

## PdOC Society

Minutes 11 March 2015

---

Minutes of the meeting held at The Postdoc Centre, 16 Mill Lane at 6pm on Wednesday 11 March

**Present:** Maya Ghossaini (President), Nicky de Battista NdB (Treasurer), Joy Warde (Secretary), Alice Hutchings, Natalia Bulgakova NBu, Brian Krummel, Paul Bennett, Adina Feldman, Tariq Masood, Antonis Kanellopoulos, Tariq Masood, Paul Coxon

---

**1. Apologies:** Jean-François Mercure (Vice-President), Marko Tainio, Clare Simpson, Severine Mollard, Johannes Hjorth, Nicky Blanning NB

**2. Minutes** – minutes of the meeting held on 11 February (**2015\_02\_11 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record.

### **3. President's Report (MG)**

3.1. MG presented a summary of 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**). There is likely to be a large turnover of PdOC committee members which presents challenges in recruiting and inducting the new committee. PdOC needs to advertise as widely as possible to receive sufficient nominations. A list of suggested advertising is included on **PdOC 2015 AGM planning**

**Action: JW to circulate advertising materials (posters and slides) to all committee. All to display in their departments**

**Action: JW to add AGM materials to website, including homepage.**

**Action: JW to advertise AGM via the University Reporter (possibly 3 times running up to the AGM).**

**Action: JW to find deadlines for University staff newsletter**

**Action: PC to get advertising deadlines and costs from Varsity.**

**Action: JW to circulate current role descriptions to committee. ALL to update and return to JW**

3.2. The committee discussed the format and timings of the AGM. The committee agreed the following timings. 5.15pm start (food available from 4.45pm) aiming to finish at 6.45pm. The annual PdOC garden party at Emma will start at 7pm.

**Action: BK to confirm with Emma**

3.3. MG congratulated AH on her election to University Council.

### **4. Treasurer's Report (NdB)**

4.1. NdB provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (**PdOC statement 15-03-09.pdf**). The current effective balance currently stands at £6051.51.

### **5. Departmental Postdoc Committee Chairs Network (TM)**

5.1. TM reported that the DPCCN had met on 26 February with an attendance of 25 people. The 2 themes under consideration were teaching opportunities for postdocs and researcher development. A paper relating to teaching opportunities is being written. 3 Vice chairs have been appointed to support the network. TM welcomes contributions from the PdOC committee for DPCCN agenda topics. The DPCCN

has now completed 1 year and has grown dramatically. TM wished to thank JW for her work with this network.

**Action: JW to circulate the minutes to the full PdOC committee**

**Action: JW to issue invitation to allow all PdOC committee to access DPCCN camtools site**

5.2. TM led a discussion about how to best portray the brand image and outcomes of the DPCCN and PdOC in general. Events and the social networking aspects of PdOC are clearly visible on the PdOC website. PdOC's work around representation and policy is less visible.

**Action: DPCCN minutes to be published on PdOC website**

**Action: The comms team are in the process of updating the PdOC website homepage. This will include how best to portray PdOC aims.**

## **6. PdOC Policy Statements (AF)**

6.1. AF thanked the committee for contributing to PdOC policy ideas. The most popular ideas originating from the PdOC away day were the themes of Postdoc contracts and Careers. First drafts of policy statements are due by 22 April (**PdOC\_policy\_papers\_timeline**). Once agreed by the PdOC committee these will be presented for agreement by the AGM.

**Action: AK and AF to draft policy statement on contracts theme**

**Action: TM and AF to draft policy statement on careers theme.**

## **7. University Council and the Roll of Regent House (JW)**

7.1. **JW reported on how RAs and SRAs are included on the Roll of Regent House.** An RA must be either a member of a faculty (where their department is under a faculty) or be an RA in an Institution not within a faculty. Faculty membership is determined at a faculty or departmental level. As a result this leads to an inequitable situation for the RA population as a whole. This is a complicated situation and there are currently no plans to revisit how Statutes and Ordinances apply to RAs and SRAs. JW advised the committee that further advice was needed on how PdOC should respond.

**Action: JW to invite Rob Wallach (PdOC founder and Vice-Provost at King's College) if he could provide further advice to PdOC**

**Action: JW to invite Chris Abell, Director of Postdoctoral Affairs to discuss this issue further.**

## **8. Events report (AH / BK)**

8.1. BK and AH summarised the previous and upcoming PdOC events (**15\_03\_11 PdOC events summary**).

8.2. NdB advised the events team that for ease of end of year reporting there was to be no events scheduled where money was to be collected 1 week before the AGM.

## **9. PI prize**

9.1. JW presented an idea, generated by the OPdA, for a PI prize to be awarded to PIs who exemplify good practice in the leadership and management of postdocs (**PI prize PdOC consideration 03-03-15**). The committee discussed a proposal for PdOC to award this prize. A member commented that the idea for this prize had arisen from a desire to recognise the achievement of postdocs (not just PIs).

In principal the ctte agreed to award the prize subject to administration and financial support from the OPdA. However the committee had some reservations about any financial award and how it would be used. The ctte agreed that after the 2015 AGM a sub committee would be formed to administer to develop the criteria, nomination process and prize.

**Action: JW to add this to agenda for new committee and report back on discussions to OPdA.**

**10. AOB**

JW informed the committee of the advert for Dignity @ Work contacts. Full details can be found at [www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-staff/information-staff/dignity-work](http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-staff/information-staff/dignity-work). An advert will be included in the PdOC newsletter.

**11. Date of future meetings – 22 April, 13 May, 17 June**