

**U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC)
28–30 January 2015
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington**

Meeting Report

USAC Members

John Jaeger (Chair)	University of Florida
Hugh Daigle	University of Texas at Austin
Matt Hornbach	Southern Methodist University
Liviu Giosan**	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Barbara John	University of Wyoming
Larry Krissek	Ohio State University
Beth Orcutt	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Sandra Passchier*	Montclair State University
Peter Sak	Dickinson College
Amelia Shevenell	University of South Florida
Evan Solomon	University of Washington
Joe Stoner	Oregon State University

Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Jeff Schuffert	U.S. Science Support Program
Sharon Cooper*	U.S. Science Support Program
Katie Fillingham	U.S. Science Support Program
Charna Meth	U.S. Science Support Program
Julie Farver	Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Guests

Tom Janecek	National Science Foundation
-------------	-----------------------------

*Participated remotely

**Unable to attend

USAC BUSINESS

1. USAC unanimously approved the report from the June 2014 USAC meeting.
2. USAC unanimously approved the agenda for the January 2015 USAC meeting.
3. Action items and consensus statements from the June 2014 USAC meeting were reviewed:
 - **Action Item 1407-01:** During the next nomination period, the USAC Chair will write a letter to the community encouraging them to volunteer to serve on IODP committees and advisory panels. *This action item will remain open for the USAC chair in the next USSSP program.*
4. The USAC Terms of Reference were reviewed and there are no changes to be made.

PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were given at the January 2015 USAC Meeting:

- U.S. Science Support Program and Facility Boards Update (Schuffert)
- National Science Foundation Report (Janecek)
- Discussion of Best Practices Document (Jaeger)

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Workshops, Pre-drilling, and Nominations Subcommittee Report

1. The subcommittee reviewed and provided funding recommendations to USSSP on one workshop proposal:
 - “Developing Scientific Drilling Proposals for the Argentine Margin: Basin Evolution, Deep Biosphere, Sediment Dynamics, and Ocean Evolution” submitted by Roger Flood (Stony Brook University).
2. The subcommittee reviewed the applications of two U.S. candidates for IODP Forum chair and recommended endorsing both of them. Letters in support of the nominees were provided to the current IODP Forum chair.

Staffing Subcommittee Report

1. The subcommittee reviewed and prioritized the applications to sail on the following expeditions:
 - Expedition 357 Atlantis Massif
 - Expedition 359 Maldives Monsoon and Sea Level - special call for experienced paleomagnetists and nannofossil micropaleontologists

Subcommittee Discussions: Best Practices

The subcommittees met individually to discuss topics to include in a best practices document, which will be provided to NSF in closeout documents for the current USSSP and also to the new USSSP awardee. The full committee met with USSSP staff individually as well. Each subcommittee provided comments to the USAC chair, who will compile a draft document and submit it to the USSSP director by the end of February.

CONSENSUS STATEMENTS

Consensus Statement 1501-01: USAC compliments the USSSP staff for their exemplary support of USSSP science programs and the U.S. scientific ocean drilling community.

Consensus Statement 1501-02: USAC recognizes the committed efforts of USSSP to broaden community participation in the science program, as exemplified by the increasing participation by diverse institutions, participants at all levels of experience, and numbers of individuals engaged in programmatic events.

Consensus Statement 1501-03: The recurring inefficiency of grant management at COL is impeding USSSP science programs and the ability to achieve expedition objectives. These inefficiencies include the timeliness of award administration and approval of no-cost extensions to existing task orders at COL.

Consensus Statement 1501-04: USAC is concerned that the lack of publication of expedition science prospectuses prior to the call for applications to sail is limiting the transparency of expedition objectives, goals, and staffing needs. USAC recognizes that this is beyond the purview of USSSP and encourages the implementing organizations to publish prospectuses by the call for applications to sail.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item 1501-01: USAC recommends that USSSP immediately reconcile with COL the timeliness of grants administration as expressed in Consensus Statement 1501-03.