

WHOI Postdoctoral Association

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 12

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Caryn House

Committee members present:

Heather Benway, Angela Dickens, Ted Durland, Henrieta Dulaiova, Breea Govenar, Phoebe Lam.

Other representatives present:

Janet Fields (Postdoctoral Coordinator/Academic Programs)

1. Meeting opened by Heather

2. Postdoc Breakfast

The postdoc breakfast will be December 5. We will pass around a sign-up sheet for new postdocs to sign up for the all-postdocs mailing list. Heather will also say something at the breakfast about the PDA, that it exists, that we serve on committees and organize social and career-related activities. We will also put together a welcome letter from the PDA to add to Janet's packet for incoming postdocs.

3. WHOI booth at AGU

Janet will have a WHOI information booth at AGU for postdoc (and student) recruitment.

4. Postdoc scholar positions

WHOI did cut one or two postdoc scholar positions as part of the budget crunch.

5. Postdoc TGIFs (Friday socials)

We would like to host these as self-sustaining events, with people chipping in a bit for beer and snacks, every month or so. Caryn House will be an excellent site once we have a fridge and other furnishings.

6. Caryn House

The room here will be fixed up soon, and we would like to make it accessible as a lounge for all WHOI postdocs, similar to the student lounge in Clark. Janet will look into having a combination lock put on the door, and we would give the code to all postdocs. Janet will also discuss with Jim Yoder when we can start buying things for the room. Facilities will do some work (painting, removing duct work, etc), but perhaps not until the spring, and we would like to settle in more before then. We would like a refrigerator that would be stocked with soda and beer, with a locked container for money for these items. A microwave, area rug, table, curtains and couch covers would also be great. We have \$5000 for this, and Heather will price out these items.

We would like to have a photo contest and make the best photos into posters to decorate the walls. We will announce this at the postdoc breakfast. The contest will be open to all WHOI postdocs, with photos to be submitted by January 15, 2007. We'll put the submitted photos online and have people vote on them by the end of January. We will look into how to print these at an affordable price. Breea will handle the submission side of things and Angie the printing side.

7. Alternative Careers Forum

JP Alums (led by Julia Westwater, the Registrar) are organizing a forum of talks on careers outside of academia in mid/late January. This forum should be open to postdocs as well. We continued to discuss pursuing similar programs on a more regular basis, perhaps organizing a speaker or a forum a few times a year. We don't have money for this, so we'll have to find local speakers. Janet will get the contact and job information for former WHOI postdoc scholars and fellows. (Unfortunately, human resources doesn't collect this information about departing postdoc investigators – we should put pressure on them to do so.) We could contact Corporation and Trustee Members, but should run the names by Development before contacting them. Another resource is the Education Coordinators in each department, who are likely to know of JP or postdoc alums doing cool, local work. We'll work on an event for sometime in the spring. We also discussed adding a link to the PDA website where former postdocs could update their contact information

8. Committee Reports

The Diversity Committee doesn't really want appointments – they want people who are really interested in being on the committee. Tim was initially very interested, and Breea would be very excited to be on the committee, so we'll work something out between the two of them to have representation.

9. Next meeting

Second week of January, exact time TBA.

10. Meeting closed by Heather

(Minutes recorded by Angie)