

PDFA Executive Meeting

19 OCTOBER 2016 / 12H08 - 12H57 / CAB 377

In Attendance

Ann, Neil, Richard, Camille, Mahdi, Sarah

Agenda

1) Approval of Agenda

- Approved: Ann, Sarah

2) Approval of Minutes

- Approved: Sarah, Ann

3) Research Day

- Research Day went well generally; Dr. Kelly had a good time and made contacts with the Career Centre, including potential future collaborations (e.g., webinar);
- Difficulty with advertising on campus, presence; improvement in reaching out to faculties and grad students; more marketing as “dry run”, elevator pitch, or easy presentation for new projects to get supervisors involved
- Setting date early gives opportunity to do save the dates and get word out
- Ann gave us all a pat on the back

4) Travel Award

- Nico not present (conflicting meetings); will start ball rolling but needs help drafting email and recruiting judges; **Action:** Camille to contact Nico
- Likely that this year’s exec will start but not finish the Travel Award process

5) Holiday Party

- Early December event for postdocs; likely host at Narayanni’s and sell tickets beforehand like last year (straightforward and went well); easiest to set up with our current funds; week of December 5th?
- Potential future: catered event at Dewey’s (would require additional accounting)
- Note: next year’s exec should pay close attention to alumni association proposal process for obtaining money for these events

6) Elections

- We should hold them.
- Headhunting would be good at this point to try and get people to apply and avoid last year's difficulties
- Need to get a volunteer for Elections Officer, either by outgoing exec or listserv ad
- **Action:** Ann will send listserv request for EO

7) Career Panel Discussion, November 4

- 5pm; two panelists (Engineering & Physiology) with lots of experience (100+ position applications); if we have a third that would be helpful but not necessary
- **Action:** Sarah will contact Arts person to try to get an Arts panelist; Mahdi to send details to Ann, who will send out email to postdocs
- Brown bag lunch in week following? (e.g., bring research plans and work together)

8) Other Business

- Ann and Richard meeting with Minister of Advanced Education on Friday; push for legislation while discussions ongoing for grad students / professors; MAE wants more information on how we are employed and how we work; could be tipping point?
- Alan Alda dinner: we really need to learn to communicate science, especially with policymakers and public; improv classes are apparently helpful! Develop spontaneity; Saturday nights Rapid Fire Improv; might be interesting for execs to try out, and future nights for public; listserv for spots!

9) Adjournment

- Approved: Richard; Camille