

Postdoctoral Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda: New E-board initiation, Retreat discussions, getting pointers on running PDAC

Attendees:

PDAC executive board:

Joanna Cooper, Aditya Jhagharia and Ankit Dwivedi and Archana Gopalakrishnan

Members at Large:

Koyel Ghosal, Fahimeh

Office of Postdoctoral affairs members:

Renee Cockerham and Jennifer Aumiller

Others:

Scott Baliban

Agenda discussed:

Joanna presided over the entire meeting with frequent inputs from Scott and other PDAC members.

1. May:

Career event: Archana: May 17th- Dr. Katherine Lontok- Public Outreach Manager from ASM. 31 registered, 20 attended. Speaker was good and engaging, spent a long time talking to others after seminar and is willing to set us up with contacts from varying fields for career talks. Food was ordered from Brown Rice- Korean Buffet- an entrée wasn't delivered- just to keep a note, but quality of food was good. Social event: Scott and Saumil organized their farewell Happy Hour at Brewer's Art. Between 20-25 people attended. PDAC sponsored food- (15/- per person)~400\$ was spent for this.

2. June:

Career event: Archana: June 13th- Dr. Nancy Connell has been invited- Health Security Officer from Hopkins . Eventbrite registration has begun. Social event: Joanna is considering to organize a Welcome Happy Hour- Date and Place TBD. Scott mentioned about Pints in the Park that happens in the summer (May-September, Second Fridays)

3. July:

Joanna will look to organize a career event or team up with Jennifer who has a number of talks lined up for summer as part of the GPILS career development program. Ankit has volunteered to look into organizing the social event.

4. New E-board initiation and goals:

- Goals- Continue with most of what previous boards have been organizing, in addition each PDAC E-board member will try to develop one idea on their

own- either a session/event/workshop, without excess expenditure on added honorariums.

- Joanna has created a postdoc survey which will be sent out to the postdoc community soon- this is to take into consideration of what the postdocs at UMB would like to have/see/experience more of through PDAC.
- Alexandria was in-charge of the PDAC webpage administration- now Renee has the editing rights- Need to update that and the FB page- Ankit has volunteered to take control of this along with Joanna.
- A New meeting time had been requested- after discussions, 3pm-4pm of the second Wednesdays of each month has been accepted by all.
- Joanna has reached out to have a larger involvement of members at large, either in organizing career/social events or any other idea that they would like to implement.

5. Budget:

Aditya gave some details on the remaining funding for the current fiscal year- 522/- remain- this will be largely used for the June 13th career talk (food) and the coffee and cookie hour for June 20th. PDAC board had considered using any leftover funds for retreat goodies, but might not have sufficient funds for that. The 2019-2020 budget (prepared largely by Scott and Saamil- previous PDAC co-presidents) was approved in full **(7,175/-)**

6. UMB Shuttle:

A few weeks ago, the Shuttle committee issued an email stating that it is continuing the shuttle service (except for route 701) with morning hours of 6:30-11am and 3:00pm-10:pm and the contract has been renewed with a new company. We should expect to see new shuttles buses on road by end of summer. As of now there is no other change to the shuttle bus till June 2020 beyond which there is a possibility that faculty (including postdocs) may be asked to pay a small fare to use the shuttle.

7. 2019 postdoc retreat:

- Keynote speaker- The PDAC E-board discussed who all have been invited till date (Nita Farhanay, Sam Harris) and the future considerations- (David Sinclair, Kevin Jones, Katherine Hayhoe- to name a few). Scott recommended Beth Ann (From Vanderbilt).
- Dates: September 20 and 27- However, Jennifer not around for September 27th- she did recommend that the retreat can also be considered for any other day (Monday-Thursday).
- Spending/Fund raising- Scott recommended that once sufficient funds have been raised and we begin to get an idea of how many are registering, it is perhaps ideal to allocate first for food, coffee, cookies and then consider how the remaining funds can be used for gifts/appreciation tokens etc.
- Schedule: The PDAC E-board had drafted a rough schedule that included recreational activities session and a Skill Blitz breakout session- these were discussed with the others to get an opinion. Recreational activities such as

“Science Quote of the Day” and “Renting of massage chairs” was in general liked by all, however, setting up a formal LinkedIn photo booth and offer Business card printing cards did not seem to be feasible. Perhaps a non-professional photo booth with props was suggested. Jennifer also suggested requesting the photographers from the media office to help in setting up a photo booth (perhaps with the official backdrop etc.)

- An important change from last year: gift cards cannot be issued as a token of appreciation for the invited speakers for career roundtable and other events at the retreat. This is a State policy. Any tangible gift can be given (such as mugs/chocolates etc.)
- Retreat advertising: Scott mentioned that in the previous years the retreat announcement has been sent to several schools including: Hopkins (Bayview, Homewood, East campus), UMBC, UMB-College Park and NIH Bayview)

8. Other suggestions:

Koyel suggested if any PDAC funds could be used towards developing Summer travel grants for postdocs-

This proposal was considered by most of the members, however, since the current uddget has already been approved and summer is the start of the PDAC sessions, it has been suggested that this could be a point to consider when PDAC submits the budget next year.