

05/15/14 PDA general meeting

Present: Shareef Dabdoub, Emily Butler, Rick Laguna, Annette Ratcliff, Will Cantara, Yoshie Narui, Jeff Agnoli, Marcela Hernandez, Yang Xing

NPA comprehensive survey of institutions:

Jeff received an email from the NPA providing access to the raw data from their first ever comprehensive survey of US institutions regarding their postdoc community. This data is available on the NPA website but requires institutional credentials to log in. We could potentially make the data available to our community as needed, perhaps by including relevant links the Resources tab of the PDA website.

Postdoc Writing Group

As a result of our invitation to register for the pilot postdoc writing groups, 2 groups of 5 individuals were formed with 15-20 people still on the waiting list. Yoshie is participating in one group; Shareef is in another. Shareef's group consists of postdocs working in astrophysics, veterinary medicine, psychology, and dentistry. So far there has been just an informational session and one meeting, though it is going well thus far and is expected to prove interesting and beneficial.

More groups are will likely be formed this fall.

Career Development

The Life Sciences Network hosted Ann Altman for a lecture on writing scientific paper on May 14th. The luncheon with Dr. Altman on May 15th was attended by several PDA members. Will is going to link the pdf of her book to our website and include a link to the Amazon page for purchase.

The PAC, LSN, Dept of Ed, and other groups are hosting George Gopen, a professor emeritus in rhetoric at Duke University on August 19th for an 8 hour writing workshop targeted toward postdocs and newly hired faculty. He is also giving a similar lecture at the University of Dayton next month and we've been invited to send a delegate. For more information on Dr. Gopen: <http://www.georgegopen.net/4436.html>

Report from the PAC meeting 5/13/14

Marcela reports that there was discussion on the future of the PAC, pending the opening of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA). Uncertainty remains as to whether they will be granted a budget for the coming year. One solution proposed was to be granted a budget under the provision (stated in an MOU) that the opening of the OPA will render the PAC budget null. This would allow PAC-sponsored events to continue until administrative responsibilities are handed over to the OPA.

To help in this initiative, Marcela requested information as to what has been accomplished with the PAC funds that have already been used. The PAC would like to provide evidence that they have been effective in their objectives. Input could be gathered through a survey or individuals could email her a list of ways they PAC events have benefitted them. She would like the information by mid-June.

There was also discussion as to how PAC members could integrate with PDA members and committees to facilitate outcomes. This will likely help keep momentum going through personnel shifts. Latonya is willing to

work on HR/benefits issues with Tess. Kim Lightle will help with digital media, web surveys, etc. Marcela can help with international postdoc issues.

Note on Career Development Series: Due to budget constraints the PAC will not be able to bring Lisa Balbes in until this next budget is available. I will email Lisa and check on her availability for the coming fall.

Additional PDA committees proposed:

International postdocs: We need to recruit postdoc volunteers willing to spearhead initiatives to address international postdoc issues. As noted above, Marcela has agreed to work with this committee as a PAC representative.

Website committee: Will, Yoshie, Ioana, and Emily will meet to discuss improving digital media representing our organization. As noted above, Kim Lightle can assist in these objectives.

Social Committee

A picnic is being planned for the month of July. More details forthcoming.

Meeting Minutes prepared by E. Butler (Secretary)