

**Meeting Report of the  
U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC)**

**20-22 February 2018**

**Western Washington University**

**U.S. Advisory Committee for  
Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC) Meeting  
February 20-22, 2018  
Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA**

Meeting Roster

Committee Members

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Jim Wright (Chair)	Rutgers University
Beth Christensen	Adelphi University
Susan DeBari	Western Washington University
Eric Ferré	Southern Illinois University
Jessica Labonté	Texas A&M University, Galveston
David Mallinson	East Carolina University
Natascha Riedinger	Oklahoma State University
Will Sager	University of Houston
Amelia Shevenell*	University of South Florida
Marta Torres	Oregon State University

Liaisons, Observers & Guests

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Carl Brenner	USSSP – LDEO
Sharon Cooper	USSSP – LDEO
Tom Janecek	National Science Foundation
Anthony Koppers	JRFB Chair – Oregon State University
Nicole Kurtz	USSSP – LDEO
Melissa Rice	NASA, Western Washington University
Angela Slagle	USSSP – LDEO
James Spencer	USSSP – LDEO
Brad Clement (remote)	JRSO
Kenneth Miller (remote)	SEP co-chair – Rutgers

\*Regrets

**Action Items and Consensus Statements: USAC Winter Meeting, 2018  
Western Washington University**

**Consensus Statement 1802-01:** USAC thanks Susan DeBari and the SMATE office at Western Washington University for hosting the winter meeting and providing rooms and resources that contributed to a successful outcome.

**Consensus Statement 1802-02:** USAC recognizes the work of former USAC chairs, Beth Christensen and John Jaeger, in organizing and running the *JOIDES Resolution* Assessment Workshop in September of 2017. The resulting workshop report will greatly help NSF as it seeks approval from the National Science Board for renewal of the JR Facility.

**Consensus Statement 1802-03:** USAC thanks USSSP leadership for their efforts to invest savings from reduced institutional costs into expanded scientific activities, notably the increase of PEA awards from \$15,000 to \$18,000. USAC also recognizes and thanks USSSP for streamlining the PEA review process.

**Consensus Statement 1802-04:** USAC thanks Sharon Cooper and Nicole Kurtz for assembling, distributing, and distilling the results of the E/O Survey. This information will be important in guiding E/O recommendations going forward.

**Consensus Statement 1802-05:** USAC recommends that guidance be added to the Schlanger Fellowship application noting that preference will be given to Ph.D. students early in their career.

**Consensus Statement 1802-06:** USAC recommends continuation of the policy that external reviewers of Schlanger Fellowship applications participate in the larger discussion and ranking session that precedes the winter USAC meeting.

**Consensus Statement 1802-07:** USAC strongly advocates inclusion of local IODP scientists during visits of the pop-up drill down exhibits to their communities. This will add local faces to the outreach program, and further encourage scientists to serve as IODP ambassadors.

**Consensus Statement 1802-08:** USAC notes the trend toward earlier involvement of co-chiefs in expedition outreach strategy and recommends continued efforts by USSSP in this direction.

**Consensus Statement 1802-09:** USAC recognizes the vital importance of marine seismic data acquisition to the ocean drilling program. We support the consensus statements from the IODP Forum and Science Evaluation Panel that link the success of ocean drilling to the acquisition of high quality seismic data. USAC expresses similar concern that funding of MCS cruises in support of IODP is diminishing at NSF.

**Consensus Statement 1802-10:** USAC encourages all USAC members to promote future IODP expeditions with sister geosocieties.

**Consensus Statement 1802-11:** USAC recognizes the importance of determining the factors that contribute to a successful workshop, and encourages USSSP to elicit comments from workshop PIs in their formal reports regarding practices that led to successful (or unsuccessful) outcomes.

**Consensus Statement 1802-12:** USAC recommends that a valuable product of the Onboard Outreach Officers would be a short (~5 slides) PowerPoint presentation that captures the expedition goals and outcomes in non-specialist-friendly language.

**Consensus Statement 1802-13:** USAC requests that Onboard Outreach Officer staffing outcomes be communicated to the E&O subcommittee once invitations are issued.

**Consensus Statement 1802-14:** USAC suggests that IODP's education and outreach objectives would be best supported if [iodp.org](http://iodp.org) has an obvious link to the outreach and education web pages/documents for each of the member organizations. The link for the US could be the outreach and education mission statement, and the [joidesresolution.org](http://joidesresolution.org) educational website.

**Consensus Statement 1802-15:** USAC suggests to the JRSO that all member countries E&O objectives would be better supported by having the JRSO expedition website include links to the E&O outcomes/products for each expedition.

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**Action Item 1802-01:** USAC should investigate the feasibility and requirements to create an "Outstanding Service to Ocean Drilling" Award.

**Action Item 1802-02:** USAC encourages revision of the USSSP outreach white paper to include an updated over-arching vision for outreach and education, including assessment mechanisms. Collaboration with the E&O Subcommittee is encouraged. This should be made available to USAC three weeks prior to the 2018 summer meeting.

**Action Item 18-03:** USAC recommends that additional guidance be added to the workshop instructions to encourage proposals to synergize the potential drilling themes in advance of the JR entering a region. These proposals should establish potential linkages and topics among proponents of different proposals that dovetail with JRFB's regional approach to drilling. Likewise, USAC encourages post-expedition workshop proposals be solicited that will lead to regional and thematic syntheses.

**Action Item 1802-04:** USAC recognizes the historic significance of 50 years of scientific ocean drilling, and encourages the leaders of the US ocean drilling community to submit a Union session proposal for this year's AGU Fall meeting.

**Action Item 1802-05:** USAC requests that NSF MG&G provide their vision and commitment to MCS surveys at the Summer 2018 USAC meeting.

**Action Item 1802-06:** USAC encourages USSSP to modify the Onboard Outreach Program application process to include a question about how the applicant will advance the goals of the IODP outreach program via their shipboard participation and products.

**Action Item 1802-07:** USAC suggests that USSSP create a space on the [joidesresolution.org](http://joidesresolution.org) site that houses the outreach and education resources considered to be most useful to visitors.