

October PDA meeting. 10/16/2014 University Hall, Room 386B.

Present: Atsuko Uchida, April Joice, Nancy Moran, Emily Butler, Yoshie Narui, Jason Walker, Shareef Dabdoub, Vanessa Varljay, Will Cantara, Sayak Bhattacharya, Elaine Wells-Gray, Suresh Kari, Jeff Agnoli

General PDA Business

Co-chairing: Being that we now have two co-chairs, Nancy and Shareef have agreed to divide the main responsibilities between them and rotate serving as PDA representative at relevant events. Shareef will primarily work with the Website, International Committees, and the Secretary. Nancy will focus on the Professional Development and Social Committees, as well as assisting the Treasurer and working on recruitment and retention.

PDA charter:

- Elections: The charter currently states that elections will take place in the spring and allows a one month period of overlap between the incumbent and newly elected member. Nancy has suggested ratifying the charter to reflect the de facto change in timing of the PDA elections to the fall. There was some discussion as to which time is preferable in the context of the academic calendar and when most postdocs are hired.
- Defining “Active members”: April noted that the election of officers is limited to “active members”; however, there is no rubric for defining an “active member”. We discussed setting participation/attendance at a standard number of meetings and events; however, this would be complicated at events we co-host with other organizations (and therefore do not have attendance records).
- We will also reevaluate which standing committees are relevant.

These issues were ultimately left undecided pending further discussion over the course of the next month and at the next meeting.

Up-coming Postdoc Orientation, Wed 10/29/14

Up-coming postdoc orientation is just starting to be marketed. Shareef will be giving a brief presentation on behalf of the PDA.

PAC business

The October 8th InterACT event “Stuck: One postdoc’s story” was cancelled due to low registration. Marcela had requested via email some feedback from us regarding the lack of interest in the postdoc community.

- People whom hadn’t previously heard about InterACT were unclear as to what they were just based on the emails. A better description of what the event is, what “interactive” entails from the audience, and what issues will be addressed that are relevant to postdocs would likely help market the event.
- The title implies a negative situation.
- Lack of registration could also have reflected an issue with time.
 - The event could be shortened from 90 min to 1 hr.

- Potentially, having the event during the lunch hour as a brown bag event or during the morning (since our coffee break was a success) might increase participation.

Announcements from Jeff Agnoli:

Jeff has been in contact with the library/copywriting people, they are willing to put together an event covering media tools. This will potentially be our November Career Development event.

Jeff also noted that the library is piloting a program wherein they will provide funds toward publishing in open access journals. While open access journals require extra fees to publish, publications have been getting higher citation rates. Therefore, the university is aiming to encourage publication in these journals. Funds can be applied retroactively. The official launch of the program is Monday. Jeff will email the PDA secretary the information for dissemination via the listserv.

Updates from the Treasurer- Vanessa Varaljay:

The balance of the PDA funds is \$134.22. We have used \$224 since March, with funds primarily going toward our picnic and coffee break events. Vanessa also suggested that we get a proper bank account for our funds. It was agreed that it would probably be best to get a private account with one of the co-chairs serving as a co-signer.

Chili cookoff: Our next fundraising event will be the Chili Cookoff scheduled for Nov 6th from 11-1pm in the BRT lobby. Vanessa will send a blurb to Jeff for marketing, Yoshie will post the event to the website, and Vanessa will send me the flier to email to the listserv. April noted that we should specify that the event is cash only.

Future fundraising ideas: Jeff had previously suggested that we host a vendor show, potentially in parallel with a postdoc research symposium. Vendors will pay to have a table; the amount they will pay is dependent upon the anticipated attendance. Linking the vendor show to a coffee break event or to a future postdoc orientation was also discussed.

Updates from the Secretary – Emily Butler:

All of the past meeting minutes have been moved to a folder in the shared PDA folder on Buckeye Box. In the future, this folder will be made public and the secretary will send out a link to active members once the new meeting minutes have been posted. Minutes will also be linked to the PDA website.

Concern was raised the postdocs may be overwhelmed by the amount of emails they are receiving through our listserv. We discussed potentially batching emails regarding job and fellowship opportunities. Also, emails should be given a relevant title (i.e. EVENT or MEETING) to help people sort out what is important to them.

Further, the header for the listserv emails should be shortened to increase readability.

Jeff noted that PAC funding may allow hiring of a work study student to handle the bulk of the emailing in the near future.

Committee Updates:

Professional Development –Members: April Joice, Jason Walker

Meeting minutes prepared by E. Butler, PDA Secretary

Annette Ratcliff will be moving on to her new job in Tech Transfer soon. Thus, presently the co-chairs will be chairing the Professional Development committee until a new chair is decided upon.

Annette is meeting with Tech Columbus at the end of October regarding a potential tour. Of note, we will have to coordinate transportation if we do end up scheduling an event there. More will be discussed at the committee meeting on Oct. 27th.

Social – Ioana Boeras, Chair. Member: Elaine Wells-Gray

Ioana was not present but had emailed some announcements for Nancy to read.

The next Coffee Break is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 28th Ioana needs volunteers to help clean up, as she cannot stay for the full time. She is also arranging for trivia night event.

Website – Yoshie Narui, Chair. Members: Will Cantara, Emily Butler

We will be eliminating the PDA website hosted by OR. Traffic to that URL will be forwarded to our new site.

There was some discussion about what to do with our wiki page. The general consensus was to save archival wiki content to the PDA Buckeye Box folder and eventually phase out this site.

International – Sayak Bhattacharya & Suresh Kari, Co-chairs.

It was noted that photos and contact information for co-chairs of International Committee should be added to the website.