

October 11, 2021 @ 3pm ET

(14 participants): Erik Price, Katharina Rynkiewich, Diana Fox, Justine Renauld, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan, Lenka Hromadkova, Andrea Waksmunski, Jeremiah Didion, Giacomo Di Mauro, Nidhi Shukla, Peipei Zhang, Melina Ghahremani, Jonnelle Edwards-Glenn, Abdullah Saeed

Agenda: Introductions (3:05-3:10), Treasurer's report, Committee reports, End (4:)

Treasurer's report: Reimbursement from National Postdoc Appreciation Week activities. Former treasurer Kermit had organized the vendor fair in the past. To coordinate for April 2022, we need to find a treasurer willing to serve for the rest of the year.

We'll plan for a secondary election for multiple positions at the next PDA Meeting.

Committee Updates:

a. Benefits Committee: The town hall meetings have been useful in gathering feedback on tax changes for postdocs, including questions and some pushback about the responsibilities of single postdocs vs. postdocs with families. Additionally, questions arose about whether the entire PDA supports the changes in insurance. The intention behind this shift is to align with other similar universities. Now, the plan is to work on the implementation of new insurance policies for postdocs. Not all insurance plans available for postdocs will increase, overall less than 5%. The unsatisfactory performance policy is moving forward; policy and procedure are currently linked. The policy will be brief, but the procedure will be much longer. We will have an opportunity to review in the coming weeks both this and the paid parental leave policy.

b. Professional Development Committee: Planning to meet with the professional development staff for graduate students to search for an overlap in available resources. A google document has been created for postdocs to add topics related to professional development that they might need support with or want to hear more about.

c. Public Relations Committee: Moving forward with advertising plans for the PDA. Send notes about advertising to Erik Price. Updating the website: Social committee and Women's affairs committee needs updates.

d. Social Committee: Planning a Halloween party for postdocs, either on 10/28 or 10/29. More details to come.

e. Women's Affairs: Postdoc survey will go out this week on topics they would like to see highlighted by this committee. Postdoc Parents meeting last week, planning for next meeting early 2022.

f. Immigration and Visa Committee: Working on the list of resources for international postdocs, including housing, commute data, daycare and school details, safe spaces around the university, etc. Questions that arose are where/how to share this list with other postdocs and potential postdocs. Plan is to edit this list postdoc to postdoc, to get feedback on the document. In order to have someone come give a talk to postdocs, we need to reach out and get a day/time set up.

Faculty Senate Committee Representatives Updates:

a. Main Faculty Senate and Intercouncil Leadership: Most PIs support the changes to benefits for postdocs, and many wanted to know whether they could better support their postdocs. CWRU will create a daycare for students, staff, and employees. Beginning in 2022, construction will start on a toddler and preschool facility that will be affordable for CWRU. The plans have passed, the facility plans to open by 2024.

b. Information and Communications Technology: Looking into policies to support availability of resources for lecture accessibility.

c. Minority Affairs: No update.

d. University Libraries: Smaller budget year-year. Impacts postdoc research.

e. Graduate studies: Should graduate students have off fall break/spring break? The discussion has continued among faculty senate representatives. Masters of Engineering approved. Deceased students are allowed to graduate as honorary graduate students. Can be placed on obituary or grave, shows progress towards degree.

f. Research: Andy Chen is leaving, this position will be open. No reports for today.

g. Women Faculty: CWRU will create a daycare for students, staff, and employees. Beginning in 2022, construction will start on a toddler and preschool facility that will be affordable for CWRU. The plans have passed, and the facility plans to open by 2024. Next agenda items will be the second COVID impact survey and analysis. Faculty salary analysis and eldercare policy will be discussed at the next meetings.

Priorities for committees: PDA meeting minutes should be shared following the monthly meeting. Share any photos that you took at the postdoc appreciation week meetings! Please do not delete events from the Postdoc Calendar; it may be deleted for every postdoc. The link to the postdoc calendar will be added to the next email to the postdoc community. Next month we will have an election for leadership roles.