

## **PDA meeting Feb 9, 2021**

**Attendance: Introductions (5 min): Kermit Horton, Jeffrey McCausland, Ajay Ashok, Diana Fox, Elle Palmer, Bikash Dang, Suman Chaudhary, Jeremy Didion, Li Li**

**Treasurer report: No change (Kermit Horton)**

### **Committee meeting reports**

**Public Relations (Ajay Ashok) – Website is being updated, social media is being updated and kept active. Working on getting Daily publications accepted to highlight postdoc accomplishments. Diana suggested we send regular emails to postdocs to get info from postdoc accomplishments highlighted and remind postdocs they can recruit undergrad mentees. She also has an undergrad working to help keep the website current and relevant. From Kermit: The Professional development committee hosted a successful zoom last week and people are requesting to see the video, so we need to discuss ways to effectively distribute this info – via the website or other ways. Ajay will work to develop the subpage.**

**Benefits (Jeremy Didion) – Jeremy held a Third Thursday talking about benefits and retirement funding and there is a PDF summarizing this info (contact Diana for the PDF). The Benefits committee is also moving forward with trying to cut the cost of health insurance to families, so stay tuned as they work on getting policy to shift. This will likely require single postdocs to pay a small premium (instead of being completely covered by the University) so that postdocs with families do not have to pay upwards of 30% of their income to premiums.**

**Social (Kermit on behalf of Justine Renauld) – We are sending out coffee mugs! Stay tuned for the registration to get your mug. School of graduate studies has paid for bulk registration for the conference we discussed so we had the money to do so. Diana suggested we make the budget work so we can get the nice mugs – so reserve when you get the email!**

**Visa and Immigration (Ivette Noriega & Ajay Ashok) – Not much going on since they accomplished the J1 extension. Shift vision to include adding stuff to the website, brainstorm the focus of the group to help welcome postdocs to the University? Suggestion for sending out a survey asking international postdocs what support/help they need so we can hear the voices of those who don't show up to PDA meetings. Suggestion this could be open to all as anyone transitioning even from a different region of the US could face some adjustment challenges and this would help the community as a whole.**

**Women's Affairs (Suman Chaudhary) – 4<sup>th</sup> Trimester will be a monthly event. Marie is hosting it with a non-profit, with the possibility of the PDA sponsoring one of the months. Let's Talk event is on pause. Next event will be an RSVP so we can prep the speaker for the volume of participants.**

### **Faculty senate reports**

**Women's Affairs (Suman Chaudhary). Parental leave wording issues. They've asked postdocs to let them know if we're having issues. Lactation rooms review has shown most facilities are lacking so they are attempting to improve that across campus.**

**Graduate Studies (Jeffrey McCausland).** Talking about changing the social worker master program (has the old title applied social sciences) to help graduates get hired due to the name not matching modern conventions. Research misconduct office looks exclusively at the scientific content of a person's work. Academic misconduct is more focused on ethics and would officially revoke a degree or paper if a person has committed misconduct. Currently they do not work well together and are looking to start a bridging committee to assist in helping the two communicate. Jeffrey proposed postdocs serve on this committee. Potential to make it an elected position if they agree having a postdoc on the committee would be useful.

**Minority Affairs (Kermit on behalf of Andy Chen)** Working on a statement about diversity. No meeting last month to progress it.

**Information and Technologies (Kermit on behalf of Justine Renaud)** Working on a COVID testing dashboard to ensure that people on campus have gotten tested and are negative.

**Faculty senate (Kermit).** Only official statements from CWRU regarding political events are allowed. No one can speak on behalf of the CWRU community except the current provost? About 1,000 cat 1a CWRU community members are vaccinated, with the next group (cat 1b) being encouraged to sign up for short notice vaccination as cat 1a is finishing up and they are transitioning to cat 1b.

**Research (Kermit on behalf of Neekkan Dey)** Looking at COVID impact on research. Survey to improve committee reviews this year. Follow up on grant writing support after a survey found that people are generally dissatisfied with grant writing support at the university. Kermit suggested we should do that again!

**University Libraries (Elle Palmer)** No meeting, nothing to report.