

# Summary of Minutes

## PAGES EXCOM Meeting

### Bern, Switzerland

### 19-20 November 2009

**Present:** Jérôme Chappellaz, Bette Otto-Bliesner (Co-Chair), Heinz Wanner (Co-Chair),  
Cathy Whitlock  
IPO: Thorsten Kiefer, Louise Newman, Leah Witton

**Absent:** Ricardo Villalba

## 1. PAGES Budget

### 1.1 Budget 2009/2010

Thorsten went over the budget for the current financial year. He reported that the carry-over from the previous year was larger than expected due to the saving of office rent, reduced workshop funding and caution over YSM/OSM spending. The extra money will be invested into workshops, in order to move forward on activities in the new Science Plan and Implementation Strategy (SPIS). Money will also be invested in printing/publication costs for special journal issues resulting from the YSM/OSM, e.g., *Climate of the Past*.

### 1.2 Proposed Budget 2010-2014

Thorsten outlined the proposed budget for the US and Swiss NSF grants. He mentioned that money was being saved from having the rent covered by the University but that the request for workshop support was considerably higher than in the current grant, in order to support the ambitious SPIS. He stated that PAGES would support in the order of one educational meeting per year. This financial year, PAGES supported the NCCR Summer School. EXCOM felt that it was important to support this type of outreach, that it provided an opportunity to introduce paleoscience into educational programs, and that PAGES needed to make people aware that they could apply for funding for educational activities. Another online application form should be added to the PAGES website.

## 2. Working Group Proposals

Bette provided background information on the proposal received from the “Synthesis of Transient Climate Evolution of the last 21-kyr” (SynTraCE-21) group to become a new PAGES Working Group (WG). They began as an all-US group but would like to expand and become more international. It will be a large group. The first two workshops (funded by NSF and NCAR, respectively) were very productive, with good issues raised and good opportunities for interaction and synthesis. The third meeting is planned for October 2010 (probably at Mt. Hood, Oregon, USA) and will be an international meeting with more modelers. The following year, they will be break out into smaller groups. Bette mentioned that there was no funding from TraCE-21. It was commented that a reference paper coming out of the synthesis would be a desirable product, and Bette replied that people who attended the workshops had already started to self-organize in order to write review papers. She reported that in terms of data management, they needed to bring the datasets together and that Carrie Morrill had started working on data from the first meeting. The idea is to provide a database specific to the project that allows simple model-data comparisons but it needs to be coordinated. They are trying to get an interface person to help solve some of the difficulties between data and model comparisons. EXCOM felt that SynTraCE-21 would be an important

contribution. They discussed the positioning of the WG within PAGES science structure and decided to place it in Focus 3, with cross-referencing to Focus 2.

EXCOM then discussed the idea raised at the last SSC meeting that PMIP and/or PCMIP might also become PAGES WGs. Bette explained that PMIP would be better suited to endorsement by PAGES rather than becoming an official WG. The reasoning was that it cut across many different WGs and time periods covered by PAGES, so that placement within one Focus or CCT would be difficult. However, she would discuss PCMIP becoming a Focus 1 WG with Ayako Abe-Ouchi and Sandy Harrison.

### 3. Workshop Proposals

#### 3.1 Funding of PAGES Working Group Workshops

EXCOM discussed the workshop proposals received at length.

It was agreed to fund the following WG follow-up workshops:

Name and Date	Focus	Applicant
2 <sup>nd</sup> PAGES Global Monsoon Symposium 13-15 Sep 2010	F3	Wang, P.
PALSEA Phase 3 20-24 Sep 2010	F1	Siddall, M.
Late Holocene S. America & Antarctic Peninsula 26-29 Oct 2010	F2	Christie, D.

It was agreed to fund the following initial WG workshops:

Name and Date	Focus	Applicant
Nitrogen Cycle 14-16 May 2010	F3	Kienast, M., Galbraith, E. Kiefer, T.
North America 2k 11-14 May 2010	F2	Wahl, E.
Australasia 2k 21-24 July 2010	F2	Turney, C.
Africa 2k 11-14 Sep 2010	F2	Verschuren, D., Nash, D., Umer, M.
Climate change hotspots 13-15 Sep 2010	F4	Dearing, J.
SynTraCE-21 Oct 2010	F3	Liu, Z.

#### 3.2 Funding of Open Call Workshops

EXCOM decided to fund the following Open Call workshops:

Name and Date	Focus	Applicant	SSC Liaison
Drilling in E. African Rift 7-11 Sep 2010	F2/3	Russell, J.	Colman, S.
Oxbow/Floodplain Lakes Sep 2010	F4	Hausmann, S., Gell, P., Hall, R.	Dearing, J.

## 4. PAGES Working Groups and Initiatives

### 4.1 New Working Groups – Proposals

See 2. above.

### 4.2 Current Working Groups – Status Reports

EXCOM discussed the status reports submitted by the WGs.

No reports were submitted by the Arctic 2k, Antarctic 2k and PR Challenge WGs.

The following comments were made:

#### *FOCUS 1*

Palaeofire	ok (QUEST funding is coming to an end and future support is unclear; they are working on synthesis papers; Africa workshop on hold (tentatively scheduled for summer 2010); methods meeting in Salt Lake City planned, and possibly an impromptu meeting at VI Southern Connection. PAGES involvement in workshops is limited)
PALSEA	ok

#### *FOCUS 2*

Africa 2k	ok
Antarctica 2k	no report received (possibility of additional co-leaders was discussed in order to share leadership responsibilities)
Asia 2k	Suggest inclusion of a Korean representative.
Arctic 2k	no report received (still very active and enthusiastic; Atte Korhola has requested for a post-doc to take care of data synthesis)
Australasia 2k	ok (will be getting some more New Zealanders on their committee)
N. America 2k	Needs to broaden involvement. Suggest they include someone from Canada, Mexico and Eastern N. America. Suggest a group meeting to decide on records and timeseries, and what needs to be done next.
LOTRED-Europe/ MedCLIVAR	ok
LOTRED-SA	ok
PAGES/CLIVAR	see 4.3 below
PR Challenge	no report received (need to expand leadership; need to expand beyond N. America; possible involvement of active groups doing similar things was discussed)

#### *FOCUS 3*

ADOM	The first meeting was lively but disappointing in terms of number of participants. Important to include more of the leading dust scientists, e.g., Natalie Mahowald.
BIPOMAC	ok (updated goals to be provided in time for the SSC meeting)
Global Monsoon	Expand WG members to encompass more monsoon regions, e.g., include Jonathan Overpeck for N. America
Nitrogen cycle	ok (an ice core person will be involved in the future)
Ocean Acidification	no report received
PIGS	ok (SSC's perception that the WG is "closed" had been passed on to the leaders and they have taken the comment on board)

*FOCUS 4*

General comments	Theme leaders and committee members need to come from more than one WG. Integration should be part of each of their workshops.
Biodiversity	Encourage them to reach out to other countries, especially outside of Europe. Include biodiversity hotspots that are hotspots because of human impact not just climate.
Carbon	no report received
Land Use and Cover	When will the needed datasets be provided?
Regional Integration	Leadership needs to be expanded. The group is not inclusive enough to address regions worldwide.
Soil and Sediment	Status report is about LUCIFS. This Theme needs to include the other WGs involved.
Water	Status report is about LIMPACS (as mentioned by Peter Gell in his email). This Theme needs to include the other WGs involved.

*CCT 1*

Varves ok

EXCOM reiterated the importance of reminding people receiving PAGES support to acknowledge PAGES in workshop publications, and for the IPO to follow up on obtaining a list of products from workshop organizers.

4.3 PAGES-Endorsed Projects and Joint Initiatives*IHOPE*

Discussion postponed due to time restrictions.

*IMAGES*

Discussion postponed due to time restrictions and the need to wait until IMAGES new science plan was produced and the new office organized.

*PAGES/CLIVAR*

EXCOM felt that the latest revision of the Vision Document was good and complemented the science structure of PAGES. It was agreed that many of the workshops proposed would be useful and fit within several IPCC chapters. Comments on the workshops included:

- Data assimilation workshop – overlap with CCT 3 on modeling, so these efforts should be linked. Two EGU special sessions on this topic will be held at the 2010 EGU Assembly. Bette commented that the data assimilation was at the special-session stage rather than ready for a full meeting.
- Extreme events – It would be good to organize the extreme events workshop now, in support of the IPCC special report on the topic. Thomas Stocker supported this idea. The PAGES/CLIVAR Co-Chairs and Panel need to be informed that PAGES wants to have this meeting.
- ENSO and AMO activities – Activity is needed here and would be good to get going since there are well-developed research groups working on this.

*PMIP/PAGES*

See 2. above.

## AIMES

EXCOM discussed PAGES involvement in AIMES. Jérôme left their SSC in early 2009 and there is currently no PAGES representative. A replacement needs to be found. PAGES should also be more proactive in arranging for paleo-representatives on the SSCs of other Core Projects, such as is the case with SOLAS.

### 4.4 Working Group and Workshop Proposals – draft of new forms

The IPO will put the new WG and workshop proposal forms online for EXCOM to comment.

## **5. IPO Update**

### 5.1 Office Staff

Leah Witton will be leaving PAGES at the end of January 2010. The IPO has advertised her position. EXCOM wished Leah all the best for her new job.

## **6. SSC Membership**

### 6.1 Swiss Co-Chair

EXCOM discussed the need for a new Swiss Co-Chair to replace Heinz. IGBP requires that a new Co-Chair be recruited at least one year prior to the current Co-Chair standing down. It was agreed that it would be good to invite the new Co-Chair to attend the 2010 SSC meeting, in order for this person to observe a meeting before taking office. The IPO will put out a call for nominations soon.

### 6.2 EXCOM Nominations

By June 2010, Jérôme and Ricardo need to be replaced on the EXCOM. Bette and Heinz will ask the SSC for EXCOM nominations and organize the vote

### 6.3 SSC Nominations

EXCOM discussed the need to put out a call for a new SSC member from the Southern Hemisphere. Total numbers on the SSC will increase by one in 2011, with Heinz leaving and one Swiss and one Southern Hemisphere person coming in. EXCOM agreed that the next round of nominations would need to focus on getting another female scientist onto the SSC.

## **7. US and Swiss NSF Proposals**

EXCOM discussed the recent proposal submission to the Swiss NSF and the pending proposal to the US. The IPO will prepare the first draft of the US proposal and send it to EXCOM and US SSC members for comment.

## **8. IGBP update**

### 8.1 Synthesis Topics

Thorsten informed EXCOM about the IGBP Integration, Synthesis and Exploration topics. PAGES will definitely be involved in the “Cryosphere” topic since Ray Bradley is the lead. Ray will join the IGBP Steering Committee in 2010 to replace Olga when she rotates off at the end of 2011. It was felt that PAGES should get involved in the “Resilience” theme, lead by Dave Schimel, in order to provide an additional side to the AIMES perspective.

### 8.2 Upcoming IGBP Meetings

Thorsten outlined upcoming IGBP meetings.

### 8.3 IGBP Climate Change Index

EXCOM liked the general idea behind the index and felt that IGBP was the right platform to launch something like this. It was felt that the index should be extended further back in time.

### 8.4 IUGG Sessions

EXCOM discussed possible PAGES involvement in the IUGG meeting but it was decided that PAGES would not participate, particularly as there was a clash in timing with the INQUA meeting being held in Bern the week after.

## **9. Newsletter Topics**

Louise went over the upcoming issues and schedule. EXCOM discussed the planned ENSO issue that had not got off the ground, and decided to table the topic for the future. Ideas for the third issue of 2010 and beyond included: Ocean biogeochemistry, Climate forcings (last issue was in 2005), ADOM, SynTraCE, Abrupt changes, 2k meeting at INQUA, Past Interglacials, documentary data, Holocene, PAGES & IPCC (e.g., ask AR5 Lead Authors to write a short article on scientific developments since AR4; ask a person from each WG to write an article on one of the chapters).

## **10. Miscellaneous**

### 10.1 PAGES 2k Network

Thorsten mentioned that the regional groups focused on climate parameters but that no plans had yet been made to link these results with fire or other responses (biotic, ecosystems). Cathy suggested inviting Jennifer Marlon to contribute to the fire part. It was agreed that a list of high-resolution environmental datasets that provide information on response was needed so that it was ready to go when the reconstructions were done and there was then the need to look at the biological response. This should be the basis for interaction with IHOPE and a meeting with IHOPE should be proposed for a region for which we have data. Heinz also brought up the issue of the extent to which ocean areas should be included. Bette explained that modeling groups would soon start running their PMIP3/CMIP5 simulations of the last millennium. Therefore, the 2K reconstruction groups need to quickly specify the time resolution of their model data needs. Models often only save monthly mean output because of storage space limitations, and if high frequency model output (i.e., daily) of certain atmospheric variables such as temperature, precipitation, etc., would be useful, then this information needs to be quickly communicated to PMIP3.

### 10.2 PAGES Letters of Support

EXCOM discussed whether PAGES should provide letters of support for PAGES scientists or projects applying for funding elsewhere. While letters of support provide visibility for PAGES, the issue of competing proposals is a major issue and EXCOM were very concerned about the process being fair. It was decided that applicants wishing to indicate their relevance to PAGES should refer to the SPIS instead of asking for a letter of support.

### 10.3 PAGES Databoard

Thorsten indicated that he would like to get some momentum going in the Databoard by holding a larger meeting involving lots of smaller data centers, as well as users.

### 10.4 Next SSC and EXCOM Meetings

The next stand-alone EXCOM meeting was tentatively scheduled for the December 2010 AGU meeting in San Francisco, USA.