IRIS BOD Meeting Action Items
4-5 November 2013
Responses to CoCom and Standing Committees

1. DS requests redirection of costs offset by recent funding of SAVI and EarthCube awards toward increased SAGE effort for QA (majority) and increased REED activities

   Board response: The Board supports the proposed action in principle but encourages Data Services to ensure the proper interactions between SAGE and the two projects where the savings were realized.

2. IDS proposes two-day ASI coordinated with the DMS Metadata Workshop in Bogotá, during August 2014
   * Management of data – data collection, not just metadata
   * Links to research activities

   Board response: The Board supports the proposed action in principle and encourages IDS to proceed while exploring opportunities for external funding

3. EPO requests guidance on pursuing industry funding

   Board Response: The Board is in favour of exploring industry support for EPO activities, especially for internships.

   In the general area of seeking industry and other private funding support, the Board has asked Financial Services to assess whether the appropriate IRIS procedures are in place to provide guidance to the staff for these types of efforts since they are separate from the activities funded by government awards.

4. ISM seeks endorsement for EarthScope Decade celebration

   Board response: The Board agrees that this is an important event for EarthScope. ISM is encouraged to work with UNAVCO, ENO and NSF to begin preparations immediately. The Board approves the use of unrestricted funds for a reception (preferably with costs shared with UNAVCO and ENO).

5. ISM requests guidance on industry engagement

   Board response: The Board agrees that industry engagement is important and is currently working on a broader IRIS-wide strategy document for this effort. At present, the Board requests that ISM continue engagement with industry and SEG in the form of a meeting early in 2014 as discussed during the Board meeting. The Board also encourages continued interaction with

industry and manufacturers on instrumentation and data collection.

In addition, PASSCAL is encouraged to provide the Board a report on the results of the "new technologies" review as soon as possible.

6. ISM requests guidance regarding strategy for seismology in the ocean basins

Board response: The Board generally endorses this concept. The Board requests that ISM develop an ocean seismology strategy document for IRIS within the next year. ISM should coordinate with the GSN and OMO during the preparation of this document. The Board also requests that ISM engage the MariScope effort with Guust Nolet, and use both the AGU and IRIS workshops as venues for that engagement effort.

7. ISM requests guidance whether GABBA should be kept alive
8. ISM requests guidance whether SZO should be kept alive

Board response: The Board strongly endorses the GABBA and SZO concepts. However, given present budget reductions these efforts cannot take priority over other efforts that have been funded. The Board encourages ISM and related programs to investigate alternative funding sources. The Board suggests that this effort focus on the encouragement of community proponents to move these efforts forward while maintaining close communication with IRIS regarding ideas and progress.

9. TA requests that the BoD provide a 5 year budget assumption to be used in planning the CEUSN project

Board response: In a telephone conversation with Greg Anderson during the meeting this question was discussed. Greg indicated that CEUSN remains a priority for NSF but requires OSTP and OMB continuing interest and support in order for the project to continue for 5 years. He indicated that he is working to keep these organizations informed and engaged. It is the Board's conclusion from this conversation that funding on the level of $2 million per year can be expected if these actions are successful. Greg also indicated that in conversations with the USGS that they are committed to continuing to seek support for their component of this effort.

10. Portable is responding to abating budget and program resources with change in scope.

Board Response: The Board is sympathetic to the impact of decreasing budgets on the ability to provide resources and support for experimenters.

Broader BoD Response: The Board recognizes the underlying issue here, in that aging equipment and tight budgets have created immense stress on the equipment pool. Developing approaches to this issue is a high Board priority. We encourage PIC to place a high priority on quantifying the

extent of the problem and the level of instrument failure both in recent experiments and anticipated, to help PASC and the Board to understand the scope and scale of the problem.

The Board asks the PASSCAL PM, PASC Chair, IS Director, and Board Liaison to PASC to serve as a short-term Working Group on Sustainability of Portable Seismology, to report back to the Board by Feb 1, 2014. This Working Group should initiate the development of a strategy for dealing with the aging instrument pool and examine the broader issues of how to restructure and perhaps curtail the level of services that PIC can provide. This may include guidelines on instrument availability and services, formalizing and specifying much more clearly the agreements between PIC and PI's perhaps as a formal part of proposal submission, and should help lay the groundwork for longer-term capitalization plans.

11. PASC requests clarification on role of PASC in providing Polar guidance

Board Response: The Board continues to support the inclusions of a PNSC member on PASC in order to facilitate coordination. The Board asks ISM with support from PASC to develop a statement of IS's role in coordinating guidance across instrumentation services in order to begin to clarify how integrated Polar guidance will be developed. In general, the Board recognizes that PASC is responsible for oversight of all activities within the Instrument Center, which includes at present virtually all IRIS Polar activities (Antarctic field support, GEO-ICE, GLISN, etc.).

12. PASC requests that "PASSCAL" be maintained as program name with "Program for Array…" being replaced by "Portable Arrays…"

Board Response: The Board endorses this change. This approach emphasizes the Consortium has continued, long-standing intellectual investment in these facilities, while committed to SAGE.

13. PASC requests that BoD weigh in with unresolved issues regarding merger of FA and PA

Board Response: The Board recognizes the importance of fully merging these pools, and encourages the PIC and PASC to outline specific areas of concern (e.g., export limitations and levels of field and data handling support) through ISM and update the 2012 PASC recommendations for merged pools, in light of current funding stresses. Efforts to outline these concerns should be coordinated with the Working Group outlined in item 10 above.

14. PASC requests that PASSCAL have right of first refusal for any lower 48 TA instrumentation

Board Response: In principle the Board agrees that PASSCAL should be a

high priority for these instruments, as a short-term partial solution to the instrument pool problem, and has received encouragement from NSF to proceed this way. Based on the feedback from NSF and CEUSN as well as the completion of the continental US deployment, the Board asks ISM for an accounting of available instrumentation as a function of time so that the availability of instrumentation for PASC can be quantified for planning purposes.

15. PASC encourages IRIS to approach NSF about establishing a mechanism for more rapidly approving and distributing funding for future RAMP capability and deployments

Board Response: The Board is supportive of the RAMP system, while concerned about continued operations given other stresses on the instrument pool. Given the NSF-RAPID program's ability to provide funding quickly, the Board requests more details from PIC and PASC of the nature of the problem. The Board also encourages some feedback from PASC regarding the appropriate role for IRIS in both helping PI's solicit such funds and providing budgetary recommendations.

16. CoCom Recommendation: The BoD should maintain a strong line of communication with IRIS staff and the Consortium as the new governance changes are implemented

Board response: The Board agrees with this recommendation and will continue to make these efforts as governance changes are implemented.

17. CoCom Recommendation: The BoD should consider changing the timing of selection of new chairs to enable overlap and smoother transition

Board response: The Board agrees that a smooth transition in committee chairs is important, and supports the concept of early designation of incoming chairs. Each committee is encouraged to propose smooth changes in leadership on a case-by-case basis that best fit the needs of each committee.