

PDA Meeting (virtual via Zoom) dated 14th July 2020

Attendees: Diana Fox, Neekkan Dey, Elle Palmer, Ahmet, Kofi-Kermit Horton, Justine Renaud, Ajay Ashok, Suman Choudhury, Jeremy Didion, Andrea Waksmunski and Michelle Grunin.

Minutes:

Treasury Report: No money spent. Diana will report the present account balance in the next PDA meeting.

Committee Reports:

- ***Social:*** The committee is planning to run a **virtual movie night** shortly with all the members of the postdoc community.

- ***Professional Development:*** Kermit shared the survey result from last year to Ahmet. The committee is consulting Rachel Begley and Tessianna Misko to finalize speakers for specific topics. Ahmet also shared an Event Planning document of the committee for the present year with the attendees.

- ***Benefits:*** Jeremy Didion had a meeting with Diana regarding the Benefit Policies to be renewed in the present year. The committee is also preparing for a meeting with Garnett-Powers shortly.

- ***Public Relations:*** According to Ajay, the committee is working on the guidelines of the Case Public Relation Team to set up the Instagram account for the PDA.

Additionally, from now on Ajay will share the **monthly virtual PDA meeting link on the Facebook Page** on the day of the event.

- ***Visas and Immigration:*** According to Ajay, the committee is working on an initiative to have DS-2019 (J-1 forms) issued for five years, rather than one year at a time.

Additionally, the committee is planning to compile a **video documentary from our international postdocs** about their experiences on this particular issue in their own words. ***All international postdocs are requested to share their story with us as soon as possible.***

Amidst multiple enquiries from **H1B Visa holders** regarding the extended renewal up to 5 year, **Diana informed us that they already do multi-year H1B.**

- **Women Affairs:** Suman reported that the committee is presently working on the issue ***“Flexible working hours for women during the COVID period”***.
- No other Faculty Senate meeting was held during this period.
- Elle proposed **“Social Hour on Zoom (BYOB)”** to be held after the monthly PDA meeting for an hour after normal business is over. All the attendees agreed.
- Justine will share the **PDA Event Calendar** for the present year with all the members.
- Considering the present scenario, Diana encouraged all postdocs to **start processing Annual Renewal with their respective Department Administrators much earlier** (preferably before three month from end date).

Next Meeting Date: 11th August 2020 (Tuesday).