

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