

07/17/14 PDA general meeting

Present: Rick Laguna, Emily Butler, Annette Ratcliff, Shareef Dabdoub, Ioana Beoras, Nancy Moran

Social committee:

The next event will be a picnic on Saturday, July 26th at 4pm in Fred Beekman Park. Ioana has reserved a spot next to the volleyball court. The funding for the rental and supplies will come out of the chili cook-off funds. Ioana will pay up front and Rick will reimburse her after the event.

She has provided fliers for other PDA members present to post.

I will write up a blurb for OSUToday and send it to Jeff for submission. Ioana will post event information to our Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

Ioana has also sent an email with the information and will send out reminders. She has asked that all RSVP. It was noted that at the last picnic event the number of RSVPs received correlated with attendance, so that will serve as a guide as to how much supplies should be purchased.

In our later discussion on member recruitment and encouraging postdoc involvement, it was decided that self-promotion at the picnic would be helpful (I have moved those notes here for clarity). Once everyone has arrived, board members and active members will have a short (10 min) informational session in which we discuss the objectives and past events of the PDA. We will also promote our up-coming election. Shareef volunteered to create a 1 page informational flier highlighting the group mission, board positions coming up for election and what each entails, as well as information about our next meeting. As this current meeting was supposed to be held in Bricker 035 under the understanding that there would be renovations to Bricker 200 but we came to find Bricker 200 open and empty (the meeting was held in Bricker 200), I will verify the location of the next meeting for inclusion on the flier.

Career Development

The Gopen writing workshop coming up on August 19th.

Rick would like to organize an event on the topic of LinkedIn, ORCID, and Research Gate. I noted that the PAC may be hosting Lisa Balbes this coming fall who could probably speak on those themes but that we may want to do something sooner. Another option might be Meris Mandernach, the Head of Research Services at the OSU libraries. This would be a good topic to have webcast.

Other ideas noted were to have someone from industry HR who receives and reviews resumes and also crafting elevator speeches.

It was noted that Jeff may have some input on potential speakers.

Website/Marketing Committee

Since the previous meeting, Marne Weinberg from OR updated the PDA website. It is unclear how much control we still have. We would like to set up a meeting with Jeff, Marne, Will, and members of the website committee

to establish how future updates and edits will be executed. Shareef will email Jeff. I will forward the original email to Shareef.

We could potentially host our own site, allowing full control of content. The drawbacks discussed were the cost and being able to ensure we have members with the ability to take over the site once the duty is to be passed down. We could also focus our content more towards Facebook or LinkedIn, where members might be likely to visit regularly and post updates easily. One issue with our Facebook and LinkedIn is the limited number of administrators at present.

We also voted to change the name of the Website Committee to the Marketing Committee.

Annette suggested that the PDA get our own email account for PDA business so that the password could be shared, allowing easy access and shared administration of our social media.

Elections

Given what is outlined in our charter, we are overdue for having elections.

The positions to be filled include: Co-Chairs (2), Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster. The charter (available on the wiki page) outlines the requirements for each position. I will send out an email soliciting nominations. We will accept nominations and self-nominations, with the caveat that the nominee must be present for the election. I will also include a listing of committees within the PDA that would gladly accept new membership. As noted above, we discussed also announcing the elections at the upcoming picnic. We will ask that nominees write a few lines about why they are interested and what their qualifications are.

Initially we discussed arranging for the election to take place at the August general meeting but end up deciding to hold it in September to allow ample time for soliciting nominations. We are hoping Jeff will run the election.

OPA

At the recent BioOhio networking event, Caroline Whitacre commented that the establishment of the OPA is in limbo as they work out how to best interface with the COM PDO. Nancy and Rick aim to set up a meeting with Caroline Whitacre, Pat Osmer, and Randy Smith to get an update. They intend to lobby for action by bringing data establishing need and reinforcing the utility of the PDA to postdocs at OSU. They would like to have survey data, ideally. We discuss starting a wiki page to collect questions. Also, Marcela had been putting together relevant data toward writing up the MOU to get the PAC funded for next year, she may have some data already. They will contact her.

Objectives:

Yoshie Narui, Shareef Dabdoub, and myself met on 7/10/14 and discussed the future objectives and priorities of the PDA. A summary of this discussion was later emailed to active PDA members. Those present today generally agreed that the main priority of the PDA should be recruitment in order to increase participation and resources. One of the key objectives toward recruitment was improving communication and presence through our website and social media. It was agreed to rename the Website Committee to Marketing Committee in order to reflect a broader responsibility to maintaining the content of all social media. In order to keep sites current and increase

traffic, we need to expand the number of people in charge of these sites. Rick Laguna will speak to Vanessa Varljay about adding all PDA board members and active members as managers on the LinkedIn page. We also need to fix the link so that non-members of the group can be directed to the appropriate page.

The other key objective toward recruitment discussed was holding more social events. One proposal was to introduce themed lunch-arounds as a regular event, wherein an invitation would be sent out for all postdocs interested in a particular topic (i.e. applying for academic jobs, industry jobs, grant writing, etc) could meet up for lunch (e.g. at Brennan's) at a particular time to discuss their respective approaches and issues. Annette Ratcliff suggested we could have a facilitator at some or all events that has particular expertise in that topic and is willing to discuss it informally with postdocs. Potentially we could ask speakers from our career development events to participate in such an event. Non-themed lunch get-togethers, coffee hours, and happy hours were also discussed as an option. "Toastmakers" type events were also suggested, in which everyone in attendance would be called on to speak for a short time about a particular topic. Such an event would be billed as an opportunity to develop public speaking skills, including one's "elevator speech".

To get feedback and further ideas on the types of events postdocs would be interested in, it was suggested that we should post to Facebook or LinkedIn some of our ideas regarding potential events.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Emily K. Butler (Secretary)