

**U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling  
February 10-12, 2010; Austin, TX  
Final Meeting Report**

**MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

**USAC Members**

Gary Acton	University of California, Davis
Beth Christensen	Adelphi University
Kathy Ellins	University of Texas at Austin
Anthony Koppers	Oregon State University
Jon Lewis	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Mitch Lyle	Texas A&M University
Tim McHargue	Stanford University
Craig Moyer	Western Washington University
Stephen Pekar*	Queens College
Liz Screaton (Chair)	University of Florida
Susanne Straub	Columbia University
Lori Summa	ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company

**Consortium for Ocean Leadership Staff**

Bob Gagosian*	President/CEO
Kristen Ludwig	Communications Manager, Ocean Drilling Programs
Charna Meth	Assistant Director, U.S. Science Support Program
Leslie Peart	Director, Deep Earth Academy
Sarah Saunders	Director, Science Communications
Jeff Schuffert	Director, U.S. Science Support Program

**Guests**

Marc Airhart	University of Texas at Austin
Brad Clement	U.S Implementing Organization
Steve D'Hondt	University of Rhode Island
Gabriel Filippelli*	SPC vice-chair; Indiana University-Purdue University
Andy Fisher*	University of California, Santa Cruz
Craig Fulthorpe	University of Texas at Austin
Ian Ridley	National Science Foundation

\*Participated via telephone or video

## USAC BUSINESS

1. USAC unanimously approved the report from the July 2009 USAC meeting.
2. USAC unanimously approved the agenda for the February 2010 USAC meeting.
3. USAC unanimously approved the proposed program plan for USSSP Year 7.
4. The summer 2010 USAC meeting was scheduled to take place in Washington, DC either July 6-8, 2010 or July 13-15, 2010. Scheduling is dependent on the availability of NSF representatives.
5. The next conference calls were scheduled for 2pm EST on March 18, 2010 and May 20, 2010.
6. Discussed action items from the July 2009 USAC Meeting.

Action Item 0907-1: Further investigate education initiatives regarding IODP-related short courses. (Meth)

*Complete. IODP Primer: An Introduction to Ocean Drilling Programs was held on December 13, 2009 in San Francisco, California.*

Action Item 0907-2: Continue to develop thematic working group suggestions on climatetectonic interactions in the Eocene and climate sensitivity. (Meth)

*In progress. Updates for thematic working groups were presented by Steve Pekar and Mitch Lyle at the meeting.*

Action Item 0907-3: Develop a poster featuring climate change based on concepts presented by Stephen Pekar and relate to upcoming IODP expeditions. (Peart)

*Delayed.*

Action Item 0907-4: Promote the interaction of graduates from School of Rock with UNOLS programs. (Peart)

*In progress.*

Action Item 0907-5: Develop evaluation/assessment of USSSP support procedures for sailing scientists. (Powell)

*In progress. Currently reevaluating how information is presented to interested applicants and selected science party members on the Ocean Leadership website. Powell will develop a FAQ section on the website to address common questions and concerns for expedition participants and also create expedition-specific pages where selected scientists can get up to date information about support for their expedition.*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

The following ten presentations were given at the February 2010 USAC Meeting, and resulting recommendations and action items are summarized below.

- USSSP Report (Schuffert)
- USSSP Program Plan (Schuffert)
- Deep Earth Academy (Peart)
- USIO Report (Clement)
- NSF/IWG+ (Ridley)
- SPC Report (Filippelli)
- Expedition 317 Report (Fulthorpe)
- Challenges in Science Support (Schuffert)
- Communications Plan (Saunders)
- Future Planning (Humphris)

## **USAC DISCUSSIONS**

USAC engaged in several in-depth conversations regarding planning for a new program, engaging new scientists in ocean drilling, and communications planning. The discussions and subsequent recommendations are described below.

### **Thematic Working Groups**

Steve Pekar provided an update on the “Linkages Between Tectonics and Climate Across the Greenhouse to Icehouse Transition (55-33Ma)” working group via a videoconference from the *JOIDES Resolution*. Pekar thanked the committee for their comments on the proposal and suggested that the working group convene in the fall in New York City. Mitch Lyle discussed initial planning for the climate sensitivity working group. He expects the group to include modeling approaches, proxy measurements, and scientific ocean drilling. Lyle investigated the possibility of holding the working group in the summer of 2011 at NCAR.

### **Challenges in Science Support**

USAC discussed several issues pertaining to the types of support offered by USSSP and NSF for U.S. participation on IODP expeditions. Recommendations from this discussion are:

- Co-chiefs: Keep salary at 8 months, but allow for up to \$3000 of that salary to be used for travel. If this change is not allowed by contracting officers, make no change to the current system.
- Graduate students: Make no change to the current system.
- Engineering: Make no change to the current system.
- Shore-based scientists: Make no change to the current system.
- Staff-logging scientists: Make no change to the current system.
- Expedition Objective Research: USAC suggests that NSF program officers ask PIs for an update on sample status prior to the panel review meeting.

## **Post-expedition Awards**

USAC discussed several ways to streamline the post-expedition awards proposal process. With only a maximum of \$15,000 per scientist at stake, the amount of time it takes to review the proposals and issue the awards seems excessive. The committee recommended speaking to NSF about options to improve delivery of funding. In addition, USAC needs specific criteria for reviewing the proposals. USAC members volunteered to serve as reviewers for the post-expedition activity proposals for Expedition 317 Canterbury Basin Sea Level and Expedition 318 Wilkes Land Glacial History.

## **Communications and the Post-2013 Program**

Following the presentation by Susan Humphris, Bob Gagosian spoke about planning for the post-2013 drilling program. He explained that the community will have to demonstrate that the new program will produce transformative science. The former drilling programs can serve as a foundation, but not a crutch. New ideas have to be brought forward. There is a great amount competition for funding and the community needs a strong consensus in order to make the vision of the next program a reality.

USAC discussed ways they could coordinate with and support Humphris. In particular, USAC recommends that USSSP's communication and outreach programs should also focus on institutions that have been long-time supporters of the drilling programs (not just encouraging new institutions to participate). USSSP should remind them of the significance of the research and the importance of the funding. Other ideas:

- Distinguished lecturers should be asked to speak at institutions that have been long-time supports of the programs and to mention the future of the program in their talks.
- Humphris could mobilize recent co-chiefs to deliver exciting new results of drilling program.
- USAC had some concern how education and outreach will be integrated into the new plan. USAC offered its expertise and advise to assist in the writing.
- USAC supported the idea of Humphris writing a blog.
- USAC brainstormed mechanisms (web forum, newsletter, etc.) to gather community input on specific topics related to planning the new program (role of undergrads, U.S. participation in the next program, etc.).

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Workshops, Pre-drilling, and Nominations Subcommittee Report**

1. Keir Becker's (University of Miami) two-year term on SASEC will expire later this year. Given Becker's extensive experience and his ongoing involvement in several important SASEC subcommittee assignments, the USAC subcommittee recommended appointing Becker to a second two-year term.
2. The subcommittee reviewed the workshop proposal "AGU Chapman Conference: Detachments in Oceanic Lithosphere: Deformation, Magmatism, Fluid Flow and Ecosystems" submitted by Juan Pablo Canales (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution). The

subcommittee recommended providing the requested \$22,500 of travel support, including \$15,000 for students and post-docs.

3. The subcommittee also reviewed a second workshop proposal and recommended asking the proponents for a revised proposal based on the external reviews.
4. Brad Clement requested that USAC provide recommendations to the USIO for an external committee to review the database systems on the *JOIDES Resolution*. The subcommittee considered scientists who have sailed on the refurbished ship and those who are serving on SAS (preferentially STP) and compiled a list of more than fifteen potential reviewers.

### **Staffing Subcommittee Report**

1. The subcommittee together with representative U.S co-chief scientists reviewed and prioritized the applications to sail on the Juan de Fuca Hydrogeology, South Pacific Gyre Microbiology, and Louisville Seamount Trail expeditions.

### **Education and Outreach Subcommittee Report**

1. USSSP supports a part-time teacher fellow who handles many critical education functions for the Deep Earth Academy. The subcommittee recommended changing the position from a temporary (e.g., new fellow every year) to a permanent position.
2. The subcommittee recommended creating a new position at Ocean Leadership called Science Education Development and Implementation Director. This position would address undergraduate education and seek and obtain funding for education programs that cut across Ocean Leadership.
3. Deep Earth Academy's materials and activities require review by an external committee of geoscience educators and scientists to evaluate Deep Earth Academy. The subcommittee supported carrying forward funds from last year to accomplish this task.
4. The subcommittee supported the continued assessment and reevaluation of Deep Earth Academy products, such as presentation resources, learning activities, and website.

### **Schlanger Fellowship Review Committee Report**

The review committee met on February 9, 2010, the day before the USAC meeting began, to review the 27 applications submitted for the Schlanger Ocean Drilling Fellowships. Applications from M.S. students did not fair well in the evaluation. The committee discussed remedying this by only allowing Ph.D. students to apply or by reserving one fellowship for M.S. students; after discussing the issue, the committee recommended leaving the process as is. The committee recommended the top five candidates for receiving this year's Schlanger Fellowships and identified three alternate candidates if necessary.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Action Item 1002-1:** Convene the Management Assessment Committee. (Schuffert)

**Action Item 1002-2:** USAC recognizes that it takes time to review and issue post-expedition awards, and that science party members would benefit from receiving the funding as soon as possible after an expedition ends. USAC asks that USSSP discuss options with NSF for issuing \$3,000 of each post-expedition award immediately after the expedition, and holding the remaining \$12,000 until the reviews are complete. (Schuffert)

**Action Item 1002-3:** USAC is concerned about the speed at which Ocean Leadership is issuing subawards for funding, salary support, and other activities. For the past couple of expeditions, USAC would like to know how long it took for awards to be issued (from initiation to payment). (Powell)

**Action Item 1002-4:** USAC approves the current plan for the Eocene Thematic Working Group. Planning for the meeting in the Fall 2010 can begin. (Meth)

**Action Item 1002-5:** Per the recommendation of Susan Humphris, USAC would like to ask the Distinguished Lecturers to discuss the post-2013 program in their lectures. USAC asks USSSP to create slides about this topic for the lecturers. (Meth)

**Action Item 1002-6:** Communications about current expeditions, scientific discovers, and post-2013 planning are becoming increasingly important as the community moves towards the next program. USAC would like Ocean Leadership to develop a newsletter for the U.S. IODP community. (Saunders)

**Action Item 1002-7:** Ocean Leadership should work with Susan Humphris to develop the communication tools she needs to fulfill her role as Scientific Leader. (Saunders)

**Action Item 1002-8:** USAC asks Deep Earth Academy to assess its efforts in undergraduate education and consider areas in which to expand. (Peart)