

PDFA Executive Meeting

21 SEPTEMBER 2016 / 12H03 - 13H11 / ECHA 1-464

In Attendance

Ann, Neil, Sarah, Camille, Richard, Megan, Mahdi

Agenda

1) Approval of Agenda

- Approved: Ann, Richard

2) Approval of Minutes

- Approved: Camille, Richard

3) Guest Speaker: Gary McDowell, *Future of Research Executive*

- Alberts et al. paper: all about bad current state of academia
- Boston-area postdoc association: response from junior scientists, including a conference on issues in upcoming science/academia: problems, but also solutions
- Led to other regional “grassroots” meetings: Nonprofit for organizing committee meetings as well as assisting junior scientists (“pre-tenure”)
- Trying to affect change. Pushing for changing and/or enforcing labour laws for postdocs, as well as educating postdocs about their labour rights and/or career outcomes
- Also determining how to work internationally (e.g., Canada, UK, Europe)
- Working with other organizations to help get postdocs “better administrated”

4) Research Day

- Cold drinks: water/pop/juice plus coolers (Sarah)
- Buy ~100 badges (Avery pin style) from Staples
- New banner with updated donors (Ann will email Nadim)
- Gifts for speakers and Transcend cards for judges (Camille?) + small U of A hoodie (Mahdi)
- Setup @ 7:45 (check that room is open)
- Clipboards from Diane (Ann emailing, Sarah picking up) for 23 poster judges (Mahdi will get more if needed)
- IT/presentation manager: Richard (AM) - no late slide uploads
- Spreadsheets for best talks/posters (Mahdi, or Nico)

- Cheques for prizes: two each of \$500, \$250, \$100 (Camille, Ann)
- Photos throughout the day (Megan, also everyone else)
- Dr. Kelly: breakfast and dinner with execs (Sarah will book)
- Feedback form: Did you come to Research Day, plus freeform box (Neil)

5) Presentation Workshop

- (Mahdi) Will promote with GSA weekly bulletin; room TBA, contact email
- Mahdi will draft email in pdfa email, Ann to send it out

6) Travel Award

- Sort out dates: see if Nico can help sort out fall

7) Labour Relations

- Ann will email execs about Labour Relations

8) GSA Meeting

- (Richard) Financial sponsors are limited; Richard will follow up

9) Faculty of Science postdoc reps

- (Richard) Elena sent around email and recruited two postdoc reps; monthly Squire's meetings, bridging communication, potential potlucks and such; represent interests of postdocs in Faculty of Science, interface with PDFA

10) Career Discussion Panel

- Discussion panel: Faculty of Engineering (three panelists)
- October 14th - recent hires in past two years, experience with application packages

11) Adjournment

- Approved: Megan, Camille