

**Meeting Report of the  
U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC)**

**18-20 January 2017**

**University of Texas at Austin,  
Austin, TX**

**U.S. Advisory Committee for  
Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC) Meeting  
January 18-20, 2017  
University of Texas Austin, Austin, TX**

Meeting Roster

Committee Members

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Beth Christensen (Chair)	Adelphi University
Hugh Daigle	University of Texas at Austin
Susan DeBari	Western Washington University
Liviu Giosan	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Matt Hornbach	Southern Methodist University
Lawrence Krissek	Ohio State University
Natascha Riedinger	Oklahoma State University
Amelia Shevenell	University of South Florida
Marta Torres*	Oregon State University
Jim Wright	Rutgers University

Liaisons, Observers & Guests

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Carl Brenner	USSSP – LDEO
Sharon Cooper	USSSP – LDEO
Dave Goldberg	USSSP – LDEO
Tom Janecek	National Science Foundation
Nicole Kurtz	USSSP – LDEO
Angela Slagle	USSSP – LDEO
James Spencer	USSSP – LDEO
Sean Gulick	Science Evaluation Panel Chair – UT Austin
James Austin, Jr.	IODP Forum Chair – UT Austin

\*Regrets

**Action Items and Consensus Statements USAC Winter meeting 2017  
UT Austin**

**Action Item 1701-01:** USAC supports a revision of the PEA funding mechanism. We ask USSSP to explore the mechanism to increase funding available to US scientists by expanding the pool of available funding. US scientists would compete for additional funding for a limited number of investigators. Since the co-chiefs play a role in the grant process, we also ask USSSP to consider removing US co-chiefs from the PEA pool by reducing salary support by 1 month and substituting some discretionary funding.

**Consensus Statement 1701-01:** USAC supports the idea that NSF and USSSP provide a reminder to the community of the present mechanism for funding IODP research at NSF. This can be done by writing a targeted letter, publicizing through social media, and also by direct communication with individuals sailing as scientists.

**Consensus statement 1701-02:** USAC is concerned that the funding mechanisms for submitting IODP proposals to NSF, especially for those that are non-traditional for NSF MGG, might still not be clear and look to NSF for guidance on which office a proponent could contact for clarification.

**Action Item 1701-02:** USAC recognizes the need for continued evaluation of the shipboard measurements and asks the JRSO to report at the summer 2017 USAC meeting on the make-up, process and progress of the JRSO lab working groups.

**Action Item 1701-03.** USAC recommends that USSSP generate a best practices document for staffing E&O. It should outline the categories (e.g., artist, teacher, or implied audience) of applicants, a rubric for ranking the different characteristics/attributes, and USAC's role in the selection process and the mechanism for incorporating USAC feedback. USAC would like a report on the statistics of the applicant pool to gauge the range of interest.

**Action Item 1701-04.** In recognition of the desire to attract a broader range of E&O officers, we ask USSSP to investigate the possibility of increasing the stipend. We encourage USSSP to compare its stipend and expectations for productivity with E&O programs at other large scientific projects.

**Consensus Statement 1701-04.** USAC is concerned that the E&O is missing the American public. USAC believes sailing a journalist is critical particularly for connecting with the US voter.

**Action Item 1701-05.** We encourage USSSP to explore a broad scope of opportunities for journalists, including recruiting media from the Midwest (non-coastal states). This may include diverse outreach activities such as shipboard communications, or involving them in SOR or transits. We also recommend USSSP consider developing environmental journalism internships. We suggest USSSP query the IODP community for contacts.

**Action Item 1701-06.** We ask USSSP to prepare a report for Denver II on SOR and other E & O use of the JR facility.

**Action Item 1701-07.** USAC recommends that USSSP E&O enhance advertising to the broader education community using listserves (e.g., PolarTrec; ESPRIT) and workshops (GSA, NAGT, Earth Educators Rendevous/SERC).

**Consensus Statement 1701-05.** USAC thinks supporting advanced undergraduate and masters students could be an important E&O opportunity and would enhance research at a variety of institutions. We will continue to explore mechanisms to provide such research support.

**Consensus Statement 1701-06.** USAC encourages the IODP community to provide nominations to the Taira Prize, and applauds USSSP efforts to raise awareness through newsletters and other outreach mechanisms.

**Consensus Statement 1701-07.** USAC thanks USSSP E&O (Sharon and Nicole) for producing the E&O white paper.

**Consensus Statement 1701-08.** USAC thanks Hugh Daigle for hosting the meeting at the U of Texas. We appreciated the fine facilities, the opportunity to connect with the Jackson School, BBQ, and finally, the sun.

**Consensus Statement 1701-09.** USAC thanks Barbara John and Evan Solomon for extending their time on USAC and continuing to work with the Staffing Subcommittee through December 2016.