

Meeting minutes 29 July 2022

PDA meeting 29 July 2022

In attendance: Svenja, Yaamini, Hannah, Janet

Mike and Maggi tried their best to come but were thwarted by technology and traffic, respectively

Called to order 13:11ish

Agenda:

none to speak of

general discussion

Note that Svenja is transitioning to an RA position (congrats!) - she is happy to stay on the PDA until the next elections and help with workshop planning etc, though officially the charter probably doesn't allow it. Janet says she doesn't care, we can decide as a group if we care (editor's note: I doubt that we do) and if needed Svenja could find another PO postdoc to pass the job on.

Planning for postdoc picnic social event - should we just all meet up at the WHOI picnic? WHOI picnic is August 6, and August is already busy - hard to find a second date for a separate event.

Could we have small hangout to celebrate the end of the academic job workshop? Janet can buy non-alcoholic drinks and maybe some snacks for the workshop itself (because it is an organized event) but we would have to supply our own booze

Janet normally throws a picnic for Postdoc Appreciation Week, in September, and that often includes inviting advisors and partners and maybe kids, and includes postdocs from the other five science institutions (!) (in non-covid times - the event was scaled back to pizza on the ballfield for WHOI postdocs only last fall)

In the past, this event has had ~75-100 people

We have more postdocs than usual these days (though some are remote)

If picnic was outdoors/ballfield, that number of people would be maybe ok even in during still-covid-times

Facilities can bring chairs and tables, Janet would supply refreshments and maybe some toys for kids

We need to take Janet up on opportunities to take extra drinks from sponsored events - this is how we supply/fund any casual postdoc social stuff

Non-academic jobs workshop that APO is running hasn't been scheduled because of conflicts/illness of presenters, not sure when it will be but maybe mid-August

All-APO meeting was scheduled but not everyone got the memo; supposedly it would be August 3rd which is next week (oops).

We will have to reset the date because we need time to query people about discussion topics Wednesday afternoons might be good times for Meg and Janet but we need to check seminar schedules and also not have it be too late for people who have to pick up kids from daycare Late August? Meg is taking a vacation for the second half of August. August 10/11/12 might work for early afternoon for Meg

Events in the works:

- Svenja and Maggi need to talk about the academic jobs workshop
- Svenja will send out an email about postdocs meeting up at the WHOI picnic
- Mike is signed up to do something with interview practice opportunities in the fall, but he is not at the meeting
- we need to start thinking about the postdoc symposium (end of september/beginning of october; last year it was later, but the idea is to catch new postdocs as they start in the fall)
 - last few years it's been remote; previously it was at the national academies. NA is not an option because they sold the property. Do we want to be in person at some other venue? Or want to do it on zoom again?
 - if in person, off-site is nice, but it's hard to book off-site things right now because of covid so we probably can't do that
 - we could use clark 507, and have hybrid option - this is probably the least risky option at the moment
 - dates: early October 6/7/12/13 are open, early November Wed/Thurs/Fri are fine except for the 2nd. A Thursday might be nice. There is always a conflict for someone; no one on this call cares much about missing one department seminar but it's courteous to try and avoid seminar days as best we can
 - in-person, it's a 1-day event (on zoom it was 2 days to avoid zoom fatigue) and includes at least some food/socializing at breaks
 - hopefully sometime in the future we can go back to off-site so people can be fully focused and not go in and out to labs, start checking email, leave during talks that aren't in their field, etc. Want to make sure all speakers get respect and attention.

Ogletree survey: poor rating on postdoc "advising" from APO and department mentoring programs - is there something that APO is not doing that they should be doing? They want to know!

Bring such things up at the all-postdoc meeting

Some of the problem might be disconnects of information, because of differences in investigator/scholar/fellow rules - people might talk to fellow postdocs and get confused because the different categories don't all work the same way. In general health insurance is an issue in part because there are limits on what APO is allowed to tell people/help with (similarly, taxes). Also, onboarding

process with HR - how does that mesh with whatever APO provides? Are there gaps between the two sets of information, are there conflicts?

Might need to update the unofficial advice documents on health insurance and taxes to reflect any recent changes

follow-up

- Svenja will send an email about scheduling the symposium - need to move quickly to pick a date before 507 is booked up, so set a deadline for responses
- Svenja will email APO about setting a (new) date for the all-postdoc meeting, hopefully get that date out very very soon so we can start soliciting topics for discussion in advance
- Janet can share a list of incoming postdocs so that department reps can contact new people to welcome them
- We should think about updating the health insurance advice, and maybe doing a survey to get current info on what plans people have that are actually working for them.

adjourned 14:01