

Postdoctoral Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda: Discuss past events and set a timeline for Spring 2019.

Attendees:

PDAC executive board:

Scott Baliban, Katrina Williams and Archana Gopalakrishnan

Members at Large:

Rachel Abbot, Mario Scarpa

Office of Postdoctoral affairs members:

Jennifer Aumiller, Renee Cockerham and Alexandra Squires

Excused absence: Saumil Sethna

Agenda discussed:

Scott presided over the entire meeting, reporting past events and discussing future events

1. November

Social: (Saumil): Thanksgiving potluck- 11/15/18

Well attended- lots of food, everyone had a good time- 10-15 people had attended. Everyone liked the idea of having this annually.

Career Development: (Archana): Two events:

1. Networking seminar: Yvette Seger- FASEB 11/16/18

Good attendance, over 30-35 people came, some GPILS students had registered the last day. Speaker was very engaging and gave time to the audience.

2. Directions in Science Writing: Vanessa McMains (Johns Hopkins) and Brain Doctrow (PNAS) 11/27/18

Not well received- Brian's talk was not interesting at all- around 15-17 people had attended (20 had registered). Room was too cramped (BRB 1-008). A few questions were asked, but overall not very engaging.

2. December:

Social (Saumil)- Holiday Bake off- 12/6/18

Was very well received and attended- lots of entries-

Few comments from attendees: Line was long to wait in, some baked products were too big a piece for one person to have- perhaps have smaller portions, or have the baker cut them into bite size proportions for next time.

3. January/February:

Katrina suggested we have a CV to resume sort of workshop/seminar to be delivered by Jennifer- planning towards the end of January.

Social event: Happy hour to be planned on the 25th of January.

Rachel will organize a social for February (most likely on Feb 22).

Mario suggested having a "Poker game social"- Jennifer and Renee will check to see if this would be feasible to accommodate in March.

4. General discussion:

Fix a room for all career talks- for PDAC- all agreed that Howard Hall 450 might be the best option from 12-1pm.

Enhance the PDAC webpage with more recent pictures and links to the pictures from various social events to be made available.

Make the PDAC Facebook page more visible. No one in the meeting (except for Scott) were aware of a PDAC Facebook page- it is also not easy to find when searched

5. Dissertation boot camp:

No clear communication yet from James Wright.

Jennifer has requested Scott to forward all email communication between James and Scott.

Recent update:

Room 450 in Howard Hall has been booked the whole semester for the time we require. After some discussions, it has been decided that the best option now is to have seminars form 1-2pm in Howard Hall 450 with lunch.

If it appears that attendees are not eating much, we could scale back on the food and perhaps offer coffee and light snacks.