

**U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling
February 8-10, 2011; Portland, Oregon
Meeting Report**

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

USAC Members

Gary Acton	University of California, Davis
Beth Christensen	Adelphi University
Jon Lewis	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Mitch Lyle	Texas A&M University
Heath Mills	Texas A&M University
J. Casey Moore	University of California, Santa Cruz
Craig Moyer	Western Washington University
Stephen Pekar	Queens College
Liz Screaton (chair)	University of Florida
Susanne Straub	Columbia University

Consortium for Ocean Leadership Staff

Julie Farver	Manager, Meetings & Travel
Kristin Ludwig	Communications Manager
Charna Meth	Assistant Director, U.S. Science Support Program
Leslie Peart	Director, Deep Earth Academy
Emily Powell	Specialist, U.S. Science Support Program
Sarah Saunders	Director of Science Communications
Jeff Schuffert	Director, U.S. Science Support Program

Guests

Susan Humphris	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Ian Ridley	National Science Foundation

USAC BUSINESS

1. USAC unanimously approved the report from the July 2010 USAC meeting.
2. USAC unanimously approved the agenda for the February 2011 USAC meeting.
3. The summer 2011 USAC meeting was scheduled to take place in Washington, DC on July 19-21, 2011.
4. The next conference calls were scheduled for 3:30pm EDT on April 12, 2011 and June 1, 2011.
5. During the various report, action items from the July 2010 USAC meeting were discussed.

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

In progress. The committee chair and one member have been confirmed, with one additional member needed. A meeting of the MAC and a report are expected by the July 2011 USAC meeting.

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)

Complete. A formal review of Deep Earth Academy will take place on March 21-23, 2011 in Washington, DC. A report from the review will be available for USAC at the July 2011 USAC meeting.

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)

In progress. USSSP and USIO will jointly support an exhibit booth at the SACNAS National Meeting in San Jose, CA on October 27-30, 2011.

PRESENTATIONS

The following ten presentations were given at the February 2011 USAC Meeting:

- US Science Support Program report (Schuffert)
- US Implementing Organization report (Schuffert)
- National Science Foundation report (Ridley)
- Activities of the Program Leadership Team (Humphris)
- Science presentation – NanTroSEIZE (Screaton)
- Science presentation – Deep Hot Biosphere (Moyer)
- Science Advisory Structure transition report (Schuffert)
- Community engagement (Schuffert)

- Deep Earth Academy report (Peart)
- Communications activities (Saunders)

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Workshops, Pre-drilling, and Nominations Subcommittee Report

1. The subcommittee reviewed and provided funding recommendations for proposal to hold a workshop on using ocean drilling to research slow slip events:
2. The subcommittee also reviewed and provided funding recommendations for a pre-drilling proposal titled, "Stratigraphy of two reference sediment cores from the Northern Bay of Bengal: Potential IODP drill sites."

Staffing Subcommittee Report

1. Since the July 2010 USAC meeting, the subcommittee has conducted staffing exercises for two NantroseIZE expeditions, a second call for the CRISP expedition, and the Shimokita Coalbed Biosphere expedition.
2. The subcommittee reviewed and prioritized the applications to sail on the Mediterranean Outflow expedition during this meeting.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee Report

1. The subcommittee along with Susan Humphris focused discussions on engaging the scientific community in program renewal efforts and educating policymakers and the general public about the importance of scientific ocean drilling and the science associated with the program.
2. The subcommittee suggested that Humphris explore the possibility of an Op-ed article in a high profile newspaper (e.g., Washington Post, New York Times). In addition, the subcommittee presented several ideas to increase the visibility of the program to the public, including spotlighting a scientist on NOVA scienceNOW and connecting IODP to Dot Earth blog.
3. The subcommittee recognized that there are many misconceptions about scientific ocean drilling. They suggested identifying common misconceptions or questions about the program, developing answers, and highlighting these on the website to help scientists communicate more effectively about the program, particularly when talking with funding agencies or policymakers.

Schlanger Fellowship Review Committee Report

The review committee met on February 7, 2011, the day before the USAC meeting began, to review the 26 applications submitted for the Schlanger Ocean Drilling Fellowships. After careful deliberation, the committee recommended the top five candidates for receiving the 2011-2012 fellowships and identified three alternate candidates if necessary.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item 1102-1: Compile select abstracts and peer-reviewed articles related to IODP education activities. (Peart)

Action Item 1102-2: USAC recognizes that the naming project for the new program generated a great number of ideas and messages about scientific ocean drilling. Develop a document highlighting these messages and potential use. (Saunders)

Action Item 1102-3: Investigate the possibility for using the JR during the tie-up period for education activities. (Peart).

Action Item 1102-4: Conduct an experimental webinar with expedition co-chiefs to increase the amount of information available to prospective applicants. (Ludwig)

Action Item 1102-5: As NSF considers a new scientific ocean drilling program, discuss the possibility of adjusting the post-expedition activity awards with inflation. (Schuffert)

CONSENSUS STATEMENTS

Consensus Statement 1102-1:

USAC would like to thank Jeff Schuffert for his continued leadership at USSSP. We recognize the many challenges he has faced during the renewal period, and are pleased that he has risen to the occasion. We encourage him to continue to improve the face of ocean drilling to the public through applying the expertise at USSSP (e.g., Sarah Saunders and Kris Ludwig) to market the program to both the public and the drilling community. This effort should be in concert with the initiatives lead by Susan Humphries and her team. We also commend the staff at USSSP for leading efforts in highlighting the program, including Charna Meth (AAAS initiatives), Kris Ludwig (US community newsletter), Sarah Saunders (website and naming initiative), Emily Powell and Julie Farver (continued logistical support), and Leslie Peart and Jen Collins (education initiatives).

Consensus Statement 1102-2:

The amount of funding available (i.e., \$15,000) for each US science party member to apply for a post-expedition activity (PEA) award is insufficient to accomplish the high-level research that is required to fulfill a publication obligation. Although about a third of the US scientists may be successful in getting Expedition Objective Research (EOR) funding, this leaves the other two thirds to complete their research on about \$10,000 after deducting overhead. We think the funding is so low that it is discouraging expedition participation and limiting the science that can be accomplished and hands-on training of students. The funding should at least be adjusted for inflation. Further options include increasing the funding by at least 33% (to \$20,000 and preferably to \$30,000) or including a fellowship/stipend for students to be involved in post-expedition research. In addition, if PEA funding were included with the salary task order for sailing, many institutions would apply off-campus indirect rates, increasing the funding available for science.