

PdOC Society

Minutes 21 July 2015

Minutes of the meeting held at The Postdoc Centre, 16 Mill Lane at 6pm on Tuesday 21 July

Present: Maya Ghossaini (President) **MG**, Adina Feldman **AF** (Vice-President) Lori Turner **LT** (Treasurer) for items 4, 6, 8, Joy Warde **JW** (Secretary), Paul Bennett **PB**, Nicky Blanning **NB**, Alice Hutchings, Arne Jungwirth **AJ**, Antonis Kanellopoulos **AK**, Stephen Kell **SK**, Susanne Leger **SL**, Tariq Masood **TM**, Aamir Mukadam **AM** (from item 6), Clare Simpson **CS**, Marko Tainio **MT**

1. Apologies: Paul Coxon, Severine Mollard

2. Minutes – minutes of the meeting held on 13 May (**2015_05_13 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record.

3. President's Report (MG)

3.1. MG outlined the background and remit of the Departmental Postdoc Committee Chairs' Network (DPCCN). The DPCCN has been chaired by TM from May 2014. Since it is both a requirement that the DPCCN chair is a member of the PdOC committee and, more importantly, that we want to retain the skills and experience of TM it was proposed that TM be co-opted to the PdOC committee. Proposed by AF, seconded by AH, all in agreement.

3.2. MG proposed the idea of a repeat PdOC committee 'away' day in September. Members were broadly in agreement of a ½ day format, at the weekend, composed of committee team-building/training followed by time for strategy planning. JW reported that Geraint Wyn-Story could be available for the day; this was well received by the members who had attended the previous ctte away day in March.

Action: JW to send round doodle poll giving options for ½ day on a Saturday or Sunday in September or early October.

Action: JW to search for venue (once date has been set) and liaise with Geraint.

3.3. MG informed the committee that Chris Abell and Karina Prasad will attend the committee meeting on 23 September

Action: Ctte to agree agenda for meeting with CA/KP at August meeting

4. Treasurer's Report (LT)

4.1. LT provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (**PdOC statement 15-07-09.pdf**). The current effective balance currently stands at £5727.39.

JW reported that we had received a quote to renew PdOC's public liability insurance (£5,000,000) with Endsleigh for another year starting 21 August. The renewal cost is £265 as compared to £371 for last year. The terms and coverage appear to be identical. Ctte agreed to proceed with renewal.

Action: LT/JW to make payment

5. Vacant PdOC positions (MG/AF)

5.1. AF reported that there are 3 vacant ctte positions.
- policy and representation

- marketing
- events (to partner SK)

AF was in discussions with a postdoc re. the policy and representation role. CS also expressed an interest in this role.

Action: PB/SM to place advert for co-opted members in the PdOC newsletter

Action: AF to discussion roles with CS and potential other postdoc(s).

6. Researcher Development (AM/JW)

6.1. AM is putting together the PdOC plan for RD activities for 2015-16. JW reported that PdOC will continue the Masterclass series in collaboration with PPD around the theme of 'Teaching and Leadership'. PPD have allocated £1500 (with £1500 matching funds from PdOC) to deliver 3-4 masterclasses.

The committee discussed the timings of the 'networking' events and will look at the possibility of some lunchtime events to suit postdocs with early evening commitments. The committee discussed possible themes and topics. Ideas discussed included

- gaining a fellowship process: networking – fellowship writing (including financial implications, FEC) – fellowship negotiation
- HR processes and career progression e.g. RA-SRA promotions, SRD
- negotiation of a job offer (salary, teaching commitments, no. students etc.)
- alternative careers
- industry liaison

It was noted that many of these topics will need coordination/liaison with the Careers Service who already provide training around these issues. The peer-to-peer informal format of PdOC events is well received and it was suggested that we could have a theme per term. TM reported that IfM successfully uses the Vitae Framework for RD provision and that current 'non-academic' job descriptions could be used as source of ideas. AJ proposed the concept of an interdisciplinary journal club where a 'theme' could be discussed in a multidisciplinary setting.

Action: AM to write a first draft of allocation of RD funding and activities for 2015/16 for presentation to the PdOC committee by 27 August.

Action: All ctte members with specific ideas/themes to liaise directly with AM.

6.2. JW reported that the final 2 Masterclasses of this academic year will be on 24 July (Negotiation) and 28 September (leadership).

7. Events report (AH / BK)

7.1. SK provided a written summary of the previous and upcoming PdOC events (**15_06_30 PdOC events minutes**). A events sub-committee mailing list has been set up soc-pdoc-events-subcommittee@lists.cam.ac.uk. SK reported that a number of postdocs on the events subcommittee would like more College dinners (including a PdOC Christmas dinner).

Action: JW to put in a dinner request to conference Cambridge for December

Action: All ctte members to cultivate current College connections

7.2. Clare Simpson reported the organisation of a family event at Fitzwilliam College on 6 September. CS has agreed the same adult and child prices as those charged by Lucy Cavendish for the Easter event. The ctte agreed to subsidise the ticket price by the same amount as the PdOC £1 overhead + paypal fee. This is estimated to be a maximum of £120. The ctte also agreed to fund approx £50 of consumables for the event.

8. Project Officer College Affiliations (JW)

8.1. JW reported that a new part-time (2 day), 1 year post has been created within the OPdA to look at Postdoc College Affiliations across the University. Collaboration and liaison with PdOC is integral to the post. Deadline for applications is 14 August and the position will report to JW. Further particulars can be downloaded from <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/7460/>

9. AOB

9.1. AH noted that in May 2015 the ctte agreed to call an EGM with the sole agenda of Postdocs and the Role of Regent House. The ctte agreed to revisit this later in the year when we had more information about the current position and likely direction of travel.

10. Date of future meetings – Thur 27 Aug, Wed 23 Sept, Thur 15 Oct, Thur 12 Nov