



APECS Council Call Minutes

Monday March 22, 2010 at 18:00GMT

Chair: Gerlis Fugmann

Notes takers: José Xavier & Marco Jorge

Present: Jenny Baesman, Joscelyn Bailey, Tosca Ballerini, Benjamin Beall, Francisco Fernandoy, Gerlis Fugmann, Claudia Halsband-Lenk, Natalia Kirievskaya, Daniela Liggett, Cameron McNaughton, Nathalie Morata, Layla Osman, Allen Pope, Thorsten Sachs, Kate Sinclair, Matt Strezelecki, Ivan Sudakov, Alex Taylor, Rosa Rut Thorisdottir, Bego Vendrell, Anna Wagner, Jose Xavier,

Guests: Nicole Barry, Selima Ben Mustapha, Ruth Guy, Marco Jorge, Tao Li, Marcos Tonelli, Xin Yuan, David,

Hosting: Call was hosted via Adobe Connect at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Introduction. Gerlis provided a brief welcoming speech and went straight to the agenda.

AGENDA:

- 1. Update from the APECS Executive Committee (Excom)**
- 2. Working Group Programme**
- 3. Update from the Research Activities Committee (RAC)**
- 4. Update from the National Committees**
- 5. Update from individual Council members**
- 6. Council activity**
- 7. Other business**
- 8. Announcements**

Item 1. Update from the ExCom

Gerlis Fugmann and Jenny Baeseman mentioned that the ExCom is posting updates from ExCom calls at <http://apecs.is/leadership/executive-committee/updates>

Item 2. Working Group Programme

The APECS Council recently approved (i.e. 23 council members saying YES, 0 no's) the new APECS Working Group Programme to create a way for all APECS members to take their ideas forward. See <http://www.apecs.is/working-groups>. At the moment the following working groups exist: Acronym Database Working Group APECS Mentorship Program Working Group and Climate change answers in various languages working group.

Kate Sinclair is looking for people for the mentor programme. Please contact her if you are interested (k.sinclair@gns.cri.nz)

Nathalie Morata asked how to advertise her working group on Climate change? She was told to post an announcement on the website under APECS News and to send a draft email to Jenny to advertise her group.

Ideas for a working group, just check the link mentioned above.

Item 3. Update from the Research Activities Committee (RAC)

Daniela provided an update, with the need to join working groups and RAC. List Servers for each disciplines are possible! Jenny welcomed interested people to get involved. Feedback is always welcome! Please email Kim Jochum and Loic Jullion for more information.

Always a need for enthusiastic people to participate in the management of RAC.

José Xavier asked for a success study of RAC. Daniela mentioned that possibly the Literature discussion, but definitely the Virtual Poster Session could be viewed as a success, but will need further commitment....Rosa Rut Thorisdottir has done a great job getting the social sciences up and running, but overall the RAC needs momentum and fresh commitment from other APECS members. Overall, new energy is always needed. Please contact us and get involved☺

Item 4. Update from the National Committees

To start a national committee is fairly easy. To help you, make sure that initially you get advise from APECS friends. José Xavier (jccx@cantab.net) and Allen Pope (allen.pope@polarnetwork.org) are quite happy to help you establish APECS in your country.

APECS UKPN (Allen Pope)

Allen mentioned 3 workshops, including the one in Leeds called “Investigating Variability in Polar Climates: Past, Present and Future” that will take place on the 8-9 April 2010 as well as “Physical Evidence for Polar Environmental Change” in Loughborough in November and “Polar Science Communication” in January 2011 in Aberdeen. Also, there will be a UKPN Circumpolar Remote Sensing workshop day in Cambridge in September.

UKPN is beginning the processes of registering as a charity, which would provide them with more flexibility in terms of continuity and funding.

APECS PORTUGAL (José Xavier)

José mentioned that we just had the International Polar last week (15-19 March) and Portugal was very active in it. Numerous events took place:

- APECS PORTUGAL workshop “what is the role of early career scientists in polar science” , organized by José Xavier, Marco Jorge and Alexandre Trindade at the Institute of Marine Research of the University of Coimbra. Huge success, with a new executive committee elected and a new strategy for 2010 implemented!
- E & O activity “ask and get frozen by the answers” with early career scientists replying questions from children during lunch, organized with the Museum of Science of the University of Coimbra
- E & O activity “ read & learn” which involved schools from Portugal, whose students read the book “Adventure in high seas” (children adventure book whose famous 5 get lost and reach Antarctica; the book is based on interviews made by the authors to José Xavier and Gonçalo Vieira, both young polar researchers) and had a skype call to discuss the book and how the polar regions can affect us all.
- E & O activity between APECS Portugal (José Xavier) and IPY Office, and we called Zambia to talk about “How polar regions can affect you!”. From Cambridge, José Xavier and Nicola Munro (IPY Office) explained the importance of IPY days, the polar regions and the effects of climate change everywhere in our planet. Lucky and his students from the University of Zambia took part and numerous discussions took place, with amazing views on Zambia’s work on climate change.
- E & O activity “ world call on polar issues” gathering representatives from numerous continents: José Xavier (APECS Portugal, Europe), Nicola Munro (IPO, UK), Miriam Almeida and her students (APECS Brazil, America), Khadijah Sinclair and her students (Malaysia, Asia), Gordon Fraser and Don Ross (Arctic, North America). Personal views (from scientists, educators, students and citizens) on how climate change and the polar regions can affects us all.

- Lectures in 4 different schools during the International Environment week (by José Xavier), from kindergarten children to high school students
- Group of science lectures at the University of Lisbon

Finally, some great news: in preparation for Oslo IPY Science Conference, Portugal IPY committee awarded 8 scholarships for early career scientists to attend the conference!

APECS POLAND (Matt Strzelecki)

Matt Strzelecki and colleagues are continuing to work hard to stimulate APECS POLAND and work on the website that has been developed. Matt thanked the UKPN for sharing their knowledge. APECS Poland have an Office. 2 events: Polar symposium on Polar issues with a panel discussion with mentors and young researchers an event in September!

APECS CHILE (Francisco Fernandoy)

Fernando mentioned that their event was a success although he was away. An APECS mentor panel "Careers in glaciology: research and opportunities" was held at VICC, Valdivia, Chile in February 2010.

APECS Norway (Jenny Baeseman)

Jenny Baeseman mentioned APECS Norway had their first Tromsø young researchers symposium last week with more than 50 people. Great fun! More on APECS website soon

Item 5. Update from individual Council members

Allen Pope. Field schools working? Plan for the website

Anna Wagner (Fairbanks, Alaska) is new in the council. She asked if anybody will be going to the Permafrost meeting in September. Jenny Baeseman replied that Pablo Wainstein <pawainst@ucalgary.ca> would be going.

Item 6. Council activity

New Council members: Anna Wagner (USA), Erli Costa (Brazil) and Punyasloke Bhadury (India)

Gerlis Fugmann mentioned that APECS is finally a registered organization in Norway.

Jenny Baeseman has loads of work for Oslo, and Gerlis Fugmann also mentioned that there is loads of work on the ExCom. Allen Pope will be helping the ExCom and linking the ExCom and the Council.

Gerlis Fugmann and Daniela Liggett – Point system for Council members on the Council Charter file info. (see <http://www.apecs.is/leadership/council/756-council-charter>). Gerlis Fugmann mentioned that the main aim is to improve the functioning of the organization:

- What is expected of you as a Council Member?
- How you can get involved?
- Point system as a reminder to communicate availability to cooperate?

ExCom is happy to get suggestions on a better method for improving the point system. Several members (e.g. Bego) questioned if this is the best way to go. Claudia Halsband-Lenk mentioned that we must get used to the fact that our performance is evaluated, but a point system might get too intimidating; maybe a list (qualitative) of things done would be enough. Kate Sinclair/Allen Pope mentioned that the best way for the chart to work is a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation of each Council member. The point system aims to assess who works better, to incorporate more and more Council members in the activities going on; a way to improve, not to embarrass!!

Item 7. Other business

Excom is writing a summary of APECS activities from the last 3 years to be presented at the IPY Conference in Oslo in June.

Ruth Guy asked how schools are being kept in touch with polar science. Jenny Baeseman suggested that Ruth should contact Kristin Timm <kristin@arcus.org> who is the chair of the APECS Education and Outreach Committee.

Item 8. Announcements

Allen: APECS council meeting in Oslo Science Conference: 7 June 12- 6pm

Gerlis Fugmann: Design competition still on!!! Submit your vote on the 25 March.

Next APECS Council call in May!!!!