

PDFFA Executive Meeting

27 JULY 2016 / 12H05 - 13H15 / ECHA 1-121

In Attendance

Camille, Ann, Neil, Richard, Manmeet, Sarah, Megan, Nico

Agenda

1) Approval of Agenda

- Approved: Ann, Richard

2) Approval of Minutes

- Approved: Megan, Ann
- Need to fix date

3) Fundraising Updates

- Camille: so far raised \$5500, still waiting for additional \$3250 in cheques
- **Action:** follow up with pharma companies and other previous donors with no reply this year; Glenn Baker to approach Alberta Innovates director
- **Action:** also contact Glenn Baker about VP-research offsetting event costs
- Funding should roughly match that from last year; less expenses for Research Day setting (free venue + choice for catering), but potential higher expenses for bringing in speaker
- **Action:** Ann to follow up about getting a PDFFA speedcode

4) Advocacy Committee - Feedback

- Richard: no name, and need to decide on direction;
- inaugural advocacy committee meeting; how to define and “sell” postdocs to administration; mostly low-key brainstorming
- Richard met for coffee with Jian (post-doc rep, Women’s Academic Association), looking to get involved in committees; came up with questionnaires to get opinions from academics and junior staff for how postdocs impact them, toward ‘crowdsourcing’ a definition of postdocs
- Manmeet: include subcommittee members on emails related to advocacy

5) Advocacy Committee - Meeting Report

- Committee focused on identifying and targeting issues that affect postdocs
- Richard: better representation for postdocs, more mention in policymaking (and integration of existing archaic policies)
- Ann: for example, postdocs cannot participate in Dean searches because postdocs are not official parts of the university; at best, usually lumped in with grad students
- Adjustments to roles, e.g., teaching as mandatory for postdocs - might be met with resistance at first, but would make it easier for postdocs to get well-rounded training without butting heads with supervisors
- Invite industry speakers/attendees to Research Day (+potential recruiters)
- Advocacy with societies/government
- Nico: long-term 'friendship' levels with companies and societies; also would be helped by definition for postdocs. Ann: would also assist in talking with media; also let's invite the Edmonton Journal and the Mayor to Research Day!
- **Action:** Sarah to contact the mayor

6) Research Day

- Christine Kelly does career development and has 20 years of public speaking experience;
- **Action:** Ann to contact Campus Neuroscience to inquire about covering costs for Christine Kelly
- Do we have a theme? (Save the Date included old motto). Neil/Megan: postdocs as potential / "building blocks of tomorrow". Ann: drivers of innovation? Ideally building on theme of postdocs as potential contributors to Edmonton/Alberta
- **Action:** Neil will email solicitation for ideas, and collect contributions
- Catering. Megan: venue does not tie in catering, so lots of options. Coffee during registration, snack breaks, lunch, post-day social. Based on ~200 people. Poster boards. Use same people (internal) as last year.
- **Action:** Megan will take the lead on catering; contact does dessert catering. Also poster boards.
- Need to set dates for abstract submission open/closed, notification of acceptance.
- Start going on door prizes too.
- **Action:** Megan will email about dates and solicitations for door prizes
- Calgary confirmed 10 spots for Research Day abstracts (and we confirmed 10 spots in return).

7) Summer BBQ

- Sarah has tickets. Wednesday Aug 17th is closing date to get tickets. (Also next exec meeting: will organize who buys food). Emily Murphy Park.

- **Action:** Camille to organize floats for making change.

8) Coffee and Cookies by Faculty

- ALES in level1 AGFOR July 28 (tomorrow) at 2:30pm
- Sarah will get banner from Megan.

9) Career Seminars Update

- Mahdi is organizing (two speakers confirmed: seeking one for panel, new hires)
- No date yet

10) Fall Travel Award

- Currently have enough funding.
- **Action:** Nico to send out email to let postdocs know.

11) Adjournment

- Approved: Ann, Nico

Notes:

- Addendum: Richard in contact with health insurance about adding vision care; difficulty determining extra cost, but quoted as “not much”
- Good idea to keep copies of correspondence / initiatives to GDrive
- Coffee and Cookies for postdoc appreciation week. Need to look at booking location. **Action:** Neil will download pokemon go and decide on where the best location would be (ha).