

PAGES SSC MEETING
18-19 June 2003—Banff, Canada
MINUTES

ATTENDING: Keith Alverson (IPO), Rick Battarbee (SSC), José Boninsegna (SSC), Julie Brigham-Grette (Vice-Chair), Bill Curry (IMAGES), John Dearing (Focus 5), Christoph Kull (IPO), Vera Markgraf (Chair), Daniel Olago (SSC), Matti Saarnisto (SSC), Geoff Seltzer (PANASH representative), Ashok Singhvi (SSC), Frank Sirocko (SSC), Olga Solomina (SSC), Thomas Stocker (SSC), Ryujji Tada (SSC), Pinxian Wang (SSC), João Morais (IGBP)

ABSENT: Carole Crumley (SSC)

0. WELCOME

Markgraf welcomed SSC members. Brigham-Grette will start as Chair immediately following this meeting. Her first official function will be the EXCOM meeting planned for San Francisco in December 2003. Foci Leaders are invited to this meeting as guests. The plan is to subsequently nominate them to IGBP as future SSC members so that each PAGES Focus has direct representation on the SSC.

1. MISCELLANEOUS

Thomas Stocker and Pinxian Wang will only attend the meeting on 19 June.

Approval of Past SSC and EXCOM Minutes

Moscow SSC meeting, May 2002

Action: Proofread the Minutes carefully before putting them on the web (Markgraf).

Action: Mention the HOLIVAR issue Newsletter in the Minutes (Saarnisto).

Office note: At the SSC meeting in Moscow in 2002, it was decided to produce a special issue of the Newsletter together with HOLIVAR. This issue is now in the final editing stages as a double issue with an anticipated publication date of September 2003.

Decision: Minutes are accepted.

San Francisco EXCOM Meeting, Dec 2002

Alverson provided a short summary.

Decision: SSC accepts EXCOM's suggestion to change the rules for approving workshop funding. The process should start with IPO recommendation, which is then submitted to EXCOM for decision. SSC then receives a summary of EXCOM's decision but will only discuss this in detail in the event that one or more members wish to challenge any part of the decision.

Decision: In order to facilitate the new funding plan, EXCOM meetings will always be scheduled at the beginning of each SSC meeting to allow SSC to be informed of, comment on, and potentially over-rule, EXCOM decisions.

EXCOM meeting will be held on 19 June over lunch, with SSC to be informed of decisions directly thereafter.

Welcome to Guests

SSC guests were welcomed. The question of their status and role at the meeting was discussed. Alverson clarified that they were officially guests this year but that the SSC hoped they would participate fully in all aspects of the meeting as if they were members. Although SSC does not have the

power to officially designate membership, their intention is to nominate Foci Leaders, or their representatives, to join SSC in 2004. The final decision on membership rests with the IGBP Officers.

Office Staff

Alverson reported that PAGES personnel costs were at present at their lowest. Isabelle Larocque has left for a faculty/research position in Quebec. She has been replaced by Leah Christen (60%, science communication). The office currently runs with 3 full-time equivalent positions (Alverson 100%, Kull 80%, Ghoneim 40%, Christen 60%, Grathwohl 20%).

Statement: Office works well.

Olago: SSC should thank Larocque for her work.

Action: Alverson to write a card from Banff on behalf of the SSC.

PAGES Office: General Information

Alverson reminded the SSC that the PAGES-IPO must move offices no later than the end of 2003. He expressed the opinion that PAGES suffers from not having a 'real' host in Bern. Alverson felt that PAGES would benefit if the IPO were hosted within an important university or research institution rather than just renting office space but that this does not appear possible in Bern.

Decision: The IPO should continue to rent office space in Bern at least until the end of the current US NSF grant. A subsequent decision should be made in consultation with current and potential funding agencies.

Action: The IPO should investigate the possibility of obtaining office support from the EU. The Framework Program or the ESF would be possibilities to explore.

The Visiting Scientist Program

Alverson reported that the IPO followed up on the SSC decision at the Moscow meeting in 2002 to rent an apartment but that it has not been very successful. Guest scientists have been lined up but have then canceled. He suggested a better solution would be to give up the apartment and instead provide better office space for visiting scientists, who currently have to share his office. The visiting scientist program is a great benefit to the office and PAGES should continue to solicit sabbatical and other visits but without a dedicated guest apartment.

Decisions: Give up the PAGES apartment.

Continue flexible PAGES support for IPO visitors.

Ensure that the new office has adequate space for visiting scientists.

Enquire about the possibility of using University of Bern guest scientist facilities.

2. FINANCES

Alverson reported that PAGES was running a substantial debt and was not in good financial shape.

General Remarks

Alverson listed the following possible solutions:

- Give up the PAGES apartment
- Reduce workshop funding
- Increase OSM fees
- Find cheaper office space
- Reduce personnel costs

Decisions: Give up the PAGES apartment

Reduce workshop funding slightly.

Increase OSM fees in order to make a profit from the meeting.

Investigate printing the newsletter in India.

**Keep office space costs at the current level or lower.
Do not make further reductions in personnel costs.
Ask for a US NSF supplement to help cover the OSM.**

Budget 2003

Decision: 2003 budget is approved.

In order to improve the financial situation, it was decided to take the following additional actions:

Action: Investigate printing the newsletter in India.

Reduce the mailing list by asking newsletter recipients if they would prefer to receive a pdf file only.

3. PAGES PRODUCTS

Website

A discussion about Foci websites ended with the following decisions:

Decision: The IPO will provide basic information and a link to Foci level websites but will not maintain the sites.

Decision: Web activities should be maintained and enhanced, also just with basic information.

PAGES Product Database

Decision: Proceed together with the product database web project.

Newsletters

Kull listed the following tentative future issues:

2003 HOLIVAR

2004 Open, Polar Programs (ask Dominique Raynaud), Tephra

2005 Euro Limpacs

Statement: Open and planned newsletter issues are a good idea.

4. WORKSHOPS—SSC-INFORMATION: DECISION ABOUT FUNDING BY EXCOM

Pending Workshop Proposals

The following EXCOM decisions were approved by the SSC:

- Holivar meeting (Battarbee)—\$10,000 in principle, if the meeting is delayed until 2006 so as not to conflict with the OSM in 2005, and if the funding situation permits such an expense in the 2006 budget. Only for developing country participation.
- IMAGES SSC (Holbourn) & IMAGES Holocene (Jansen)—\$5,000 total. Fund the meeting that the IMAGES office says has higher priority. Only developing country scientists.
- Tropical Savannahs (Metcalf)—\$5,000. Only developing country scientists.
- Maritania (Leroy)—No.
- Limpacs and Hite brochures—Continue to rollover offer of support. Suggest that they produce a single Focus 5 brochure instead. EXCOM noted that these things have been planned for several years but no obvious progress has been made.
- Indian Monsoon (Shankar)—Only an email was available with little information. The IPO should encourage him to submit a proposal according to the guidelines on the PAGES website to the next EXCOM meeting in December 2003.

- Travel support (Crumley)—EXCOM approved of the idea of reaching out to the groups suggested but did not allocate PAGES travel support.

5. FOCI REPORTS

PANASH

Seltzer provided an overview of PANASH. He suggested a move away from the “classic” PEP transects and stated that more system analysis (past-recent) was required. The proposal for a 2004 conference on tropical-extratropical teleconnections in New Zealand (depending on OSM timing) was submitted. He raised the question of the future direction of PANASH and asked whether another synthesis meeting was needed.

Decision: **Involve Bradley in a discussion and produce a concrete plan on how to proceed with PANASH.**

PAGES/CLIVAR

Stocker provided an overview of PAGES/CLIVAR. He reported that Overpeck and Duplessy had stepped down and that CLIVAR had nominated Andrew Weaver as their candidate. The decision is to be taken by the PAGES SSC. EXCOM nominated Eystein Jansen as their candidate.

Decision: **Eystein Jansen and Andrew Weaver are approved as co-leaders.**

New topics for PAGES/CLIVAR

PAGES/CLIVAR should prepare for the next IPCC report considering the last 1000 years, regionalization, and the inclusion of other archives in reconstructions.

Decision: **Suggest PAGES/CLIVAR facilitate production of a community-based compilation of regional temperature and hydrological variability over the past 1-2 millennia, designed as input to the next IPCC.**

Decision: **Engage in the Vostok challenge activity being lead by GAIM.**

Decision: **Place priority on high resolution (annual) records covering past warm periods.**

IMAGES

Curry provided an overview of IMAGES and its working groups.

Polar Programs

Saarnisto provided an overview of Polar Programs. He reported that ANTIME has finished as a PAGES program and that the EPICA community should be involved. He raised the question of whether an Arctic lake studies program was needed. He stressed that Polar Programs needs to be proactive and suggested a Polar Programs newsletter and meetings.

Decision: **Involve the ice core community better in PAGES.**

Past Ecosystem Processes and Human-Environment Interactions

Dearing provided an overview of Focus 5. He reported that in LUCIFS Richard Dickau would take over from Bob Wasson. He suggested organizing sessions at international conferences to enhance visibility. He stressed that enhancing visibility is a priority since Focus 5 will be a key in IGBP II.

Statement: **Focus 5 is an important area through which PAGES can play an integrating role in IGBP II**

Decision: **Involve PAGES in other core projects under IGBP II through Focus 5.**

6. PAGES AND IGBP II: STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

Brief paragraphs on crosscutting activities within PAGES were written on the following topics:

- Decadal-centennial variability—Circum North Atlantic (Sirocko, Curry)
- Tropical-extratropical linkages (Seltzer)
- The last 1500 years—Variability: A regional approach (Solomina). Include hydrological changes, the southern hemisphere and Africa.
- Past interglacials: A bipolar approach (Brigham-Grette).
- Mode patterns and regional variability (millennium scale)—DO-Events—Monsoon (Tada)
- Crosscutting Focus 5 (Dearing and Battarbee)

Decision: Use these ideas to push the next proposal for continued office funding.

Decision: Ideas are needed for how PAGES can serve as an ‘integrating project’ within IGBP II.

Action: Send new ideas to the IPO. The IPO will send the list of texts on crosscutting activities to the SSC in the fall for comments.

Action: Brigham-Grette will talk to the PANASH leader in order to promote some PEP activity or to decide how to proceed with PANASH.

7. MEETINGS

OSM 2004

Wang reported that the SARS situation had improved and appeared to be under control or in decline (SARS is still an issue in Beijing, but not in Shanghai). He suggested two alternatives: moving to another city or postponing the OSM. His proposal was to postpone the meeting but still hold it in China, preferably in Beijing. He emphasized the importance of the meeting for the Asian science community and guaranteed Chinese support.

Decision: The OSM will be held in Beijing in September/October 2005. There is no backup plan at present.

8. REGIONAL NODES/NATIONAL CONTACTS—STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

PAGES needs better national contacts. The SSC must be proactive as national and regional representatives of PAGES.

Action: Olago to set up a regional node in Africa and to test the strategy.

9. SSC: MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES

SSC members

Brigham-Grette reported on SSC membership. She informed the meeting that there were currently four empty seats and that Markgraf, Boninsegna and Saarnisto needed to be replaced. The renewal of Tada and Crumley was discussed (in their absence).

Decision: Riuji Tada and Carole Crumley are nominated to serve for another three-year term.

- Decision:** **Nominate Foci Leaders (Bill Curry—IMAGES; John Dearing—Focus 5; Eystein Jansen—PAGES/CLIVAR) and have the IPO determine the details of the length of SSC membership.**
Leave the PANASH and POLAR Programs Leaders positions vacant for now.
- Action** **The IPO to obtain nominal agreement from Jerome Chappellaz and Geoff Seltzer to serve as Polar Programs and PANASH Leaders, respectively.**
- Decision** **Villalba is to be kept on hold for the next round of nominations.**

Three other people were officially nominated according to PAGES published procedure:

- Valerie Hall (Tephra, Northern Ireland)
- Henk Heijnis (Focus 5, Australia)
- Denis Didier Rousseau (Loess, France)

The committee so far nominated does not have a good international balance. There are many large regions that have never had representation.

Decision: **Look for candidates from developing countries. EXCOM will decide about the vacancies in December.**

Action: **Publish the need for SSC members from Arabia, Southern and Eastern Europe, South America, South Asia, Africa, etc on the web.**

A new PAGES board?

Brigham-Grette expressed the opinion that past SSC members could be kept involved in pages informally, without the need to add a new structure.

Decision: **No need for further boards.**

10. VARIA

PAGES Strategy and Implementation Plan

Alverson reported that the PAGES 2 strategy and implementation plan to be written for IGBP was approximately one year behind schedule. He stated that it was unclear what the plan should include, how long it should be, and who the target audience was. He expressed the opinion that the process of producing the plan would be valuable if it included most of the PAGES community. It was agreed that such a plan needed to include material from the Foci and their associated activities, crosscutting activities, and integrating activities within IGBP2. However, no decision was made on how to produce the plan

Upcoming SSC Meeting

Olago proposed hosting the next SSC in Mombassa, Kenya in June.

Decision: **The next SSC meeting will be held in June or July 2004, possibly in Mombassa and followed by an African Meeting in Nairobi. \$10,000 of PAGES funding was allocated for the African meeting. Olago is to be the organizer.**

Open Discussion

Stocker: Discussion between the SNF and US NSF is needed. To this end, an invitation was sent by email to the respective NSF program director (Dave Verardo) to visit the SNF offices in Bern in February 2003.

Markgraf: IGBP is planning a meeting with the US NSF this fall, hosted by the US National Academy. Both PAGES program managers and scientists should get involved.

Action: **Alverson and Brigham-Grette to investigate how best to interact with the US NSF.**

Decision: Be proactive in order to establish the future PAGES IGBP II Foci structure within the next few months.

Statement: The SSC thanked Vera Markgraf, Matti Saarnisto and José Boninsegna for their work on the committee.

Christoph Kull
Banff, 21 June 2003