

**Minutes EXCOM Meeting
University College London, UK
16 June 2006**

Present (8:00-18:00)

EXCOM: Rick Battarbee (12:00-17:00), Julie Brigham-Grette (Chair), Jérôme Chappellaz, Pinxian Wang (Vice-Chair)

IPO: Thorsten Kiefer, Christoph Kull

Regrets

Heinz Wanner (Swiss Director)

Summary of Action Items

Kiefer to inquire about possibility of receiving extra U.S. NSF funds for participation of U.S. researchers at the Mendoza workshop.	2
IPO to contact ESF to discuss possibility of joint activities.	2
IPO to send out letters to workshop organizers with copies to EXCOM.	3
Start/discuss interaction and collaboration with DIVERSITAS at ESSP Conference in Beijing in November.	3
Include relevance to PAGES new science structure in workshop proposal form.	4
Develop strategy with DIVERSITAS at ESSP meeting on inclusion of deep-time paleoscience in topics addressing biodiversity and evolutionary processes.	4
IPO to launch call for nominations, with emphasis on Asian and former Soviet Union countries.	4
EXCOM to start considering replacements for Wang and Battarbee.	4
IPO to ask Solomina and Tada to suggest potential SSC candidates.	4
Battarbee to write report on HOLIVAR meeting for PAGES newsletter.	4
Chappellaz to produce French National PAGES.	4
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Battarbee to consider producing U.K. National PAGES.	4
IPO to enlist help of SSC in revising GCMD keyword list for the Databoard.	4
Chappellaz to discuss possible PAGES ESF activity with Eric Wolff.	5
Chappellaz to contact CliC about potential for joint working group and/or workshop.	5
Brigham-Grette to contact John Clague about PAGES contribution to 2007 INQUA Congress, joint activities, and joint SSC meeting.	5
Brigham-Grette to participate in next AIMES SSC meeting to explore possible joint activities.	5
Kiefer to explore with IGBP and core projects ways to hold strategic joint meetings between projects.	5
Rick to introduce PAGES new science structure as Session Chair (Focus 5) at ESSP conference in Beijing in November.	5
Brigham-Grette to suggest possible U.S. guest scientist to update U.S. National PAGES at the IPO.	5
Invite Brian Luckman to SSC meeting and Mendoza workshop.	6
Kiefer to contact Gersonde to initiate collaboration on BIPOMAC.	6
IPO to start planning and implementation of Proxy Data Uncertainties activity.	6
IPO to produce template and guidelines and send SSC request for draft sections of Science and Implementation Plan.	7
IPO to contact INQUA about the possibility of including PAGES in 2007 Congress in Australia (after Brigham-Grette has contacted John Clague).	7
Brigham-Grette to explore options for venue and timing of 3rd OSM.	7

1. Welcome/Introduction

Brigham-Grette gave an introduction and explained that the workshop proposals and implementation plan were the big issues to be discussed.

2. Finances

Kiefer informed members about PAGES financial situation. EXCOM agreed to use the proposed \$30,000 for workshop funding.

Brigham-Grette reported on U.S. funding and that NOAA's contribution would be \$50,000. Paul Filmer, PAGES new NSF Program Manager, will be invited to the next SSC meeting in Mendoza.

Action Item: Kiefer to inquire about possibility of receiving extra U.S. NSF funds for participation of U.S. researchers at the Mendoza workshop.

There has been no further news from the Swiss NSF on the status of the proposal.

Kiefer reported that IGBP intends to increase funding, above the promised \$40,000, as compensation for the higher projected costs of the 2008 SSC meeting in South Africa, which will be held alongside the IGBP Congress.

There was an open discussion on funding issues. It was agreed that there was a need to acquire additional funding beyond the Swiss and U.S. NSF base to support the workshop mission of PAGES. This line item has suffered over the years due to inflation and the fixed funding level. ESF could be a sponsor for additional workshop support and has indicated interest (Bernhard Avril, EUROCORES Programme Coordinator). Wang suggested that additional funds for defined projects or PAGES working groups be raised from Asian countries, primarily China and Japan. The issue was tabled for further discussion at the next SSC meeting.

Action Items: IPO to contact ESF to discuss possibility of joint activities.

3. Workshop Funding Requests

EXCOM awarded a total of \$30,000 for workshop funding, as follows:

	Workshop	Location & Date	Applicant	Request	Decision	PAGES Liaison
2006						
1	Influence of Indonesian Throughflow Variability on Tropical Indian Ocean	Kiel Germany, 19-23 July	Wolfgang Kuhnt	\$5,000	\$5,000	Wang
2	Climate Change: Inevitable–Visible–Not Invincible	Hyderabad, India 9-10 Sep.	Radha Krishna Murthy	\$4,750	Not funded	
3	Quaternary Stratigraphy, Evolution of Alpine Region in European, Global Framework	Milan, Italy, 11-15 Sep.	Cesare Ravazzi	\$5,000	Not funded	
4	Past Record of Ancient Hurricanes	Lafayette, USA 26-27 Sep.	Suzanne Leroy	\$10,000	\$5,000	Villalba

5	First Cameroon National PAGES Workshop	Yaounde, Cameroon 20-21 Oct.	Richard Tanwi Ghogomu	\$9,660	\$8,000	Umer
6	Himalaya: Modern and Past Climates (HIMPAC-2)	New Delhi, India 23-26 Oct.	Bahadur Kotlia	\$5,000	Not funded	
7	Rhodoliths: Implications for Biodiversity and Management of the Coastal Zone	La Paz, Mexico 23-30 Oct.	Christine Maggs	\$4,200	Not funded	
2007						
8	Circum-Iberia Paleoceanography and Paleoclimate	Lisbon, Portugal Jan.	Antje Voelker	\$7,500	\$5,000	Jansen
9	Marine Connectivity: Reconciling Models of Dispersal and Vicariance	Tenerife, Canary Is 9-13 Jan.	Michael Dawson	\$8,528	Not funded	
10	2nd Workshop: LIMPACS Salinity, Climate Change & Salinisation	Nanjing, China 11-14 Apr.	Shijie Li	\$5,000	\$5,000	Battarbee
11	LOESSFEST '07: Link between Mediterranean and higher latitude loess	Novi Sad, Serbia 25-29 May	Slobodan Markovic	\$1,000	\$1,000	Sirocko
	<i>Workshop postponed to 2008; new application required</i>					
12	Paleo Mangroves (during INQUA)	Cairns, Australia July/Aug.	Matthew Wooller	\$6,000	Decision postponed Resubmit 15 Sept. 2006	
13	Environmental Changes and Sustainable Development in Arid Lands	Mongolia, China 10-17 Sep.	Xiaoping Yang	\$10,000	Decision postponed Resubmit 15 Sept. 2006	

Decisions: Plan special Africa section in newsletter as follow-up to the Africa workshop. Change guidelines: Decisions on proposals will usually be made no more than one year before the meeting takes place.

Action Items: IPO to send out letters to workshop organizers with copies to EXCOM. (done) Start/discuss interaction and collaboration with DIVERSITAS at ESSP Conference in Beijing in November.

4. Support for PAGES-Related Initiatives

EXCOM approved the allocation of support to initiatives, agreeing to fund the activities from this year's budget as much as possible, as follows:

Initiative/PAGES activities	Location Date	Contact	Request	Decision
IGBP-SCOR Fast Track Initiative: Ocean Acidification	Lamont, USA 28-30 Sep. 2006	Thorsten Kiefer	~ \$10,000	up to \$10,000
LOTRED-South America Climate Variability (alongside SSC meeting)	Mendoza, Argentina 4-7 Oct. 2006	Ricardo Villalba	~ \$10,000	\$10,000

General discussion

The new workshop proposal submission form on the PAGES website was reviewed. EXCOM felt that the form had resulted in much better organization of the proposals than in the past. It was suggested that the form ask more directly about the workshop's relation to PAGES research structure, e.g., with check boxes for Foci/Themes.

Action Item: Include relevance to PAGES new science structure in workshop proposal form.

Decision: As in the past, field trips will not be funded as part of workshops.

EXCOM decided to remain flexible about deep-time research if relevant to PAGES topics, treated quantitatively (e.g. by including modeling), and adding to process understanding.

Action Item: Develop strategy with DIVERSITAS at ESSP meeting on inclusion of deep-time paleoscience in topics addressing biodiversity and evolutionary processes.

5. PAGES Committees

EXCOM discussed changes to its membership and that of the SSC. Expertise required on the SSC includes marine, speleothems and ice cores. New SSC members should represent Eurasia and Asia.

Action Items: IPO to launch call for nominations, with emphasis on Asian and former Soviet Union countries.

EXCOM to start considering replacements for Wang and Battarbee.

IPO to ask Solomina and Tada to suggest potential SSC candidates.

The proposed SSC task list was discussed and approved. It will be presented at the next SSC meeting and used in the next call for new SSC members.

6. PAGES Products & Activities in Progress

Products/Outreach

PAGES publications, website and outreach activities were discussed. There was general agreement that PAGES should remain involved if the Springer book series eventuates.

Suggestions for future newsletter special sections include:

- Africa, originating from the Central African PAGES workshop
- Polar/high-latitude paleoscience, IPY link (Mar. 2007 - Mar. 2009), including BIPOMAC
- Past Human-Climate-Environment Interactions

Action Items: Battarbee to write report on HOLIVAR meeting for PAGES newsletter.

Chappellaz to produce French National PAGES.

Brigham-Grette to identify someone to update U.S. National PAGES.

Battarbee to consider producing U.K. National PAGES.

Scientific Activities

Kiefer reported on the recent Databoard meeting and PAGES commitments, including a data portal and revision of GCMD (Global Change Master Directory) keyword list.

Action Item: IPO to enlist help of SSC in revising GCMD keyword list for the Databoard.

Collaborations

EXCOM discussed ways in which PAGES could continue to collaborate with IPICS group

and activities, both on an organizational level as well as scientifically.

Action Item: Chappellaz to discuss possible PAGES ESF activity with Eric Wolff.

PAGES relationship to CliC (WCRP) was also discussed. There was general agreement that sea-ice, and possibly also permafrost, is of joint interest. A link to PAGES would include longer timescales than the past 25 years, which are the focus of CliC.

Action Item: Chappellaz to contact CliC about potential for joint working group and/or workshop.

It was agreed that PAGES should explore collaborations with INQUA.

Action Item: Brigham-Grette to contact John Clague about PAGES contribution to 2007 INQUA Congress, joint activities, and joint SSC meeting.

The importance of close ties to AIMES was recognized. Chappellaz and Crumley are on the AIMES SSC and will attend the next AIMES SSC meeting in Victoria, Canada in September.

Action Item: Brigham-Grette to participate in next AIMES SSC meeting to explore possible joint activities.

EXCOM discussed PAGES involvement in IGBP, and how best to boost communication and joint activities with other core projects. Suggestions included asking IGBP to support small joint meetings between IGBP core projects to establish common research interest and joint initiatives. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next SSC meeting.

Action Item: Kiefer to explore with IGBP and core projects ways to hold strategic joint meetings between projects.

7. PAGES Calendar

Action Item: Rick to introduce PAGES new science structure as Session Chair (Focus 5) at ESSP conference in Beijing in November.

8. Office Update

Action Item: Brigham-Grette to suggest possible U.S. guest scientist to update U.S. National PAGES at the IPO.

9. Implementation of the New Structure

A major focus of the EXCOM meeting was on ways to implement PAGES new science structure. This issue will also be a major topic for the next SSC meeting. There the criticisms of the drafted new structure and the suggestions for amendments will be discussed.

Brigham-Grette proposed producing PAGES Science and Implementation Plan as a PAGES newsletter issue.

New Hierarchy of Activities

Decision: Proposed hierarchy of activities with four tiers (Foci and Cross-Cutting Themes, Working Groups, Tasks, Affiliated Projects) accepted.

Steering of Activities

The following SSC members were assigned, with their consent, to guide Foci and Theme build-up (names in bold hold main responsibility):

- Foci
 - F 1 **Otto-Bliesner**, Chappellaz
 - F 2 **Wanner**, Jansen, Martínez
 - F 3 **Wang**, Kershaw, Umer, Singh
 - F 4 **Battarbee**, Whitlock, Crumley, John Dearing (current Focus 5 Leader)
- Cross-Cutting Themes
 - CCT 1 (Chronology) **Sirocko**, Chappellaz
 - CCT 2 (Proxy) **Villalba**, Tada
 - CCT 3 (Data) **IPO**
 - CCT 4 (Outreach) **Brigham-Grette**, IPO

Assignment of Current Activities to New Structure

EXCOM discussed how the current science activities fit within the new structure and how other activities could be launched. The following suggestions were made:

Current activities	Possible New Location
PANASH/PEP	Discuss at SSC meeting. <i>Action Item: Invite Brian Luckman.</i>
CLIVAR/PAGES (MedCLIVAR, LOTRED-SA)	F 1, 2 & 3; CCT 2 & 3
IMAGES	F 2 & 3
Former Focus 5	F 4
Databoard	CCT 3
Ocean-Acidification (IGBP Link)	F 3
PAGES/CliC	F 2 & 3
Affiliated programs	Possible New Location
IPICS (link/collaboration?)	F 1, 2 & 3
New activities in preparation	Possible New Location/Action
Past Atmospheric Dynamics from Eolian Records (Denis-Didier Rousseau et al.)	F 1, 2 & 3
14C Chronology (Irka Hajdas, Paula Reimer)	CCT 1
BIPOMAC (Rainer Gersonde)	<i>Action Item: Kiefer to contact Gersonde to initiate collaboration.</i>
MATRICES (Tarasov, Brovkin, Wagner)	To be discussed.
Proxy Data Uncertainties (arising from PAGES/CLIVAR workshop)	CCT 2 & 3 <i>Action Item: IPO to start planning and implementation.</i>
New Activities under Discussion	Action
HIREACH – Holocene Archeology & Climate (John Dearing/Frank Oldfield)	If funded by ESF, will start in 2008.
U.N. Year of Planet Earth 2008 – PAGES	ESSP should take lead. Plan outreach

contribution?	activities. Discuss at SSC meeting.
AAA – Africa, Austral-Asia Monsoon System	Discuss at SSC meeting. Set up for Beijing Humboldt meeting in July/August 2007.
Southern Hemisphere Synthesis	Discuss at SSC meeting.
Synthesis on nitrogen? (marine archives, ice cores...)	Possible future activity. Discuss at SSC meeting.

Science & Implementation Plan

EXCOM went over the proposed structure for PAGES Science and Implementation Plan and accepted the template as outlined. SSC members were assigned to prepare sections of the Science Plan as for the assignment to Foci and Theme build-up (see above). It was agreed that each group should prepare a draft for discussion at the next SSC meeting. Contributions from Focus/Theme groups should include:

- Science plan in draft form
- Implementation ideas (targeted implementation strategy in extended outline form)

Action Item: IPO to produce template and guidelines and send SSC request for draft sections of Science and Implementation Plan.

10. Miscellaneous

EXCOM considered ways to get involved in the IPCC 5th Assessment Report and tabled a strategy discussion for the next SSC meeting. It was noted that the theme of hydrates in the past and future was missing from the 4th Assessment Report and needed to be addressed.

All agreed that the next EXCOM meeting be held on the evening of 2 October, during the SSC meeting in Mendoza, and that there be no EXCOM meeting at AGU in December.

It was agreed to explore the possibility of holding the 2007 SSC meeting alongside the XVII INQUA congress (28 July - 3 August) in Cairns, Australia. This was tabled for further discussion at the next SSC meeting. It was noted that the upcoming series of SSC meetings could be used to boost coordinated Southern Hemisphere activities/synthesis:

2006 – South America Variability

2007 – Australasia Variability

2008 – Southern Africa Variability/Synthesis

Action Item: IPO to contact INQUA about the possibility of including PAGES in 2007 Congress in Australia (after Brigham-Grette has contacted John Clague).

The plan for a 3rd PAGES Open Science Meeting (OSM) in 2009 was explored. It was suggested to hold it in Seattle or Salt Lake City in June.

Action Item: Brigham-Grette to explore options for venue and timing of 3rd OSM.