

# PAGES EXCOM Meeting

## Summary of Minutes

### San Francisco, USA

### 14 December 2008

**Present EXCOM:** Julie Brigham-Grette (Co-Chair), Bette Otto-Bliesner, Ricardo Villalba  
**Present IPO:** Thorsten Kiefer, Louise Newman  
**Absent EXCOM:** Heinz Wanner (Co-Chair), Jérôme Chappellaz

#### 1. PAGES Budget

Thorsten outlined the budget and notified EXCOM that the IGBP block grant might return to its original level of \$40,000. The reduced impact of currency exchange rates on PAGES US funds due to the recovering dollar was also discussed. Thorsten explained that there was an element of flexibility in the IPO budget because PAGES was now receiving office space as “in-kind” support from the University of Bern.

The next call for NSF funding was then discussed, in particular the timing of proposal submission. Thorsten advised that the current grant would run out in mid-2010, so proposal preparation would begin following the OSM.

#### 2. Funding of PAGES Initiatives

EXCOM agreed to support the following PAGES activities:

Initiative	Date 2009	Applicant	PAGES liaison
LIMPACS Holocene lake records	5-8 Mar	Kotlia	Dearing
ADOM 1st workshop	late Oct	Rousseau	Francus
Data-assimilation techniques	25 Apr	Otto-Bliesner/Schulz	not applicable
<i>Working Group follow-up workshops</i>			
PALSEA (Sea Level WG)	Sep 2009	Siddall	Otto-Bliesner
PIGS (Past Interglacials WG)	Aug 2009	Tzedakis, Raynaud, McManus	Kiefer

#### 3. Funding of Open Call Workshops

Bette suggested that it would be useful in the future if the PAGES liaison for each workshop provide EXCOM with a short comment on the application, as it was sometimes difficult for EXCOM to evaluate a workshop outside of their areas of expertise. EXCOM agreed to fund the following workshop:

Open Call Workshop	Date 2009	Applicant	PAGES liaison
2nd EAQUA workshop	20-25 May	Asrat	Umer

#### Comments on support for Initiatives:

Workshop proposals were discussed at length. The majority of proposals were not successful and discussions followed as to the reasons for this. Bette suggested that perhaps the website was not clear enough on what types of activities PAGES covered, or that the focus had now

shifted to support workshops that moved towards synthesis and coordination. Thorsten suggested that the IPO reformulate the outline given on the website and send it to EXCOM for comment. It was noted that of the current workshop proposals, 4 were turned down because the proposed community involvement was too narrow, and 1 for not showing forward thinking and the advancement of ideas. It was agreed that it was key to add to the online information the importance of international participation and to show how the workshop would synthesize, develop and move the science forward. It was also noted that it was important to highlight the links between the workshops and the Foci and CCTs.

#### **4. PAGES Scientific Activities**

EXCOM officially endorsed the new PAGES Working Group on “Paleo Constraints on Sea Level Rise” (PALSEA), which had developed out of the 2008 PAGES-supported sea level workshop. It was commented that the collaboration of this group with the PIGS WG and PMIP was important to maintain. CreSis (The Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets) was also suggested as a group with possible overlap with PALSEA.

##### *GEO subtask*

Thorsten outlined the idea behind PAGES becoming an official subtask of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). Bette enquired what the PAGES commitment to this was and Thorsten said that the idea was to contribute the science on the last 2k, coordinated in Focus 2. It was agreed by EXCOM that it was beneficial for PAGES to be associated with GEO.

##### *EU Framework Program 7 proposal – “Past4Future”*

Thorsten informed EXCOM of PAGES role in a new FP7 proposal focusing on past interglacials.

Discussions then followed on the significant number of PAGES workshop/initiative proposals that come from European regions, over the US and other regions. It was agreed that PAGES funding should be promoted more in the US and other countries, so that PAGES does not appear too Eurocentric. Thorsten suggested forming a US PAGES Committee/Advisory Group of about 12 people to develop and promote PAGES activities with the US community. Many PAGES WGs have US members, so the group could be made up of those people. It was agreed that the OSM would be a good place to launch the idea, although it was suggested that a target of 30-40 people should be approached now to seed the group, and that these people could meet at the OSM to officially launch it. EXCOM decided that the US committee should include people who were active within PAGES, and also people who were active in the paleo-community but not yet active in PAGES. Thorsten suggested using the ~900 US PAGES members to get an initial list of names.

#### **5. Office Update**

Thorsten updated EXCOM on the recent IPO office move and recent and upcoming Visiting Scientists.

#### **6. Science Plan and Implementation Strategy**

Thorsten summarized the status of the SPIS and explained the approach the IPO had taken to standardize the structure across all Foci and CCTs.

## **7. YSM and OSM Update**

It was discussed that the US National Academy of Sciences could help with visa applications for the OSM. Webcasting of the OSM presentations was also discussed.

EXCOM discussed funding ideas. Bette enquired whether other IGBP committees would support the attendance of YS, for example, the support of the AIMES YSM by PAGES. Julie also suggested the International Permafrost Association as a funding source for 1 or 2 of their YS. Similarly, APECS and PYRN were suggested. Bette also proposed approaching QUEST for support. Ricardo volunteered to contact Holm Tiessen, Director of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, and Julie volunteered to contact IPA.

EXCOM discussed potential mentors to be involved in the YSM. EXCOM also considered the best options for reviewers of the YSM abstracts. It was agreed that the SSC Foci and CCT leaders would review the abstracts that fall within the scope of their Foci/CCTs.

## **8. Data Portal and Metadatabases**

Thorsten updated EXCOM on the status of the Paleodata Portal and the regional metadatabases.

## **9. Newsletter Topics**

EXCOM discussed ideas for future newsletter issues. It was agreed that an issue on paleo-ENSO would be good. It was also suggested that Reinhard Pienitz could guest edit an issue (potentially on varves) during his upcoming visit to the PAGES IPO. Other ideas for 2010 were also discussed and favorites included:

- Low-latitude paleoscience/global monsoon
- Biotic response to environmental change
- Paleofire

## **10. PAGES/CLIVAR Vision Document**

EXCOM discussed the new PAGES/CLIVAR Vision Document. Bette commented that it was very broad in scope and that many of the points appeared to be PAGES related rather than PAGES/CLIVAR-related. It was agreed that the panel should be asked to involve CLIVAR people more, emphasizing the complementary use of the studies of the instrumental and the proxy-based pre-instrumental period.

## **11. Next SSC and EXCOM Meetings**

Thorsten advised EXCOM that 3 new SSC members would need to be discussed at the next SSC meeting, and suggested that Olga Solomina be invited as PAGES link to the IGBP, and also to bring perspective on possible Russian nominees.