Meeting minutes 05 Jan 2022

PDA meeting 05 January 2022
Present: Yaamini, Tzu-ting, Svenja, Elaine, Maggi, Mike, Hannah, Janet

Officer positions:

- President: Elaine
- VP: Svenja
- Secretary: Hannah
- Treasurer: Mike
- Listserv/slack: Maggi
- Webmaster: Svenja (+Hannah)
- Google calendar: Tzu-ting
- Mentoring: Yaamini + Maggi

Committee representatives (and alternates):

- CDI: Eesh (Yaamini)
- Ed council: Yaamini (Svenja)
- International: Elaine (Eesh, maybe?)
- Women's: Maggi (Tzu-ting)
- Workplace climate: Hannah (Svenja)
- Sustainability: Mike (Maggi)

Committee reps will contact the chairs of their respective committees (find on internal webpages) and introduce themselves/alternates as postdoc reps

General discussion:

- should we try to negotiate a group rate for Ocean Sciences, for people who want to attend but not present? Should we use PDA funds to pay for registrations for those people?
  - APO couldn't afford it even with a discounted rate, if a decent % of postdocs were interested
  - APO has been giving some of its funds to the institution to fill budget gaps and is therefore short on spare cash
  - ASLO is unlikely to want to budge on rates; might ask what would be in it for them from these potential postdoc listener-attendees

- PDA budget:
we don't actually have one. If we wanted to, we could put together a budget (for a full year) and then we would have to stick with it. As it is, Janet budgets generously for what she expects us to need, then moves money around

General expectation for a year: $ for in-person postdoc symposium, $ for 2 postdocs to attend NPDA meeting, 1k for career stuff/panels, small slush fund

- When should we meet?
  - once a month, maybe every other month; maybe more as events approach

- Each person should try to take on organizing one event, spread those throughout the year

- Past events that can be revisited:
  - all-postdocs open meeting with Janet and Meg to talk about things
  - PDA-only meeting with Janet and Meg to talk about things
  - Postdoc breakfast - usually in January, with institution leadership
    - could invite Peter or DDVPR or WHOI lobbyist to talk to us about something of interest
  - Bringing in outside speakers; virtually, we might be able to get people we can't get in person
  - Listening session with Meg + Peter? There was one of these last year, might not want to repeat since many postdocs are here for >1 year and were at the last one
  - meet-the-new-PDA event? zoom might not be appealing, perhaps an in-person walk at lunch

- In general, we plan to brainstorm events and jump into organizing some soon

- Onboarding new postdocs:
  - can we get people into the slack group sooner? Ideally as soon as an offer is accepted, rather than after they arrive, as slack can be a source of info on housing and a place to ask questions of peers
  - Seems like a lot of welcoming/onboarding stuff slips through the cracks in some cases
  - We might be able to get notified by department admins when new postdocs accept offers - dept reps could look into this?
  - We can provide Janet with a short (1-2 sentence) blurb about joining the slack channel that she can add to her standard welcome email?
  - When we send emails, individually, to all postdocs about PDA stuff, consider including links to PDA website and slack channel in signature.

Action items:

- Committee reps will contact respective committee chairs to introduce themselves and alternates
- Elaine will email postdoc-official list with a happy-new-year etc message
- Elaine will talk to Eesh about being International Committee alternate
- Elaine will make a google sheet on the PDA google drive where we can brainstorm events/start signing up to work on events for particular time frames
• We will all look at that spreadsheet and start adding to it

• Next meeting: 19 Jan 2022 at noon eastern time