

PDA meeting Feb 9, 2021

Attendance: Introductions (5 min): Ajay Ashok, Kermit Horton, Justine Renauld, Ellen Palmer, Diana Fox, Suman Chaudhary

Treasurer report: No change (Justine Renauld)

Committee meeting reports

Professional development committee did not meet. They do have a recording of the seminar from February though that we can add to the website. Discussion of website design expanding to have a webinar/professional development page as well as an international postdoc “welcome to the US! Here are things you should do” page. One challenge: Who is going to maintain these resources? How are we going to document update protocols and ensure transitions are smooth, as we know they happen often due to the temporary nature of Postdoc positions.

Public relations committee did meet. Ajay received several emails in response to his public relations email. Many sent paper links, a couple sent grants they recently received. The Public relations committee is talking about pulling together resources to help postdocs self-promote as that may help improve the chance of getting featured in the daily. We will push the papers and other successes to our postdoc social media platforms. Discussing having the library give a seminar on how to do self-promotion. Elle and Diana are in contact with the library to arrange this as a Third Thursday event. Planning to create a Google form to collect information on postdoc output as well for both promotion and statistics.

Benefits and Policy committees are meeting together. Diana is meeting with General Counsel next week to go over the current draft of postdoc leave. The Fringe initiative is ongoing, with the committees building a case for why Case needs to move towards a Fringe benefits scheme, which will possibly cost single postdocs some, but will offset the cost for families.

Women’s committee met. Marie McCausland is running her 4th trimester event, which the Postdoc association has previously been involved in. She was talking about making it a monthly event, but that’s turned out to be too much so she’s looking at quarterly or a smaller event. We will distribute information to the postdocs once she’s arranged the details later in March or early April.

Social committee ran into issues with the graphical element due to the usage of the Case name, so we held a vote on 4 possible slogans to put on it. A final draft will be submitted for printing later this week or early next.

Elections in May – think about leadership roles people are willing to take on, who we have interacted with who would be a good leader.

Faculty senate reports

Women’s senate meeting reported on the lactation centers at CWRU. There is now a report of all locations and their conditions (cleanliness, condition). This can be shared with all postdocs, either via

email or on another website tab. Discussion about the security/safety of these rooms ensued, as there was some concern about how comfortable women can be with pumping if it's not really private or secure. This led to questions about who is in charge of maintaining this list and the spaces, as this is not necessarily a static list and anything we share could change without notice.

Childcare centers are being closed due to lack of use. But that may be due to their marketing – it's currently drop in, not scheduled, which means you may not be able to get space if you need it, and the time limits also are challenging.

Kermit reports the main Faculty Senate wants campus to be fully open for in person classes this fall.

Elle reported on the Open Access policy which has problems from University Libraries committee.

Justine reported that the Information and Technology committee spoke about how to reduce the amount of data stored in Gmail and other services that will soon start generating charges.