

PdOC Society

Minutes 21 January 2015

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

Present: Maya Ghossaini (President), Nicky de Battista NdB (Treasurer), Joy Warde (Secretary), Paul Coxon, Alice Hutchings, Natalia Bulgakova NBu, Brian Krummel, Johannes Hjorth, Paul Bennett, Adina Feldman, Tariq Masood, Nicky Blanning NB, Antonis Kanellopoulos, Marko Tainio, Tariq Masood (from item 10)

1. **Apologies:** Clare Simpson Jean-François Mercure (Vice-President), Severine Mollard
2. **Minutes** – minutes of the meeting held on 26 November (**2014_11_26 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record. The committee will publish a shortened version of the minutes on the PdOC website.
Action: JW to reduce minutes in length, remove any reserved business but include actions for publishing on the PdOC website.
3. **President's Report (MG)**
 - 3.1. Postdoc Representation at University Council.
JW provided a brief summary of the eligibility of RAs and SRAs to be included on the Roll of Regent House. Members of Regent House vote for membership of University Council. There is a current vacancy in class c membership of University Council, which is open for nominations from members of Regent House. The Clerk of the Roll of Regent house has confirmed that Senior Research Associates and Research Associates are eligible for membership of the Regent House under Statute A III 10(e), provided that they are also a current member of a Faculty (or hold an appointment in a Department or other University institution which is independent of a Faculty). However of the 16 SRA/RA members of the PdOC committee only 3 are on the Roll. The discrepancy is related to faculty membership.
Action: JW to write to a number of Faculty Boards to find out the criteria for accepting RAs and SRAs as faculty members
 - 3.2. The PdOC committee has been encouraged, by a member of University Council, to nominate one of its members for the vacant University Council positions.
Action: AH to follow up on the responsibilities and commitment required for this position. JW to provide an introduction to the GU president who sits on University Council.
4. **Treasurer's Report (NdB)**
 - 4.1. NdB provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (**PdOC statement 15-01-18.pdf**). The effective cash balance currently stands at £6422.46 which includes a £3k donation from the OPdA
 - 4.2. The finance subcommittee has met consisting of NdB, NB, MG and JW. It was agreed to hold a cash minimum threshold of £1000 + £500 for cash flow in the PdOC account.
 - 4.3. PdOC has received a £3k donation from the OPdA to support the work of the PdOC Society (**PdOC Support Call Dec 2014.pdf**) outlines the proposed allocation of this funding. NdB has asked anyone with new ideas on how to use this funding, including non-event related, to contact him with ideas and rough costings. The events sub-committee have submitted suggestions – see item 6.

5. PdOC Constitution Working Group (AF)

5.1. A working group has been formed (**PdOC_ConstitutionWG_minutes_20150115.docx**). Full discussion of this item is postponed until the February meeting.

6. Events report (AH / BK)

6.1. BK and AH summarised the previous and upcoming PdOC events (**2015_01_19 PdOC events summary**).

6.2. The events report also includes detailed suggestions on raising the profile and attendance at the AGM and a PdOC networking garden party.

Action: JW to investigate if Leckhampton would be a suitable venue for the 2015 AGM and if we could supply our own catering.

7. Communications and Marketing report (PB)

7.1. Full discussion of this item will be postponed until the February meeting. The minutes of the Communication and Marketing sub-committee are available (**PdOC_CommsAndMarketing_Minutes19012015.pdf**).

7.2. It was proposed to add a 'blog' feature on the PdOC website to include a 'Meet the researcher' and 'Meet the PdOC committee' feature building towards the AGM in June. This could extend into a feature in the University staff magazine.

Action: Detailed actions on this project are included in

PdOC CommsAndMarketing_Minutes19012015.pdf

Action: JW to investigate if Falcon web content manager supports a blog

8. 2015 AGM dates (JW)

8.1. The 2015 PdOC AGM will be held on Wed 17 June. Venue to be confirmed.

9. PdOC committee away day (JW)

9.1. The committee 'away' day will be held on 7 March (PM + dinner).

10. RDC Review – led by Melissa Koops

10.1. Melissa Koops reported on the progress of the current review of Researcher Development. The aim is to review the RD provision for postdocs from a range of providers (not just PPD). What courses are being provided and who is accessing these courses? Current courses are being benchmarked against an OPdA postdoc 'core competencies'. A RD postdoc focus group met for discussion on 13 January. A detailed report on the outcomes of the focus group was provided (**Report on Postdoc Focus Group on Researcher Development Education.pdf**). This report focuses on

(1) Relevance of Researcher Development Education

(2) Access to Researcher Development Education

(3) Suggestions for improvement

A further number of postdoc working groups will be organised

Action: PdOC to advertise details of new working groups in PdOC newsletter

10.2. There followed a wide ranging discussion of RD provision and needs. Issues identified included publicity and access to PPD courses. There was a consensus of opinion on the desire for an official accredited portfolio of courses for higher research skills (similar to the structure of chartered status for scientists and engineers).

Action: Any committee members with further thoughts/suggestions on RD development should contact Melissa at Melissa.koops@admin.cam.ac.uk

11. Other reports (not for discussion at meeting)

- 11.1. 'Departmental Postdoc Committee Chairs Network' paper to HR committee (PDAC_HRctteJan2015 v1.0)

12. AOB

- 12.1. MT would like to discuss plans for a postdoc Welfare survey. Discussion postponed to next committee meeting.

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