

OSU-PDA Monthly Meeting Minutes, November 20th, 2014, University Hall, Room 386B

Present: Emily Butler, Yoshie Narui, Ioana Boeras, Vanessa Varljay, Sayak Bhattacharya, Marcela Hernandez, Ioannis Mergos, Adib Samin, Jason Walker, Shareef Dabdoub

Updates from the Treasurer, Vanessa Varljay

Vanessa reports that the recent Chili Luncheon raised \$263, bringing our current funds to a total of \$379.

- With the use of Will Cantara's Square, we were able to accept credit cards. The PDA seeks to acquire our own Square, with the caveat that there is a 2.75% surcharge per swipe.
- A third Chili lunch fundraiser will be held in the spring.
- It was noted that several attendees of the Chili Lunch believed it to be an event where lunch was provided for OSU postdocs. We will need to be explicit in naming the event as a fundraiser in the future.

The current Treasury funds will be deposited in to an Office of Research development account in the care of Jeff Agnoli. We will need to discuss with Jeff how these funds will be accessed. Further, the PDA seeks to establish an independent bank account for our funds, this issue will also be discussed when Jeff is present.

Future fundraising ideas:

- "Dine to Donate" wherein a portion of profit for a given period of time from a particular business would be given to the PDA. Vanessa will look into whether Brenan's would be willing to participate. Miller's Ale House was also suggested as a combination fundraiser and social event.
- Holiday bake sale
- Selling PDA T-shirts. This was an idea of Rick's; he has a website in mind. We would need to come up with a design.

Marcela suggested googling high school fundraisers to get additional ideas for our organization.

Updates from the Social Committee, Ioana Boeras, Chair

Upcoming events:

- Happy hour November 19th 6PM at Buckeye hall of fame grill
- Coffee break December 2nd in BRT 115 8:30 to 10AM

Ioana noted that attendance has been low for social events and asked for input on how to accommodate postdoc schedules in event planning. Marcela suggested sending out a survey to determine the best times.

Future & suggested events include: continuing with our monthly Coffee Break (consensus supports serving donuts next time), monthly happy hour events, ice skating at the Buckeye rink, and a meet up to work on elevator speeches (at the library, conference room, or coffee shop)

Announcements from the PAC: Advisors: Marcela Hernandez

The PAC has sent out via email an invitation for OSU postdocs to apply to participate in the National Postdoc Association Meeting, March 13-15th 2015 in Maryland. They are able to fund 3 attendees. I will send out further emails to promote this opportunity.

Future events:

- The PAC is putting together a workshop on professional etiquette and networking
- PAC sponsored career development session: “Exploring the Postdoc & PI Mentor Relationship” by the InterACT Theater Ensemble will be held Feb 5th
- The next Postdoc Orientation will be in April, 2015

Marcela also suggested that we might reconsider rotating meeting times and locations to accommodate more people’s schedules. There was discussion about how many people we might gain with this strategy.

Updates from the Website/Marketing Committee – Yoshie Narui, Chair

Yoshie is taking requests for access to Wordpress so that additional people might be able to update the website.

There was question of whether we have any helpful information from HR that we could make available on the website. Marcela noted that Cigi is working on a handout based on questions submitted for the postdoc orientation. We might be able to use her handout as basis for a FAQ section.

Updates from the International Committee –Sayak Bhattacharya

Sayak asked which OSU office would be the best contact regarding information for a presentation for postdocs about visas. The Office of International Affairs was suggested.

Professional Development –Jason Walker

The Scientific Social Networking Panel Discussion (Nov 18th) had low attendance, though this may have been primarily due to the extreme cold weather that day. This event was co-sponsored by the Research Commons. Jason noted that their career development seminar series is relevant to OSU postdocs so we should be sure to promote their future events.

The upcoming January event will focus on entrepreneurship. April Joice is meeting with TechOhio to explore the option of hosting an event there. Shareef and Nancy are also working on putting together an event about talking to the media about your research.

Meeting minutes prepared by E. Butler, PDA Secretary