

Monthly OSU Postdoc Association Meeting

8/21/14

Attendees: Shareef Dabdoub, Ioana Boeras, Yoshie Narui, Will Cantara, Annette Ratcliff, Nancy Moran, Jeff Agnoli

4-5 PM, 200 Bricker Hall

Announcements: Rick Laguna started a staff position in the College of Veterinary Medicine, so is no longer a PDA member, but is welcome to attend meetings for continuity for the Professional Development Committee of which he was the chair and/or to act as a consultant to the group.

Elections:

- Emily Butler (Secretary) sent an e-mail announcement 8/21/14 indicating that there would be elections held for the PDA in September for the Co-chairs (2), Treasurer, and Secretary. Other committees (Professional Development, Social, Policy & Advocacy, and International) are also looking for volunteer members.
- She indicated that volunteer members should attend the meeting on 8/21/14 to learn more about the positions and that members are welcome to self-nominate.
- However, no new members attended the meeting today so the group discussed alternatives.
- Decided to use several existing events and to plan several additional events in September and October to recruit interested individuals for the election.
 - Upcoming Events:
 - September Xth: InterACT- theatrical interpretation of postdoc life
 - October 29th: Next Postdoc Orientation
 - September 15th to 19th: National Postdoc Appreciation Week
 - September 15th: Postdoc appreciation breakfast and coffee – to be organized by the PDA chair of the Social Committee (Ioana Boeras)
 - September 17th: PAC-sponsored networking reception for postdocs to network with local industry. BRT 105, 4-5 PM
 - September 18th: Next PDA meeting
 - November 20th: Consider moving elections to this date
- Also generated a list of nominees for positions and to serve as chairs of the committees:
 - Co-chair: Shareef Dabdoub (nominated and agreed to run for this position)
 - Co-chair: Nancy Moran (nominated by Ioana Boeras, pending acceptance of nomination)
 - Treasurer: Position open
 - Secretary: Emily Butler (need to ask if she would be willing to serve another year)
 - Professional Development Committee Chair: Annette Ratcliff (agreed to this position)
 - Social Committee Chair: Ioana Boeras (agreed to this position)
 - Policy and Advocacy Committee Chair: Position open
 - International Committee Chair: Position open
 - Website & Marketing Committee Chair: Yoshie Narui (agreed to this position)

PAC Update:

- Jeff Agnoli (advisor) updated the group on the results of the postdoc survey. He said there was nothing particularly remarkable about the comments from the survey.

- The PAC will be using the survey results as part of their request for an additional year of funding.
- In addition, a recommendation was made to plan events for postdocs at different points in their career (early, mid and late). For example, late career postdocs would be more interested in learning about the academic job search such as how to negotiate start up packages, how to balance service and research, etc.

Update on the Proposal for the Establishment of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA):

- Neither Shareef nor Nancy, co-authors of the Proposal, had official updates from Whitacre, Smith, or Osmer.
- Caroline Whitacre did, however, drop in on the PDA meeting and provided a brief verbal update. She said that formation of the OPA was on her list of 5 goals for the coming year, which she shared with the Provost. She indicated that the Provost enthusiastically supported this goal for the year. Remaining issues to be sorted out will be the possible merging of the College of Medicine's Postdoc Office with the new OPA as well as the budget for the OPA.

Committee Updates:

- Website & Marketing Committee – Yoshie Narui. Current issue is that the postdocs.osu.edu website is not very intuitive or easy to navigate. Recently the website was reformatted by the branding/website department of OSU to conform to OSU standards, however the website is less useful now. Jeff Agnoli will contact the individual again (3rd try) to determine what the PDA is allowed to do with the website and how the PDA can make the website more useful.
- Professional Development Committee – Annette Ratcliff. Because of the number of events planned for September and October, the next seminar/workshop will be planned for November and December.
- Social Committee – Ioana Boeras. The August picnic was a success. There were ~30 postdocs that attended and everyone who RSVP'd ended up attending. Next event will be a Postdoc Appreciation Breakfast in on September 15th. After Ioana left, the rest of the group discussed the importance of having regular social events with varying formats: happy hour, coffee hour, and picnics (weekend activity for postdocs with families). Jeff Agnoli suggested having an activity every 3 weeks. Others suggested having a weekly happy hour.
- Policy and Advocacy Committee– Tess Zangrili, former chair, is no longer able to chair this committee. Committee currently inactive. There were no other updates.
- International Committee – Committee currently inactive. No updates.