision makers, we do not suggest what those decisions should be. We help them understand their choices and the implications of those choices. We do not take positions on issues of public debate." Mr. Steiner regularly takes strong public positions on issues of public debate. The NSGO has asked that we not support such activities with federal funds, but we will continue to do so with our SFOS general funds as we respect the principle of academic freedom as defined by the UNAC Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Mr. Steiner has every right as a faculty member to take positions on issues of public debate and publically express his opinion on those issues. We defend his right to do so under the UNAC CBA provision 6.1. To fully understand academic freedom, I encourage Mr. Steiner to read section 6.2 of the CBA of that provision that states, "Academic freedom is accompanied by the corresponding responsibility to provide objective and skillful exposition of one's subject, to at all times be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinions of others and to indicate when appropriate that one is an institutional representative."

Going forward, I ask Mr. Steiner to consider his academic responsibilities under UNAC CBA provision 6.2 and to find a way to work with his MAP colleagues to provide better advisory services to the citizens of Alaska.



Denis A. Wiesenburg



Date