

April 2017

# PDFA executive meeting

---

27 April 2017 / 3:00 - 4:15 PM / ROOM CCIS 5-003

## In attendance

Richard, Jessica, Camille, Anni, Bing, Abhilash, Kate

## AGENDA

1. **Approval of Agenda**
2. **Approval of Previous two Meeting Minutes**
3. **Website and Facebook Pages (Richard; 5 min)**
4. **Request for CAPs affiliation (Richard; 5 min)**
5. **Research Day (Richard; 10 min)**
6. **Fundraising (Richard; 5 min)**
7. **Travel Award (Abhilash)**
8. **Online Career Conference for PhDs (Zoey)**
9. **BBQ Update in Summer (Wei)**
10. **Bill 7 (Richard; 10 min)**
11. **Meeting with President Turpin (Richard; 5 min)**
12. **Other Business**
13. **Town hall Meeting, Brown Bag lunch (Career; first speaker would be Ann Revill) etc**
14. **Adjournment ; May 18<sup>th</sup> Next Meeting**

## NOTES

\*Action items in blue!

1. **Approval of agenda.** Approved: Abhilash, Bing
2. **Approval of previous meeting minutes.** Approved: Abhilash, Camille
3. **Website and Facebook Pages (Richard; 5 min)**
  - a. Both need to be constantly updated. Anni has updated the bios, news on travel award and online career conference on the website
  - b. **Meeting minutes should also be uploaded**, Anni will do that now until March meeting minutes
  - c. **Add contact information to website asap**, pdfa email address not easily found

d. Contact Anni with any ideas on improvements for the website

**4. Request for CAPs affiliation (Richard; 5 min)**

a. Forum, email list exist; Suggested we join individually but CAPS have suggested PDFA also become a member: [Richard will get us joined this month](#)

**5. Research Day (Richard; 10 min)**

- a. Bernard Snell Hall has been reserved for Thursdays November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017
- b. Thoughts on speakers (3 in total): depends on fundraising whether we're able to bring in an external speaker; bringing in someone from the industry would be good as many PDFs are interested in non-academic career options; someone local as a third speaker
- c. [In August, we should confirm room booking, organize catering](#)
- d. Level of support from VP Research office currently unknown

**6. Fundraising (Richard; 5 min)**

- a. Richard has sent around the log-in info for pdfa email address and everyone should send their support request emails from the pdfa address, using the template Camille provided
- b. [Everyone should sign up for 10 contacts by tomorrow, all emails should be sent out by end of next week \(date\), and a follow-up email a week after that - all fundraising should be done by next meeting](#)

**7. Travel Award (Abhilash)**

- a. Certificates at a ceremony at research day, signed by Richard, money will be dealt out in May
- b. [Pictures should be taken and added on the website & facebook](#)

**8. Online Career Conference for PhDs (Zoey)**

- a. Zoey was absent, but if people want to join the conference together to stream the conference, Kate may be able to book a room at CCIS
- b. [Richard will propose that Zoey coordinate to set up a viewing if people want to do that](#)
- c. Think about organizing this earlier next year, and maybe PDFA can offer the viewing for up to 10/20 people and cover the costs, depending on funding

**9. BBQ Update in Summer (Wei)**

- a. Wei absent, but possible dates in late June/ early July on a Saturday (but not 1 July, Canada Day), as a family-oriented event; Site needs to be booked early at Emily Murphy park (other option: Hawrelak park) through the city of Edmonton. [Richard will delegate to Wei to start organizing; Jennifer will help Wei with the booking asap](#)

- b. Kate suggested we contact Office of Sustainability for free utensils etc.; Field office may have tents

**10. Bill 7 (Richard; 10 min)**

- a. Letters were sent to provincial government last year to make the situation of PDFs known to representatives; meetings with Ministry with post doc representatives, including Ann & Richard - including discussions on parental leave and current post doc employment status
- b. Bill 7: improves bargaining rights, includes PDFs in Alberta; bill hasn't yet passed
- c. Possible impacts: EI (federal program), CPP - currently unclear what the options are in practice. We're not part of the Employment Act (?) but have bargaining rights and right to strike
- d. Memorandum of Understanding with U of A says we will not unionize or bargain (reasons: we're a bureaucratic extension of VP Research, not big enough to be independent) - currently not in our best interest to go against the memorandum and VP Research until we know more - limitations to what we can do as we're a small volunteer-run association with a tiny budget

**11. Meeting with President Turpin (Richard; 5 min)**

- a. UBC offers funding for supplemental parental leave for a few months for those who don't have the benefit from other sources
- b. Richard is collating information we've collected on policies at different universities
- c. Special Meeting with individuals attending prior the actual meeting 8 May - one goal is to try to organize parental leave by the university

**12. Other Business**

**13. Town hall Meeting, Brown Bag lunch (Career; first speaker would be Ann Revill) etc**

- a. Ann has offered to speak, as she's been offered a faculty position
- b. Jessica suggested career office people could probably talk
- c. **Bing will take charge of organizing**, Richard will help out, a meeting monthly or every 2 months; Kate can help in the fall

**14. Adjourned at 4:15 (Abhilash & Jessica); Next Meeting is on May 18<sup>th</sup>**



