

PDA meeting January 12, 2020

Attendance: Kermit Horton, Elle Palmer, Justine Renauld, Katharina Rynkiewich, Jeremiah Didion, Michelle Grunin, Diana Fox, Andy Chen

Treasurer report: Nothing spent. We have \$1,809.95 in the bank account currently.

**Committee meeting reports [reorder based on order reports are given; note if no report]**

Professional (by Kermit Horton) – Panel discussion scheduled for Feb 4 called “taking the leap” that is focused on moving into non-academic jobs from the postdoc perspective. One speaker confirmed, others are pending. This will focus on how to sell your skills built in grad school and postdoc for different job types.

Benefits (Jeremy Didion) – Trying to add fringe benefits for postdocs - this will decrease the amount of money it would cost for families to get health insurance. Meetings on the 21st to talk to Garnett Powers and other Postdoc associations who have successfully accomplished this. They are also trying to bring back third Thursdays talks. There’s going to be a talk on retirement. Fringe: overhead amount of money everyone pays into that money is pulled out of to cover additional benefits. Example: 30% of Diana’s salary is paid into a shared fund for all employees that pays for health insurance premiums and other benefits (classes, etc.).

Public Relations (by Elle Palmer) – Website is up ([Postdoc Association | Office of Postdoctoral Affairs | Case Western Reserve University](#)) and we are still working on getting regular reports in the Daily highlighting Postdocs.

Social (Justine Renauld) – CWRU refused to allow Diana to give each postdoc a gift card, so we are reviewing if we can send people items or paying for a professional development conference. This will be brought up further at next month’s meeting and we will decide how we want to spend this year’s budget.

Women’s Affairs (Michelle Grunin) – Switching the 4th Trimester series to a virtual series due to COVID delays. More information to follow next month.

**Faculty senate reports [reorder based on order reports are given, note if no report]**

Information and Technologies (Justine Renauld): COVID testing compliance checking based on ID swipe-in is an ongoing project. COVID testing has been problematic for post-docs to schedule, so they’re having to do walk-ins only. This may affect postdocs getting appointments to be vaccinated so U Tech is looking into it. If anyone has problems getting tested, contact Diana Fox ASAP. Jeremy indicated that if he goes in and marks ‘staff/employee’ it lets him make an appointment. Justine is marked as a student when she goes to walk-in. Jeremy said the daily health assessment links to the testing center, so possibly several ways to report.

Minority Affairs (Andy Chen): The committee is working on a anti-racism document that also requests the university create a scholarship for faculty or staff to work on anti-racism research and policies.

University Libraries (Elle Palmer): If people need a change of scenery you can schedule a study room at KSL or the Law Library (COVID testing required). Elle will send an announcement letting people know this (with booking links).