10/17/13 OSU PDA General Meeting Minutes
11am, 200 Bricker Hall

Present: Will Cantara, Alessandro Lagana, Rick Laguna, Asuko Uchida, Shareef Dabdoub, Emily Butler

After brief discussion it was agreed to move meetings back to 4pm. Emily will ask Jeff to change our room reservations to either 200 or 385 Bricker Hall.

Website: Rick asked for inclusion of a page listing PDA alumni information, including Sukhinder Sandhu and Hannah Chapman’s contact information, for example.

Teaching/Outreach:
Emily summarized her meeting with Miryam Chandler, the program manager for STEM Initiatives. Volunteer teaching and outreach activities available and appropriate for postdocs were discussed, including how to best communicate opportunities to the postdoc community. Existing or “one-off” events will be communicated by the STEM Initiatives office to Emily to be posted to the listserv. Additional opportunities that exist can be summarized and posted on our website. A tab under “Resources” for Teaching and Outreach Opportunities will be created.

Career development series update:
Annette is working on getting a speaker from industry for the November event. In December we will host a writing workshop in conjunction with Marcela. For January new faculty members will discuss their early career experiences. Rick has asked Kelly Wrighton and asked if Emily would inquire whether Natacha Ruiz would be interested in participating. An event for February has yet to be planned. Hosting a CV/resume workshop was discussed, potentially involving people from UCAT, Jeff, and/or Cigi.

Social:
Ioana & Vanessa reported to Emily that they are planning a chili cookoff/fundraiser. Potentially linking such an event to a tail-gating event/football game was discussed.

Benefits Committee:
Tess has signed up to head the Benefits Committee. She has followed up on some of Hannah’s previous inquiries, contacting both the International Scholars Office and Pam in HR with no response from either. It was suggested that she might contact the Office of Sponsored Projects as they were included with initial meetings with Hannah.

OPA proposal:
The OPA proposal has been officially ratified.
Jeff, Rick, Nancy, Marcela, and Shareef have a meeting next week with the Dean of the Grad School, Carol Whitacre, and other administrative figures in which they will give a brief (~5min) presentation of the OPA proposal, addressing why and how this addresses issues of postdoc advocacy. They will highlight main points and ask for a timeline. Funding is expected to be the biggest issue.

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Meeting Minutes prepared by E. Butler (Secretary)