Cruise Committee: COVID-19 Planning

Summer 2020 Training Cruise Recommendation
Cruise Committee: COVID-19 Planning

MEMBERSHIP

• Chair
  Sam Pecota

• Voting Members:
  John Coyle
  John Finch
  Scott Green
  Mike Hoffman
  Don Maier
  Lina Neto
  Fred Reiman
  David Taliaferro
  Dan Weinstock

• Cadets (invitees, non-voting):
  Mitchell Jacobsen
  Lukas Oswald

• Guest presenters (invitees, non-voting):
  Philippe Cumia
  Michael Kazek
  Anthony Konecni
  Franz Lozano
Cruise Committee: COVID-19 Planning

- Committee convened four meetings
  - 27 Mar  |  10 Apr  |  24 Apr  |  28 Apr
- COVID planning objectives guided deliberations
  - Prioritize the health and safety of the campus community.
  - Sustain our educational mission to ensure that all of our cadets can graduate on time.
  - Continue to assess and monitor the situation alongside public health and state and local officials.
Cruise Committee: COVID-19 Planning

• BLUF – The Recommendation
  – Voting members of the Cruise Committee voted *unanimously* to cancel the TSGB cruise for Summer 2020
Rationale for Recommendation

- **Extremely Compressed Calendar**
  - The delay in the proposed start of F2F classes does not provide adequate time to run a full 62-day cruise.

- **F2F Instruction Priority**
  - It would allow more time for F2F classes to properly deliver content, without the pressure of cruise.
  - F2F classes can be pushed back to July-Aug if necessary.

- **Adequate Planning**
  - Delaying cruise until next year would allow more time to plan properly for the new COVID protocols.

- **Benefit to Cadets**
  - Cadets believe that providing a full cruise experience would be more beneficial to them professionally.
Rationale for Recommendation

• Risk Factor
  – Vallejo is not a low-risk city for COVID.

• Morale & Fatigue
  – A no-port cruise is undesirable to crew, faculty and cadets and would lead to low morale and greater fatigue.
  – Required 14-day pre-cruise isolation period not very practical or desirable.
  – Many food service workers do not want to volunteer for cruise this summer.
  – Canceling summer cruise will relieve a lot of anxiety among many faculty, staff, cadets and parents.
Rationale for Recommendation

• Willingness & Interest
  – Some prospective adjunct engineers are no longer interested in cruise under new COVID conditions.

• Trust & Communication
  – There was a perceived push by the administration to run cruise despite all the concerns being expressed.
  – Canceling cruise demonstrates an acknowledgment of these concerns and builds trust with the administration.
Concerns for Canceling Cruise

• Degree Completion
  – What happens to 2020 grads?
  – Can we ensure they will graduate this summer?

• Unprecedented & Unknown
  – We don’t know what the conditions will be moving forward that would allow for adequate contingency planning.
Possible Solutions to Explore

- Run two cruises next summer (if possible).
  - Two cruises next summer may also be able to accommodate many CRU200 & 250 cadets
- Run mini cruises over observed holidays (Thanksgiving or Winter) and scheduled spring breaks.
- Conduct 14-day dockside steaming cruise.
Medical Considerations (Dr. Bruce Wilbur)

• Testing, treatment, and prevention
  – No guarantee we can obtain ANY test kits at this time and testing is vital for a safe cruise.
  – Only limited testing ability for asymptomatic people at this time.
  – Antibody testing unreliable at this time.
  – Anderson-Kelly protocols, while a good start, may not yield sufficient confidence of having a COVID free ship.
As we learn more about COVID-19, we should reach a point where we can implement a solid plan for a safe and *rewarding* voyage...just not yet.