

04/17/14 PDA general meeting

Present: Shareef Dabdoub, Emily Butler, Rick Laguna, Annette Ratcliff, Ursula 'Tess' Zangrilli, Asuko Uchida, Ioana Boeras, Yoshi Narui, Jeff Agnoli, Marcela Hernandez, Dr. Dickie Selfe (OSU Writing Center Coordinator), William McCracken (OSU Writing Center)

Postdoc Writing Group

Dickie Selfe and William McCracken are present to discuss the proposed pilot program for a postdoc writing group. This group would consist of a median of 5 postdocs plus a facilitator from the Writing Center. The objective of the group is to unite postdocs with shared interests in particular writing types to establish a support network for writing evaluation, improvement, and for building relevant writing skills.

William McCracken will be facilitating the postdoc writing group, being responsible for the group calendar and engaging discussion. Group members will work on their own writing projects. He says the group will meet on regular basis (probably weekly) to circulate writing, workshop ideas, and get and give feedback. The expected time commitment from group members is 1-2hr/wk, plus time for reading and writing. If there is enough interest, more than one group may be formed.

Writing groups typically run from May through July.

The long term goal of this Writing Center project (beyond this pilot program) is to also collect data for research purposes.

Dickie will email me (Emily) with the registration info to be distributed to the PDA listserv.

Postdoc orientation (held April 16th)

The 2nd Postdoc Orientation event was well-attended: 74 postdocs had signed up online, approximately 60 participated. Overall, feedback seemed very good regarding content (despite the HR representative unfortunately cancelling). There was some discussion as to whether the orientation was targeted to people who were new to campus or had been at OSU >1yr. A suggestion was raised to include a questionnaire on the online registration to field what sort of questions the prospective attendees would like to have addressed. Annette suggested that the orientation be formatted more like a research fair so attendees could get to know what sort of resources are available on campus and address their individual questions more one-on-one.

At the event, Jeff did a session on "Managing Up". It was suggested that this would be a good topic to address in a more focused career development seminar or workshop.

2014 NPA meeting recap

Marcela is arranging for presentations from OSU PDA members and affiliates who attended the National Postdoc Association (NPA) 2014 meeting (held April 4-6th in St. Louis) to be held for PDA and PAC members on Mon April 28th. More information to follow.

Career Development

On May 13th at 10am, Tech transfer will host a career development event at their facility. They intend to have multiple speakers highlighting resources and services at their facility, as well as some people speaking about their individual career paths.

The June event will likely be a special postdoc event with Dave Scholl of BiOhio, liked to his appearance at OSU for the IDEA series.

Another topic suggested was to have the Head of Research Services from the OSU Libraries present, giving tips on using the research resources available on campus.

Meeting Minutes prepared by E. Butler (Secretary)