

**U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling**  
**July 13-15, 2010; Washington, DC**  
**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**

Jennifer Collins	Teacher in Residence, Deep Earth Academy
Sharon Cooper	Assistant Director, Deep Earth Academy
David Divins	Director, U.S. Implementing Organization
Bob Gagosian	President/CEO
Kristen Ludwig	Communications Manager, Ocean Drilling Programs
Charna Meth	Assistant Director, U.S. Science Support Program
Emily Powell	Program Associate, 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**

Rodey Batiza	National Science Foundation
Susan Humphris	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Ian Ridley	National Science Foundation
Deborah Smith	National Science Foundation
Kiyoshi Suyehiro	President, IODP Management International
Greg Horn	Schlanger Fellow, University of Southern California
Heather Ford	Schlanger Fellow, University of California, Santa Cruz
Matthew Knuth	Schlanger Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Francois Paquay	Schlanger Fellow, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Leah Schneider	Schlanger Fellow, Pennsylvania State University
Stella Woodard	Schlanger Fellow, Texas A&M University

\*Participated via video

## USAC BUSINESS

1. USAC unanimously approved the report from the February 2010 USAC meeting.
2. USAC unanimously approved the agenda for the July 2010 USAC meeting.
3. The summer 2010 USAC meeting was scheduled to take place in Portland, Oregon on February 8-10, 2011.
4. The next conference calls were scheduled for 2pm ET on September 15, 2010 and November 17, 2010.
5. During the various report, action items from the February 2010 USAC meeting were discussed.

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

*In progress. Efforts to form committee continue. Four strong candidates have declined invitation to serve as committee chair, though one agreed tentatively to serve as regular member.*

**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)

*Complete.*

**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)

*Complete. USSSP has taken several steps to address this ongoing issue including reorganizing staff duties in January and hiring a new contracts officer in May. As a result, the time to issue post-expedition awards has decreased significantly and further improvement expected in overall process. A graph depicting the decreasing length of time to complete the support process was presented during the USSSP report.*

**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)

*In progress. Meeting will be held in Summer 2011.*

**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)

*Complete. Slides are sent to lecturers each year in August. Slides about themes in new science plan and other available information about new program will be included in this year's set of slides.*

**Action Item 1002-6:** Communications about current expeditions, scientific discoveries, 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)

*In progress. The first issue of the newsletter will be in early Fall 2010.*

**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)

*In progress.*

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

*Complete. Deep Earth Academy is continually working on ways to incorporate more undergraduate activities. The Education and Outreach subcommittee discussed ideas to expand efforts in this capacity.*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

The following ten presentations were given at the February 2010 USAC Meeting:

- US Science Support Program report (Schuffert)
- Deep Earth Academy report (Peart)
- USIO report (Divins)
- IODP-MI report (Suyehiro)
- NSF/IWG+ report (Smith)
- Communications activities (Saunders)
- Leadership Team activities (Humphris)

## **SCHLANGER FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

The following 2010-2011 Schlanger fellows presented the initial results of their research:

- Greg Horn, *Encouraging Life in the Slow Lane: Development of Solid-Substrate Continuous Culture Techniques for the Enrichment of Deep-Biosphere Organisms*
- Heather Ford, *Investigating ENSO Variability Over the Past 5 Million Years*
- Matthew Knuth, *Dynamic Velocity Under Stress During Shear: A New Technique Using P and S-Waves to Study the Frictional Mechanics of the Upper Nankai Trough Accretionary Prism*
- Francois Paquay, *Marine Osmium and Molybdenum Isotopes as Proxies for the Late Paleocene-Early Eocene Arctic Ventilation and Paleo-Redox Changes*

- Leah Schneider, *The Influence of Nannoplankton and the Oceanic Biological Pump on Eocene Climate Change*
- Stella Woodard, Texas A&M University  
*Early Paleogene Eolian Dust in the Pacific Ocean: Is There a Connection Between Dust Flux and Orbitally Paced Lithologic Cycles?*

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. The subcommittee recommended nominations for the IODP Science Advisory Structure (SAS). The nominees will begin serving their three-year terms on 1 October 2010. After deliberation with the entire committee, USAC approved the nominations.
2. The subcommittee recommended nominations for the US Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC). The nominees will begin serving their three-year terms on 1 October 2010. After deliberation with the entire committee, USAC approved the nominations.
3. The subcommittee recommended nominations for the 2011-2012 Distinguished Lecturers.
4. The subcommittee reviewed workshop proposals and provided funding recommendations to USSSP. Proposal topics included:
  - Engaging early career scientists in the future of ocean drilling;
  - Microbial exploration of the deep sedimentary biosphere; and
  - Developing new techniques and core locations to constrain the history of the Greenland Ice Sheet.
5. The subcommittee also reviewed and provided funding recommendations for a pre-drilling proposal titled, "Testing of the Goettingen Borehole Magnetometer (GBM) in the Test Wells of Schlumberger (August 2010) ahead of IODP Expedition 330 to the Louisville Seamount Trail."

### **Staffing Subcommittee Report**

1. The subcommittee together with representative U.S co-chief scientists and lead proponents reviewed and prioritized the applications to sail on the Costa Rica Seismogenesis Project (CRISP), Superfast Spreading Rate Crust 4, and Mid-Atlantic Ridge Microbiology expeditions.

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

1. The subcommittee reviewed Deep Earth Academy print materials, websites (for Deep Earth Academy and the *JOIDES Resolution*), and the portal interactive teaching set and provided feedback on the content.

2. USSSP supports a part-time teacher fellow who handles many critical education functions for the Deep Earth Academy. The subcommittee recommended that the position be supported as a full-time, rather than part-time, employee.
3. Texas A&M, UT Austin and AGU are convening a workshop on broadening diversity in the geosciences in Texas called "DIG Texas". The subcommittee requests that Ocean Leadership investigate the possibility of sending a diversity representative to participate in this event. Although the focus is on Texas, the organizers expect that the workshop outcomes will have broader application.
4. The subcommittee recognizes that Deep Earth Academy is challenged with a heavy workload and limited staff. The subcommittee recommended that Deep Earth Academy explore funding opportunities for a post-doctoral fellow to assist with the evaluation and update of education materials.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Action Item 1007-1:** Convene the Management Assessment Committee. (Schuffert)

**Action Item 1007-2:** USAC is unclear of the expectations for education activities associated with IODP. USAC requests that Deep Earth Academy organize a formal review of education activities and determine a clear charge for the program. (Peart)

**Action Item 1007-3:** USAC suggests exploring the promotion of IODP at the meeting of the Society for Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos & Native Americans in Science. (Powell)

## **CONSENSUS STATEMENTS**

**Consensus 1007-1:** We commend Ocean Leadership and USSSP for being responsive to the prior USAC action items, particularly in reducing the time it was taking USSSP to distribute the post-expedition awards (PEA), in providing the initial \$3,000 of PEA funds rapidly, and for the well-prepared and informative presentations.

**Consensus 1007-2:** USAC expresses great concern about the lack of information available for scientists applying to sail as well as the committee members conducting staffing of expeditions. Having the scientific prospectus, or at minimum a short (two-page) summary and a list of needed specialties, available prior to conducting a staffing exercise would make the process much more efficient and lead to more effective recruitment of participants. The lack of information complicates the evaluation of applicants by the USAC staffing subcommittee. In addition, limited information may discourage participation by those unfamiliar with the science.

**Consensus 1007-3:** USAC thanks Susan Humphris for updating the group on the progress of the renewal leadership committee. One area where we suggest focused effort is building links with related programs such as continental drilling, OOI, Earthscope, and GeoPrisms (formerly known as MARGINS).

**Consensus 1007-4:** USAC recognizes the important role of the Science Steering and Evaluation Panel in serving as an entry point for early career scientists to engage in the IODP process. We hope that this role is retained in the reorganization of the advisory structure. We are concerned that combination of science evaluation and ranking, particularly in light of the stringent conflict of interest requirements currently in place for proposal ranking, may reduce participation by younger scientists.