



APECS Council Call Minutes
Tuesday November 2, 2010 20:00 GMT

Chair: Silje-Kristin Jensen

Note takers: Jen Rhemann and Angelika Renner

Present/guests: Allen, Silje, Jenny, Alexey, Geli, Jen Rhemann, Bree, Gerlis, Inga, Jenny fisher, Kim, Mariette, Oliver, Rosa, Silvia, Tosca, Yulia, Ben

Hosting: The call was hosted via Adobe Connect at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Introduction: Allen Pope, the newly-elected APECS President, opened the Council Call and introduced Silje-Kristin Jensen as the new Council Chair and Jennifer Rhemann as the Council Co-Chair. Silje has been with the Council for some time, and she's very happy to be working in the capacity of Council Chair. Silje welcomes everyone and starts on the agenda.

Agenda:

- 1) Council Member Introductions
- 2) Project / Working Group / National Committee Updates
- 3) ExCom Update (Contacts, List-servs, and more)
- 4) Discussion of Director Job Description
- 5) Discussion of Optional Membership Fees

Item 1: Council Member Introductions

Silje welcomed the 7 new Council members: Sílvia, Oli, Jenny Fisher, Yulia, Jose, Claudia & Eleanor, and returning Council members were welcomed-back. The new members give a brief introduction about themselves.

Item 2: Project / Working Group / National Committee Updates

- Every third month, Council members will report on activities to the ExCom (APECS Executive Committee: <http://www.apecs.is/leadership/executive-committee>). These reports should contain progress reports on ongoing projects, new projects, and ideas for the future. The first report is due on 1 January 2011 and can be sent to Silje and she will collect all the reports before sending it to the ExCom. If you have questions, feel free to ask Silje, Jen R., or any ExCom member.
- Posting jobs, events, reports and papers to the APECS website is one of the ways that we make APECS a valuable resource to early career polar researchers. Posting is one of our most important responsibilities.
 - Jenny Baeseman, the Director of APECS, has sent a number of links to instructional videos on posting jobs/events/etc. to the APECS website. They're great. You can see them here: <http://vimeo.com/apecs/videos>.

Each member online gave a brief introduction on who they are and what they are doing.

- Here are some highlights from attendee comments and from those who sent notes for communication at the meeting:
 - Bryany Denning: Working on the APECS Career Development Workshop to be held in conjunction with ICASS, the International Congress of the Arctic Social Sciences. See <http://apecs.is/workshops/icass2011> for more information.
 - Angelika Renner (ExCom): Be sure to sign-up for the list-serves. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask.
 - Gerlis Fugmann (ExCom): Working on APECS ICASS Workshop (<http://apecs.is/workshops/icass2011>) and on the Steering Committee of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2012 Meeting in Montreal (<http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca/index.html>).
 - Kim Jochum (RAC Chair): (RAC = Research Activities Committee: see more info at <http://www.apecs.is/research-activities-committee>) Discipline Coordinators (DC) are getting things rolling with list-serves for all of the disciplines, and DCs are getting their discipline groups more involved in the Virtual Poster Sessions (VPS: <http://www.apecs.is/research/virtual-poster-session>).
 - Mariëtte Wheeler (ExCom): Is the contact person for the Field Science Working Group (<http://apecs.is/current-projects>) and is working on developing APECS South Africa
 - Yulia Zaike – Working on events in Russia and nearing completion on the translation of the APECS brochure into Russian
 - Rosa Thorsdottir : working currently on getting the Social Sciences listserver going and working on the ICASS workshop (<http://apecs.is/workshops/icass2011>)
 - Anna Wagner: There are ~ 20 people signed-up for the APECS & Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) Career Development Workshop at the upcoming American Geophysical Union meeting in December. More spaces are available. See <http://apecs.is/events/details/240-agu2010> for more info.

- Matt Strezelecki: APECS Polska is working on a Conference on the Geopolitical State of the Arctic to be held in Poland. He's also looking into an application for a Working Group on sediment budget in cold environments.
- Dubrava Kirievskaya: Organized 1st Russian Career Development Workshop and working with schools and education/outreach branch of APECS Russia to organize a 2-day Career Development Symposium in August 2011.
- Alexey Pavlov: Working on APECS Workshop for the Arctic Science Summit Week in Korea in 2011 (<http://apecs.is/workshops/assw2011>).
- Ben Beall: Ben does a phenomenal job on our newsletters. They are now distributed to over 5000 people. Thanks, Ben!
- Oliver Marsh recommended that we add an "applications deadline" to events entry forms.

Council update pr email:

- Claudia Maturana: The mentor panel in Valdivia was very successful. The mentors talk more than an hour about their experience as a researcher. They were very grateful to be invited. In November 21 we are going to present an APECS poster in the annual meeting of Biology and Evolution in Santa Cruz. This is a local meeting, a great instance to talk about APECS, not well known here.
- Sílvia Lourenço: Discussion of a document to be presented to the Minister of Science and Technology, showing the strategy of Portugal Polar Science (Structure and Logistics) for the future. APECS will have a representative in the organizational committee.
 - Young Portuguese Researchers in UK and France. Sue Bloom (at the British Antarctic Survey, in Cambridge to work on foraging ecology of white chinned penguins) and Filipe Ceia and Rui Vieira (at the CEBC-CNRS and University of La Rochelle, France to work on food web dynamics related to albatrosses and Antarctic fish) were three early Portuguese career scientists collaborating with major European laboratories, working with top British and French polar scientists, showing that Portugal is making an effort to connect and promote international collaborations.
 - Participation on the Researchers Night, where Eduarda Guerreiro and Paulo Maciel took part on hands-on activities for students in Olhão, Algarve. This is an Educational and Outreach event with an European dimension with happenings in most of all EU countries, that already have a very nice media coverage here in Portugal.
 - APECS Portugal with APECS Brazil. A tremendous workshop of APECS Brazil took place in October, where José Xavier presented a poster (with Miriam Almeida the main author) showing how using new technologies provided a unique way to connect scientists in the Antarctic with students in Brazil, Malaysia, UK and Canada.
 - Lecturing in Cambridge. José Xavier (a British Antarctic Survey guest scientist) was invited to give lectures on Antarctic food web dynamics to young marine biologists that will be spending more than 2 years in the Antarctic collecting data on

the feeding ecology of penguins, seals and albatrosses. Of course José took the chance to invite them to become APECS members and be actively involved in APECS while in the Antarctic.

- Next APECS Portugal meeting is planned to be in March/April 2011.

- Dubrava Kirievskaya: We organized the 1st APECS RUSSIA Career Development Workshop in collaboration with Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU), the «Sea Coasts» Working Group of the Russian Academy of Science Council on the World Ocean and Euroscience representatives (October, 8, 2010). The main remarks from workshop:

It was the first Russian career development workshop in St. Petersburg and it was supported by Young Scientist Council at St. Petersburg city administration. So it was a positive experience and good way for the future. It was recommended to organize 2 days Career Development Symposium at the Baltic Conference in August 2011. RSHU branch of Young Scientist Council at St. Petersburg city administration strongly recommended to Ivan Sudakov to make a proposal for this event, because he made the main contribution to organizing the career development workshop, and he has a vast experience of working with scientific community. It was recommended to organize a school branch of APECS Russia because we have established contacts with the school educational society. Also Dubrava Kirievskaya found members for the marine ecosystem working group.

There were comments from many people on posting jobs to the APECS website and on working to further develop the APECS national groups.

Item 3: ExCom Update (Contacts, List-servs, and more)

ExCom updates from Allen

- The new ExCom is made of new members and very experienced members.
- ExCom priorities have been identified and put into a document. Your feedback is most welcome.
- The ExCom will have a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge in 2 weeks.
- There have been a number of very successful APECS Webinars (<http://www.apecs.is/webinars>). Today's webinar had over 40 attendees. Recordings of the webinars will be uploaded to the APECS website. You can also see them (along with Jenny's awesome tutorials) here: <http://vimeo.com/apecs/videos>
- There was a great Virtual Poster Session (VPS) last week on 'Polar Research in India'.
- APECS activities are under way in conjunction with the following:
 - International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) General Assembly in Melbourne in 2011 (<http://www.iugg.org/assemblies/2011melbourne/>)
 - International Symposium for Antarctic Earth Sciences, SCAR
 - UKPN (UK Polar Network: the UK national committee of APECS: <http://www.polarnetwork.org/new/>) Science Communication meeting in Aberdeen in January 2011.
 - Applications are due this week.

- Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø in January 2011 (<http://apecs.is/events/arctic-frontiers-2011>)
- ExCom members and Council members are linking-up to facilitate better communication & provide support.

Item 4 Discussion of Director Job Description

- There was a lot of very positive feedback about the director position job description. You have all seen the long version of the job description, and a shorter one will be sent from Allen. There was a great discussion about the job description, however if you have more feedback, please send it to the ExCom. Your feedback will be taken into account for the final version of the description. Here are some highlights from the discussion:
 - The job is not being advertized at this time; this is being done in preparation for the future.
 - The period for the position will be entirely dependent on funding. This information will be included in the call for applications at such time that it is posted.
 - The short version of the position posting will be used for advertising the position on mailing lists, etc.
 - The length and amount of detail of some of the task descriptions was mentioned, however this will be kept since the applicants won't necessarily be familiar with APECS operations.
 - A probation period for the incumbent was proposed.
 - A minimum time period was also put-forward.
 - It was agreed that information be included regarding the collaborative nature of many of the tasks (that the director works on these tasks with volunteer APECS members).
 - Tosca asked if there was a method by which the new director will be evaluated. The director will report to the ExCom.
 - There was consensus that our current director does an amazing job.
Thanks, Jenny!!!

Item 5: Discussion of Optional Membership Fees

- Should APECS have an option to contribute a voluntary membership fee during membership registration on the APECS website?
- Hugues Lantuit, from APECS & the International Permafrost Association (IPA: <http://ipa.arcticportal.org/>) is working with the Arctic Portal (www.arcticportal.is) to provide an opportunity for people who are registering for IPA membership to click a PayPal button and donate to IPA via a voluntary membership contribution. Should APECS follow suit?
- Here are some discussion / Questions (Q) & Answers (A) highlights:
 - Q: Are there tax or income issues?
 - A: APECS is a registered charity in Norway. That status takes care of potential tax and income issues.

- The amount of the donation hasn't been decided, however the amount will be small (~ €10-20).
 - Yulia recommended an online vote to determine the amount.
- Comment from Jenny: The amounts of funds available from this initiative will not be huge. We do a tremendous amount with very little, and we should expect to continue doing great things with few resources.
- Q: What will be the process to ensure financial transparency?
 - A: The ExCom produces financial reports in January; they are available upon request. The budget will be online from January.
- A suggestion was put forward to require payments for institutional or organizational membership (not individual memberships). (Great suggestion, Sílvia.) That is being discussed further by the ExCom & Jenny.
- Rosa brought-up the success of the optional entry fees at all UK National Museums. That program has been much more successful than anticipated, and there might be value in looking into how British museums have done this.
- Q: Will an APECS member's ability to participate in APECS activities be compromised by whether or not they make the voluntary contribution?
 - A: No - whether or not someone contributes has absolutely no bearing on their level of participation.
- Q: Will there be a list of which members contribute and which don't?
 - A: No, anonymity will be guaranteed.
- Q: How will the money be used?
 - A: The money will be used for APECS events such as panels, workshop events, and other activities. It will not be used for administrative or organizational costs.
 - Comments from Jenny: The director position has a paid salary until 2012. Membership fees can go directly to paying for events. Our non-profit status allows us to give necessary receipts, etc.
- If we go ahead with this idea, we must be very careful with how the information is presented on the website and elsewhere.
 - Tosca brought-up an example from the SCAR meeting in Argentina in which there were individuals who had the impression that the APECS events were exclusive. We'll have to carefully avoid similar misunderstandings.
 - Comments from Jenny: Communication is very important. ~250 people showed-up to the APECS Panel at the SCAR meeting, and at least 75 of them were prominent senior scientists. The social event that was held afterward was funded in roughly equal parts by SCAR and Jenny's pocket. The next director shouldn't expect to do that; these potential funds could go towards paying for events such as this. We can only ask organizations like SCAR (very limited budget of their own) for so much money, and we need to figure-out how to be more sustainable.
- Q: What about asking for membership fees at meetings?

- A: We can mention it at meetings, but we don't want to directly ask people for membership donation at meetings.
- Comment from Jenny: We have charged workshop entrance fees in the past, and that has been successful. CAN\$100 per person was charged for the APECS Career Development Workshop in Victoria, B.C., Canada (<http://apecs.is/workshops/victoria09>). US\$25 will be charged at the upcoming AGU Meeting (<http://apecs.is/events/details/240-agu2010>).
- Regarding importance of communication: there should be an explanation available at the online registration to explain the purpose and usage of the voluntary registration donation (great suggestion, Jenny F!)
- Silje recommended that we put a "donate to APECS" button on the website so that anyone can donate. Here's more info on PayPal's donation button: https://www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/?&cmd=_donate-intro-outside

Some the council our priorities are to:

- Post jobs/events/articles/etc. to the website
 - Sign-up for the listserves, and you'll have more to post!
- Send comments on APECS Director job description to the ExCom
- Send comments on the potential optional registration donation to the ExCom
- Send any comments/feedback/questions to Silje or Jen R. on the Council, or to Allen or any of the other ExCom members.

Silje ends the call by thanking everyone for a productive discussion and for all the input. Next council call will be in December 2010.