

PdOC Society

Minutes 21 January 2016

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

Present: Maya Ghossaini (President) **MG**, Adina Feldman **AF** (Vice-President), Nicky Blanning **NB**, Paul Bennett **PB**, Marta Costa **MC**, Alice Hutchings **AH**, Arne Jungwirth **AJ**, Antonis Kanellopoulos **AK**, Stephen Kell **SK**, Susanne Leger **SL**, Ewa Marek **EM**, Clare Simpson **CS**, Hannah West **HW**, Joy Warde **JW** (Secretary)

1. **Apologies:** Paul Coxon **PC**, Aamir Mukadam **AM**, Severine Mollard **SM**, Tariq Masood **TM**, Lori Turner **LT** (Treasurer)
2. **Minutes** – A correction was requested for minute 5.4. MG should be replaced by MC. otherwise the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November (**2015_11_12 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record.
3. **Declarations of Interest** - none
4. **President's Report (MG)**
 - 4.1. Update from OPdA management ctte.

MG reported that the OPdA was reviewing postdoc salary scales. On average, Cambridge postdoc salaries are lower than the average UK postdoc. OPdA are working on a draft proposal to remove the bottom 2 spine points on a grade 7 researcher for new appointees.
 - 4.2. PdOC 'Code of Conduct' development

MC, AF, AJ have met to consider a possible code of conduct for the PdOC committee. They will report on more detail in February.
 - 4.3. University and College's Union (UCU)

AF has attended a local UCU open meeting of early career researchers organised by Waseem Yaqoob the Cambridge UCU researcher rep. The main item discussed was teaching for ECRs (distribution of teaching, payment etc.) and the potential impact of the Teaching Excellence Framework. It was noted that UCU are not officially recognised by the University. The committee discussed the merits of liaison with UCU.
Action: AF to lead and update on any potential synergies between PdOC and UCU
 - 4.4. DPCCN meeting Wed 17 February 12-2pm. Theme is "postdocs have support for their strategic career plan and progression". All members of PdOC are welcome to attend.
 - 4.5. Update on the Communications Strategy

AF reported that good progress had been made and the working group (AF, PB, SM, MC, EM, AH) would report more fully later in the year.
 - 4.6. Marketing Officer vacancy

The position of Marketing Officer was vacant after the 2015 AGM. The post was advertised in the PdOC newsletter. Ewa Marek was proposed to be co-opted on to the PdOC committee to fill this need. Proposed: PM, Seconded: AH/PB. The committee agreed and Ewa was welcomed to the committee.

4.7. Getting Connected Induction events

OPdA induction events are planned for 10 Feb (AHSS) and 23 Feb x2 (STEMM) at which PdOC has a 10 min talk.

Action: JW to liaise with available committee members to identify the 3 speakers.

5. Treasurer's Report (LT)

5.1. LT provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (PdOC accounts Jan 2016.pdf). The current effective balance currently stands at £5245.75.

LT has simplified how the monthly PdOC accounts are presented to the committee. There is one overview sheet followed by a sheet for each live event. The new report style was very well received by the committee, particularly the transparency of the Paypal fees. It was suggested that a date was added to the written report. It was noted that there was a £231.59 surplus from the Selwyn dinner.

Action: LT is keen to get feedback from any committee member on the readability and transparency of the accounts.

5.2. Minutes of finance sub-committee meeting are available. (**PdOC finance sub-ctte minutes 15-12-14**)

5.3. SK reported that there have been 15 sign ups for the May hiking trip (11 confirmed payments). Since the last committee meeting the expected train price had increased and it had not been possible to secure the tickets with a deposit. However, the final total train fare was too large to use the PdOC account to secure the tickets. Therefore SK has personally paid for the train tickets and LT has paid the accommodation deposit. This is not ideal as personal bank accounts have been used to secure the tickets. Various solutions were discussed based around taking a deposit before tickets were bought (based on a approx. price). It was agreed that the finance sub-committee would investigate this further.

It was also noted that the final payment deadline has been pushed back and it was suggested that a deadline is set for deposit payments.

Action: Finance sub-committee to investigate potential alternatives to using personal bank accounts.

6. Postdoc Representation Update

6.1. Equality and Diversity Committee.

The committee agreed that LT would be the postdoc rep on the E&D committee. Proposed AJ, Seconded AH.

6.2. Personal and Professional Development Committee. Vacant

Action: any interested postdoc to contact JW

6.3. Staff Well Being working group. SL has joined this group and will report to the committee on relevant issues. SL has also agreed to join the People Matter Week ctte.

6.4. Cambridge Society for the Application of Research.

CSAR would like to identify a postdoc to join the CSAR council. PC has agreed and is in contact with the CSAR President.

It was also noted that the OPdA has paid a £150 subscription to CSAR to allow up to 20 Cambridge postdocs to attend each lecture for free on condition that they register with the OPdA in advance.

7. Introduction to Rob Wallach, the Director of Postdoctoral Affairs

Rob was unable to attend the meeting.

8. Researcher Development Planning 2015/16

8.1. 'Pizza and Beer' sessions (MC/AK)

Wed 24 Feb, 12.30pm – Postdocs and Immigration.

Mon 7 March, 6pm – University Teaching, Rob Wallach to introduce + a group of postdocs to speak about their personal experiences. The committee discussed the merits of inviting the UCU rep to attend this session

Action: AF to investigate UCU link to this topic

Wed 23 March, 6pm – College Affiliations (in collaboration with Kristen Klebba).. Prof Ken Siddle, Vice-Master at Churchill, to speak + 3 postdocs to share their personal experiences.

8.2. Interdisciplinary lecture (CS/JW)

Tue 5 April Prof David Spiegelhalter "Naughty numbers in the news: public communication of statistics" followed by dinner at Clare College. The committee agreed to use £231.59 surplus from the Selwyn dinner + up to £400 from PdOC reserves to subsidise the cost of the post lecture dinner. This would reduce the ticket price to £35.

CS suggested Prof Chris Howe as a second speaker for this year on phylogeny of Literature/Music. The committee agreed that this was an interesting interdisciplinary topic.

Action: CS to invite Prof Howe to give second lecture of the year

8.3. Interdisciplinary journal club (AJ) 7pm Thur 28 Jan – "From Photons to Awareness"

AJ reported that the initial event in November was successful and the name has been changed to 'Interdisciplinary Research Club'.

8.4. Wed 13 April (time tbc) Masterclass series (JW) (for information)

9. Events report

(15_12_01 PdOC events minutes, 16_01_11 PdOC event minutes)

SK reported an offer of smallish dinner at Emma from Dan Credgington, waiting for details. Other offers available.

Next large dinner planned for summer in association with talk planned by Clare.

Decision to rotate the monthly Pub Night. Jan still in Bath House, Feb in the Grain Store. Will make it more exciting.

Bletchley Park planned.

System in place to make sure someone is always at the Tuesday lunches.

Addenbrooke's Pub Night still ongoing but with informal hosting. There is a demand for the Pub and there is always some attendance.

10. AOB

10.1. AH – Graduate Union includes research staff not in RH as members. Everything is in the air right now with GU but we will soon know more about what is going to happen with the review.

Action: Invite the GU president Chad Allen to one of our next meetings.

11. Date of future meetings – Thurs 25 February, Tue 22 March, Thurs 21 April, Wed 18 May, Wed 15 June