

## PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (15) - Felicia Moss, Nidhi Shukla, Sagar Regmi, Abhiram Panigrahi, Mohammad Siddiqi, Shashi Singh, Ashley Everett, Gideon Gywa, Ankit Sharma, Ahmed Bakheet, Huong (Haley) Nguyen, Andrius Tamosiunas, Muhammad Zeeshan, Maura McCall, Vidya Gopakumar
- **Felicia Moss:**
  - \$5,000 received from the Office of Research and Technology Management – generous funding gift in support of postdoc activities and professional development
  - The postdoc email sender has been changed to Postdoctoral Affairs CWRU.
  - Working on creating a grant writing and funding support website to help postdocs find funding and understand the steps involved.
  - Working on building out the Offboarding website to include interview tips, job boards, resume writing tips, etc to help postdocs with the job hunt process.
  - CampusSims (through Mint Mobile) is a possible option to pass out to new postdocs who need phone service before or as soon as they arrive in the US. The plans are affordable and one of our postdocs confirmed the coverage is good. Another postdoc noted we need to make some of the compatibility issues like not being able to mail it to or set it up in your country ahead of time or if it isn't compatible with your phone. Felicia is looking into this more.
  - Innovation Week went good, we had 12 postdocs participate in the poster presentation.
- **Professional Development Committee (Chair: Mohd. Siddiqi):**
  - **Mohd. Siddiqi** and **Nidhi Shukla** have finalized some of the speakers for the upcoming “Career Series” talks organized for postdocs
  - 1<sup>st</sup> talk to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, profile of the speaker (Dr. Samira Joussef Pina) and the host will be advertised on the PDA website as well as sent over email.
  - Future talks: Jeff Pigott – Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, Ellen Palmer – December 9<sup>th</sup>, Jenny Ro – January 11<sup>th</sup>, Heather Calderon – January 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Objective of the career series is to seek guidance from previous postdocs who have made successful transition to non-academic jobs
  - Plan is to organize one talk each month lasting 45 min with 15 min for discussions
  - Postdocs could volunteer themselves to moderate the talks – good professional development and public speaking opportunity.
  - Need to develop and send a thank you email and letter to the speakers.
  - Professional headshots will be taken in Tomlinson Hall on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm for free.
- **Public Relations Committee (Chair: Ankit Sharma):**
  - All the postdocs are highly encouraged to submit any of their achievements using the [Kudos Form](#) so that it can be promoted
  - Felicia and Ankit are working on making the closed LinkedIn page open, allowing postdocs to share events or accomplishments on their own page and for others to see what our CWRU postdocs are doing.
  - Ankit is looking into the cost to advertise events on the NPA website so we broaden our audience.

- Fall 2022 FSCUL- University Libraries Meeting: Chair to be elected soon. Discussed the CWRU Commons, CWRU Law Review, and open access policies at CWRU.
- **Women's Affairs Committee:**
  - Reproductive health kits are located outside of the Postdoc Office.
  - Health cards are being distributed soon – you can scan the code and it will give you information about reproductive health. You can also choose from a variety of languages.
  - Visit CWRU [Reproductive Health](#) website for latest updates on resources available.
  - Emily Creamer has left the university, so we need another representative on the Women Faculty Senate Committee.
- **Visa and Immigration Committee: (Sreelakshmi Vasudevan (Co-Chair))**
  - Discussed having international postdocs take a SET test prior to arriving.
  - The test is free, takes about 20 minutes, and is conducted by the Graduate Studies Office.
  - If postdocs do not pass the SET, they would need to take English courses after arriving.
  - HR Immigration is having a symposium in March and needs 3-4 postdocs to talk about their experience and immigration process.
  - Brianna Allen, HR Immigration manager, is working to put on an H1B and green card talk for our postdocs, likely in November. Felicia and Sree are working out the details.
- **Social Committee (Chair: Abhiram Panigrahi):**
  - National Postdoc Appreciation week went well. We had 50+ postdocs pick up tshirts, 22 attend the IDP workshop, 3 attend the campus tour, and a lot come out to the two Thanks A Latter events. Many attended the NPA webinars online, especially the green card one.
  - New ideas for future social events discussed (board game night, pumpkin carving, sports team, movie night). Suggestions are welcome by all PDA members
  - The apple picking event had some postdocs come out and they enjoyed interacting with the International Student Fellowship.
  - 8 postdocs went to the Orchestra last week, most of them this was their first orchestra performance.
  - Felicia Moss confirmed that postdocs can participate in intramural sports at CWRU – this was added to the postdoc website.
  - Jolly Scholar hosts a free trivia night every Tuesday at 7-8:30pm. We will work on scheduling a time for postdocs to all attend, but this happens every Tuesday and is open to anyone!
- **PDA Benefits & Policy Committee (Chair: Jeremy Didion):**
  - Open Enrollment is coming up in November – if you need to make changes, this is the time.
  - Felicia is working with Diana Fox from Gallagher to set up a Zoom and in-person meeting.
  - Plan to make it mandatory to cover the cost of health insurance for dependents of postdocs with families has been postponed to 2024
  - Faculty Senate Meeting Committee on this topic attended by **Felicia** and **Jeremy**
  - Reason for this delay: Recent change of plan from initial cost sharing model to mandatory payment model
  - As of now, individual postdocs will have to discuss dependent health insurance coverage with their PIs.

- Efforts are ongoing from PDA to make the healthcare more affordable for postdocs with family. PDA welcomes any ideas and suggestions in this regard.
- Felicia and Jeremy will be updating the postdoc handbook soon.
- Utech is working to get postdocs put into the system, but this will take some time to build out all of the components.
- **Main Faculty Senate (Nidhi Shukla):**
  - The budget has gone too high for the child care facility on campus and they are putting the plan on hold for now until a new plan is devised.
- **Other discussions/business:**
  - **Shashi Singh** elected as the Faculty Senate representative for ***Information and communication technology*** (*this committee is still working on getting set up for the year and has not met.*)
- **Positions to be filled:** If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, please contact Felicia Moss and Nidhi Shukla. Faculty Senate committees meet once per month for about an hour and a half. Your responsibility would be to attend the meeting and report back anything to the PDA affecting postdocs. At the meeting, you are a voting member and represent your postdoc community as their voice. This is a great networking and professional development activity and looks great on a resume.
- Faculty senate representatives for:
  - Minority Affairs
  - Women's Affairs