

**U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling  
June 25 – 27, 2012; Washington, D.C.**

**Meeting Report**

**MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

**USAC Members**

Gary Acton	University of California, Davis
Ivano Aiello	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Gail Christeson	University of Texas at Austin
Gerald Dickens	Rice University
John Jaeger	University of Florida
Jon Lewis	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Anthony Koppers (chair)	Oregon State University
Heath Mills	Texas A&M University
J. Casey Moore	University of California, Santa Cruz
Craig Moyer	Western Washington University
Yair Rosenthal	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Anja Schleicher	University of Michigan

**Consortium for Ocean Leadership Staff**

David Divins	Vice President & Director, Ocean Drilling Programs
Julie Farver	Manager, Meetings & Travel
Robert Gagorian	President & CEO, Ocean Leadership
Charna Meth	Assistant Director, U.S. Science Support Program
Leslie Peart	Director, Deep Earth Academy
Emily Powell	Program Specialist, U.S. Science Support Program
Jeff Schuffert	Director, U.S. Science Support Program
Matt Wright	Communications Manager

**Guests**

Tom Janecek	National Science Foundation
Susan Humphris	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Huapei Wang	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Amanda Oehlert	University of Miami
Fabian Batista	University of California, Santa Cruz
Tali Babila	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

## USAC BUSINESS

1. USAC unanimously approved the report from the January 2012 USAC meeting.
2. USAC unanimously approved the agenda for the June 2012 USAC meeting.
3. The winter USAC meeting was tentatively scheduled to take place in Gainesville, FL on January 28-30, 2013. Conference calls will be scheduled for September and November 2012.
4. Status of incomplete action items from the January 2012 USAC meeting:

**Action Item 1201-5:** USSSP will explore the development of a internal database to increase efficiency of managing relations with the scientific community.

*Efforts were halted over the summer in the database development due to an abundance of expedition-related activities. USSSP will resume this project in the fall.*

## PRESENTATIONS

The following eight presentations were given at the June 2012 USAC Meeting:

- US Science Support Program report (Schuffert)
- Deep Earth Academy report (Peart)
- US Implementing Organization (Schuffert)
- National Science Foundation report (Janecek)
- Building US strategies workshop follow-up (Koppers)
- New program messaging (Wright)

## SCHLANGER PRESENTATIONS

The 2011-2012 Schlanger fellows presented the initial results of their research:

- Tali Babila (Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey)  
*Evaluating the environmental changes during the Paleocene-Eocene thermal maximum*
- Fabian Batista (University of California, Santa Cruz)  
*Western Pacific Nitrogen Dynamics: from the warm Pliocene to Pleistocene ice ages*
- Amanda Oelhart (University of Miami)  
*Decoupling of Organic and Inorganic  $\delta^{13}C$  Records in Periplatform Sediments: A global phenomenon*
- Huapei Wang (Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey)  
*Paleomagnetic Inclination Flattening Correction for Ocean Drilling Cores ODP Site 1179, Site 884*

## SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. The subcommittee reviewed two workshop proposals and provided funding recommendations to USSSP. Proposal topics included: (1) Cretaceous ocean dynamics and

- (2) scientific ocean drilling in the southwest Pacific Ocean.
2. The subcommittee reviewed and provided funding recommendations for a proposal requesting support for U.S. scientists to attend a pre-drilling workshop focused on the genesis of continental crust in volcanic arcs.
  3. The subcommittee recommended nominations for the IODP Science Advisory Structure (SAS). The nominees will begin serving their three-year terms on October 1, 2012. After deliberation with the entire committee, USAC approved the nominations.
  4. The subcommittee recommended nominations for USAC. The nominees will begin serving their three-year terms on October 1, 2012. After deliberation with the entire committee, USAC approved the nominations.
  5. The subcommittee recommended nominations for the 2013-2014 Distinguished Lecturers. After deliberation with the entire committee, USAC approved the nominations.

### **Staffing Subcommittee Report**

1. Since the January 2012 USAC meeting, the subcommittee has conducted staffing exercises for the following expeditions:
  - Expedition 337, Shimokita Coalbed Biosphere
  - Expedition 344, Costa Rica Seismogenesis Project II
2. The subcommittee reviewed and prioritized the applications to sail on the following expeditions during this meeting:
  - Expedition 347, Baltic Sea Paleoenvironment
  - Expedition 338, NanTroSEIZE Plate Boundary Deep Riser II

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

1. The subcommittee explored the potential for communications training workshops targeted for the scientific ocean drilling community. Following discussions, the subcommittee recommended that USSSP organize a communications activity during the AGU Fall Meeting. The subcommittee suggested a combination of hands-on and lecture-based learning focusing on the four science themes. Suggested goals include communicating science to a broad audience, improving broader impacts, highlighting the advantages and drawbacks of social media.
2. The subcommittee reviewed selected Deep Earth Academy activities and expedition-related programming and made suggestions for methods to engage USAC in educational activities. Suggestions included developing K-12 teaching modules with the assistance of School of Rock alumni and USAC members during USAC meetings.
3. The subcommittee discussed ideas for developing a “mini-JR” experience for middle- and high-school students using a UNOLS vessel for a day. Students could collect and describe cores while learning about life at sea.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Action Item 1206-01:** Increasing the number of high-quality drilling proposals for the new IODP 2013-2023 program is critical. USAC recommends amending the workshop advertisement to state that workshop proposals may include a wide range of participation, from small, focused groups to larger gatherings. (Meth)

**Action Item 1206-02:** USAC recommends that Deep Earth Academy pursue a "mini-JR" program using UNOLS facilities, which may serve as a pilot for future projects. (Peart)

**Action Item 1206-03:** USAC recommends that Deep Earth Academy invite a School-of-Rock alum to one USAC meeting each year to work with education and outreach members and develop kits and materials. (Collins)

**Action Item 1206-04:** USAC recommends that Deep Earth Academy increase the communication among staff and education and outreach subcommittee members between meetings, including adding subcommittee members to the Deep Earth Academy and JR listservs. (Peart)

## **CONSENSUS STATEMENTS**

**Consensus Statement 1206-01:** USAC compliments the USSSP staff for their continued support. The productive work of the committee results from the staff's efficiency in processing the flow of applications, nominations and proposals, as well as organizing surveys and meetings, assisting with travel, and providing training in effective science communication. The committee appreciates that USSSP staff not only handle routine business, but also offer constructive advice and perspectives at a highly professional level.

**Consensus Statement 1206-2:** USAC strongly supports changes in the proposal review process by the Site Characterization Panel. USAC embraces the concept of "good enough" for individual site characterizations in order to make efficient use of existing and future site characterization data. USAC also suggests that efforts should be made to provide a single inventory of all legacy seismic lines online.

**Consensus Statement 1206-3:** USAC recognizes the need for a shore-based laboratory near the U.S. core repository for the scientific study of cores. The committee supports the findings described in the white paper "IODP-USAC Laboratory Initiative: Improving U.S. Laboratory Facilities for the Study of Ocean Drill Cores" and proposes that the suggestions in this document be used during the next decade of IODP.

**Consensus Statement 1206-4:** While USAC appreciates the cost savings and efficiency of the new arrangement of the Science Advisory Structure, the committee is concerned that the dramatic reduction in size of the SAS over the years also decreases the scientific input, direction, and management of the program.

**Consensus Statement 1206-5:** USAC supports the *Scientific Drilling* journal as an important vehicle for scientific collaboration, technical information sharing, and potential partnerships with ICDP and industry.