

PDA Monthly Meeting Minutes
03-11-2024

Attendance:

Felicia Moss, Jody Kunk-Czaplicki, Lenka Hromadkova, Bernadette Schneider, Nisha Bhattarai, Popular Pandey, Eric Mosher, Syam S, Paola Menghini, Gideon Gywa, Maura McCall, Sagar Regmi, Thanh Hoang Pham

New postdocs at the meeting introduced themselves.

Director, Postdoctoral Affairs: Felicia Moss

- HCM update:
 - Hopefully, we will have access by the end of March.
 - Have emails, materials, and training ready to go.
 - Just waiting for final approval
- Vendor fair:
 - will be held on April 3rd 2024 ([For RSVP](#))
 - 32 vendors signed up already
 - Requesting volunteers soon – If you are interested in volunteering, please fill up the [Request Form](#)
- The next PDA meeting is scheduled for April 15th from April 8th at the same time and place due to the eclipse date and time
- Felicia will be going to the NPA conference this week and will seek input from PDA regarding what sessions to prioritize for concurrent sessions
- Postdoc exit survey being developed. Current exit surveys are through HR and the postdoc office has no access to the data
- Elections for the PDA will take place in May. Felicia Moss will begin sending out information to all postdocs.

Treasurer: Lenka Hromadkova

- Last PDA meeting for Lenka. She is going to make the transition to a research associate role.
- There are enough members to fill her CBTA representative role.

Social Activities Committee, Syam S.

- The [Postdoc Paint Night 2024](#) event was successful. Fifteen people, including new members, attended and reviewed it positively.
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Benefits Committee, Bernadette Schneider

- Transportation survey:
 - About 40 people responded, Last question - would you support a vote for joining RTA group benefits with a monthly fee for RTA passes for all postdocs?
 - 30% support, ~2/3 said no, some strong comments against
 - A moderate fraction of the responses do take public transportation
 - Encouraged them to take advantage of the pre-tax RTA pass option
 - Point discussed
 - Can Safe Ride be expanded?

- Or can there be designated shuttles to specific neighborhoods?
 - Fairhill, Shaker Square, MetroHealth
 - Is this a thing to ask facilities/campus planning committee?
 - Eric will ask if this is within the scope of the committee
 - Learned about a CWRU rideshare initiative – CarShare, Hourly car rental capabilities
- Childcare subsidy
 - Things are in the works, still confirming who is eligible and what makes someone ineligible
 - Felicia is the point person for postdocs when it comes to this subsidy
 - There will be childcare discounts: Percentage discounts, annual enrollment covered
 - The application to request the subsidy is still in progress
 - There are funds for childcare during travel
 - Child 18 or under
 - Postdocs eligible for ~\$1500 childcare subsidy
 - Apply April 1 - May 15
 - Must be in position for 1 year before July 1 each year
 - Spouse must either: work full time, be enrolled in a full-time degree program, or be disabled
 - Postdocs must be full-time (staff just need to be part-time)
 - Child must be 6 years of age or younger
 - Things are still being finalized and figured out

Immigration and Visa Committee, Sagar Regmi

- If postdocs come from a country with a tax treaty with the US, contact the visa office to get updated tax information

Professional development committee, Eric Mosher

- Biophysics Day event held on Wednesday, 20th March 2024, from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. There was light refreshments, prizes, flash talks, faculty speakers, and networking. 60 people attended. Popular Pandey will send in the event details to the Biophysical Society so they can make note of our event.
 - Received \$500 support from IQBP
- Biophysics Society - opening a new round of applications for funding for social events
 - Networking-focused event to be held later than April 2024 and will be addressed at the next PDA PDC meeting
- Would postdocs like there to be a resource of aggregated previously funded CWRU postdoc grant examples
 - Grant binder in an office?
 - Contact list? Networking opportunity
 - Conversation is more beneficial than just looking at a document
 - Reach out to fellow postdocs? Use Discord
 - Future grant writing class in SoM

- Can we make a protected Canvas “course” to hold these documents?
 - Surprisingly few postdoc fellows at CWRU
 - In the interest of the university to have postdocs get funding
- The career series will be held on 28th March 2024, Thursday; speaker: Dr. Dibakar Sigdel, Principal Data Scientist at Truveta. ([For RSVP](#))

Women’s affairs committee, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan

- no news reported

Faculty senate committees

- Campus planning, Facilities, and Space - Eric Mosher
 - no major postdoc news
 - The university cares about trees on campus- During construction, trees are either moved and re-planted, or a new tree is planted for any tree that is not re-planted
- Graduate studies - Eric Mosher
 - meeting not held
- Information and communications technology - Maura McCall
 - no major news
- Research - Sagar Regmi
 - Faculty research survey - trying to include pertinent issues for faculty and more
 - Delayed to August and September - overlap with a current research climate survey
- University Libraries - Popular Pandey
 - no major news
 - Will be discussing open-access manuscripts and data
 - How to disseminate committee discussions?
 - Probably via PDA meeting minutes

Public Affairs committee, Jonnelle Edwards-Glenn (Felicia reported updates)

- Eric Mosher is the [Postdoc of the Month](#)