

PdOC Society

Minutes 22 April 2015

Minutes of the meeting held at The Postdoc Centre, 16 Mill Lane at 6pm on Wednesday 22 April

Present: Maya Ghossaini (President), Nicky de Battista NdB (Treasurer), Joy Warde (Secretary), Alice Hutchings, Brian Krummel, Paul Bennett, Adina Feldman, Tariq Masood, Antonis Kanellopoulos, Tariq Masood, Paul Coxon, Marko Tainio, Severine Mollard

1. **Apologies:** Jean-François Mercure (Vice-President), Clare Simpson, Johannes Hjorth, Nicky Blanning NB, Natalia Bulgakova NBu,
2. **Minutes** – minutes of the meeting held on 11 March (**2015_03_11 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record.
3. **President's Report (MG)**
 - 3.1. MG summarised the current status of the preparations for the 2015 AGM, including details of committee members who were likely to stand again at the 2015 AGM (**PdOC 2015 AGM planning**). All information is now published on the PdOC website and advertising materials have been sent to all committee members.
 - 3.1.1. The committee agreed to count number of votes for, against and abstentions for each candidate.
 - 3.1.2. The committee agreed to advertise the AGM in the reporter 4 weeks and 1 week in advance of the AGM.
Action: JW to send text to reporter editor.
 - 3.1.3. PC reported on the costs of advertising in Varsity. It was agreed not to proceed due to the relatively high cost and perceived low postdoc readership.
 - 3.1.4. JW reported that the next staff newsletter would be issued after the AGM and so an advert was not appropriate.
 - 3.1.5. JW reported that an advert for the AGM would be included in the upcoming OPdA newsletter due out w/b 27 April.
 - 3.2. MG and TM reported on the agenda for the upcoming RDC meeting. The PdOC allocation of £8k for RD activities has been combined with the OPdA allocation. Committee members expressed concern about the perceived identity and independence of PdOC and long term sustainability of this funding stream.
Action: TM to write to chair/secretary of RDC to request that PdOC reports on PdOC RD activities as separate from the OPdA.
4. **Treasurer's Report (NdB)**
 - 4.1. NdB provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (**PdOC statement 15-04-15.pdf**). The current effective balance currently stands at £6040.74.
5. **University Council and the Roll of Regent House (JW)**

- 5.1. JW reported on the current mechanisms for the inclusion of RAs and SRAs on the Roll of Regent House as summarised under item 7 in the minutes from 11 March (**2015_03_11 minutes**). These findings have been shared with Prof Chris Abell, Director of Postdoctoral Affairs. Discussions with the Registry's office are on-going.
- 5.2. Dr Rob Wallach (founder of PdOC and Vice Provost of King's College) had been invited to attend the committee meeting but unfortunately was unable to attend. His comments on this agenda item were reported by JW.
- 5.3. The committee discussed if and how PdOC should respond to the inequitable representation of RAs and SRAs on the Roll of Regent House. The following points were discussed
 - 5.3.1. In principal the PdOC committee broadly agrees that the current situation is unsatisfactory and that there should be greater postdoc representation on the Roll of Regent House.
 - 5.3.2. PdOC could take an open position to both the University and Postdoc Community via a policy paper presented and approved at the PdOC AGM on 17 June. This would raise the profile and remit of PdOC. An open discussion via the PdOC AGM and/or via the DPCCN would illicit feedback from the postdoc community as a whole. At present most postdocs are unaware of the Roll of Regent House and its significance in University decision making.
 - 5.3.3. As this is likely to be a controversial subject PdOC should be clear about the desired final outcome and how the route to this outcome fits with PdOC strategy.
 - 5.3.4. PdOC needs to carefully consider its mandate to represent postdocs. PdOC can present a position on behalf of the PdOC committee but would need to carefully consider how to engage with the wider community before presenting a policy paper. PdOC could present a policy paper on behalf of the PdOC committee and/or DPCCN and/or the wider postdoc community via the AGM.
 - 5.3.5. This issue will not be resolved quickly and PdOC has time to carefully consider its position to compose a very clear and strategic position.

Action: JW to add this item to the agenda for the next PdOC committee meeting in May.

6. PdOC Policy Statements (AF/TM/AK/JW)

- 6.1. University Council and the Roll of Regent House (**PdOC_White_Paper_RegentHouse_draft**)
This item was discussed until item no. 5
- 6.2. How is the Postdoc voice represented and heard?
JW reported on the current mechanism(s) for University wide postdoc representation. Postdoc representation is increasing and PdOC will consider how to provide a mechanism, other than the AGM, for consultation with the wider postdoc community.
Action: JW to add to the agenda for the newly elected PdOC committee after PdOC AGM

7. Constitution update (AF)

- 7.1. AF outlined the recommendations of the PdOC constitution working group (AF, MG, JFM, PC, JW, JH). A summary of the agreed changes is found on **PdOC_constitution_WG_prop_changes_April2015**. It was agreed to explicitly link the role of Secretary to the Postdoc staff coordinator position. The final draft of the proposed new constitution will be presented to the committee at the next meeting on 13 May. If

agreed, it will be published on the PdOC website and presented for adoption at the 2015 AGM on 17 June.

Action: AF to finalise the suggested changes.

Action: All to read in preparation for approval on 13 May

8. Events report (AH / BK)

8.1. BK and AH summarised the previous and upcoming PdOC events (**15_04_22 PdOC events summary**).

8.2. BK reported on the success of the Family Easter Egg Hunt event on 12 April at Lucy Cavendish. The event was sold out and the committee wishes to thank Clare for her hard work on this activity.

8.3. BK reported that we still required 2 speakers for the PdOC lecture series on 5 May.

Action: PC agreed to present on his research. PC to contact NBu.

8.4. The committee would like to thank Brian and Alice for a impressive list of events over the past month.

9. Other reports (not for discussion)

9.1. Departmental Postdoc Committee Chairs Network minutes Feb 2015 (**15_02_26 DPCCN 3.pdf**)

10. AOB

10.1. MG and AF reported on their visit to Emmanuel College to dine with the Master, senior fellow(s) and postdocs. The College were enthusiastic about the work of PdOC and supporting postdocs in Cambridge. JW reported that the RDC would be continuing their funding of College affiliated positions for postdocs into 2015/16.

10.2. **Action: JW to prepare generic business cards for PdOC**

11. Date of future meetings –13 May, 17 June