

Meeting minutes 28 April 2023

In attendance: Donna, Nina, Alice, Hannah, Sara, Alex K, Alex P, Mohammed, Janet (everyone!)

meeting started ~13:05

agenda

(none)

General news and notes:

- Janet introduced Donna to the international committee
- Nina is figuring out how to moderate the email list, with Janet's help
- Alex K asked for pictures for the PDA website, he has them and will be uploading them
- We discussed being able to send email from the `whoi-pda@whoi` email address, which we can in theory do but haven't bothered to try for a while
- passwords for everything are in the google drive
 - if you can't access the google drive (Mohammed, others?) then contact IS
- We are all mostly set up for committee stuff
 - Alice is set up for Ed council, they have a meeting soon. Mohammed hasn't gotten ed council emails though he is the alternate. Janet will check on that.
 - Alex P and Sara are set up for CDEI
 - Alex K and Hannah are all set for WCC

Monthly coffee hours:

PO has one, BIO is setting one up, MPC doesn't bc it doesn't have people. GG sort of has something but it's also our seminar and isn't really a seminar either

Do postdocs have a coffee hour? Do postdocs have money for a coffee hour? no, maybe, who knows

professional development opportunity idea: WH science stroll (August 10). Mohammed says: M's lab was part of the blue economy initiative, some labs invited students for tours and activities, they came up with a bunch of hands-on demos for these students. It was a lot of work but fun and successful and the students got a lot out of it. What if we could fund some labs to work on building demos for the purpose of explaining things to students/general public? There has been a meeting with APO and BIG and SeaGrant (possible funding source: <https://seagrants.whoi.edu/funding-2/funding/program-development/>). Met with people organizing the science stroll; stroll provided \$500

budget to buy supplies, but could also potentially get \$ from SeaGrant in time to do something for the stroll

where do postdocs come in? organize a workshop, bring in some people to talk briefly/panel on best practices for science communication and a discussion, then have people who want to present activities in the science stroll present their activities to the postdoc audience and give feedback on the activities. could make the panel part similar in some ways to the elevator pitch workshop, ask advancement to do another version of that?

Janet notes that we have had some similar workshops in the past, there are many components that we could incorporate into this. APO could probably kick in some money to help with this. We could check with BIG about possible speakers too, and reach out to the folks in advancement that Mike Weir talked to for the elevator pitch workshop.

Basically we all think this is a good idea! Should we allow JP students to come too? Might as well.

Likely timeline: July, to be before the science stroll

Should try to attend science stroll committee meetings, or at least coordinate with either Kathy Patterson or Joanne Tromp re: having space at the stroll. Also look at booking meeting space for this workshop pretty far in advance because space fills up in the summer.

what are the components? panel discussion, practical demonstrations, critiques of peoples' presentations. Timing relative to the stroll is important, as are the exact goals of the workshop relative to the stroll

There are a lot of options; Mohammed can put something together and we can discuss what makes sense for all the various purposes

There are also many details relative to the science stroll to be worked out

There are lots of new postdocs coming in these days, and we don't know each other cross-departments very well. Alice is happy to help organize. Quisset/village, can rotate? Maybe also invite MBL postdocs? There are drinks in the fridge in the postdoc lounge in the village; typical way to do it is \$1/soft drink, \$2/beer, and those \$ can be used to buy pizza or whatever. The postdoc lounge is not gigantic but could fit 15-20 people maybe. The ballfield is nice for outdoors though once softball season starts games take precedence.

APO is willing to pay for two picnics a year, basically: either a spring or a summer, and then a fall one with postdocs+family+advisors

maybe do a spring thing as an icebreaker, and then try to organize more ongoing/regular social things in the future? All of this will take organizing, but we can try to keep it low-effort (pizza on tables somewhere and tell people to show up)

to check for event date conflicts, on the internal webpage there's a link for an institution calendar that probably isn't comprehensive but has many of the things we might want to avoid.

note that we can piggyback on existing events, eg send out a note to postdocs saying we can meet up at the CDEI picnic etc

Janet will talk with MIT people about setting up a non-academic jobs workshop event

Donna will send out a poll for our next meeting in a month

meeting adjourned circa 14:01