

Postdoctoral Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda: Discuss future events and Dissertation boot camp.

Attendees:

PDAC executive board:

Saumil Sethna, Scott Baliban, Katrina Williams and Archana Gopalakrishnan

Members at Large:

Harry Choi, Rachel Abbot

Office of Postdoctoral affairs members:

Jennifer Aumiller and Alexandra Squires

Excused absence: Mario Scarpa

Agenda discussed:

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

1. October: (Saumil)

Social: Suspended Brewing Co- not many attended, only 6-7. Not many new faces. Was a rainy day- Maybe people do not like going to Pig town?

2. November events:

Networking seminar: Archana has invited Yvette Seger – Director of Science Policy at FASEB- to discuss the art of networking, this is scheduled for November 16th, Room has been reserved. Need to send email noting the change in room reserved. Renee will confirm lunch order for his event tomorrow.

Social: Thanksgiving potluck- organized by Saumil- for November 15th- Thursday, so far approximately 8-10 people have signed up

Note by Jenn: It gets difficult to reserve bigger rooms for career events. Perhaps in the future, PDAC can contact a list of speakers, like at the start of a semester with prefixed dates/times- so that we can always have a reasonable sized room reserved for these events.

3. December:

Organize a bake-off event like last year, announce we will have prizes- tentative date: December 6th- 2-3pm, Order coffee for the event.

Scott suggested having White Elephant along with Bake-Off. Discussion around price limit to set for this and if we should have this event or not since postdocs have to spend for it themselves. One suggestion- maybe have this in January, when people are not already busy with holiday plans.

4. January/February:

Archana will try to get some speakers for the career event. Rachel/others will come up with a social event for these months.

5. New ideas for events:

Katrina- have a Super bowl party/social

Jennifer- Organize an international food fair

6. Dissertation boot camp:

Approached by James Wright in the writing center (recommended by Ozge Yoluk) if post docs can assist graduate students in the writing boot camp. But the email from James does not clearly explain what is needed from the postdocs for this.

Questions to be addressed by him:

- What is the student population that would take part in this camp?
- Would a panel discussion by post docs be prior to the start of the boot camp?
- Any specific requirements from postdocs and what they are required to discuss
- Is an agenda available for the boot camp?

Email has already been sent to student community to register for the boot camp (January 15-17). Postdoc involvement is included in the email, however, neither OPS nor PDAC have an idea how we need to get involved.

Briefly, the events organized by the OPS for the Postdoc appreciation month (September), was discussed. Suggestion to have a Trivia event, probably at a bar, or a poker game social with drinks was discussed. These could be extra events for the month of September, or we can have them for other months (as social mixer events).