

PDFFA Executive Meeting

8 MARCH 2016 / 10H10 - 11H27 / BS P-224

In Attendance

Richard, Manmeet, Nico, Megan, Ann, Neil, Camille, Sarah

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda

- Amendment: add Social Events to Fundraising (Sarah)
- Approved (Ann, Nico)

2. Transportation Update

- Meeting two weeks ago with support for changing status quo
- ETS@Work requires commitment, relatively expensive
- UPass option would be comparably cheap, but mandatory (UPass renegotiation is next year)
- LPass option would be cheap or free but is a limited option
- Potential for negotiating transit into benefits package (Richard); requirement for referendum (Ann); **Action:** Sarah planning social event for end of March, potential for discussing with postdocs there if we hear back from committee

3. Travel Award

- Bonnie and Nico will be running Travel Award (announce beginning of next week)
- Choose to go for six-month window, or extended window?
- Ineligibility for people with external sources of funding, or previously won award
- Execs who wish to be considered would be blocked from the PDFFA@ualberta.ca account for duration
- November 1 - (April 31 vs May/June): window is November 1st - May 31

4. Fundraising and Social Events

- Currently no source of income; thus letter-writing campaigns (sooner than later)
- Canned responses; Mail merge; write in last year's donation for matching; check contact addresses (all emails from PDFFA)
- Each exec responsible for 10
- Industries in town; need to update Fundraising Contact sheet for new year

- Ann to email Karen to get last year's list of donations
- Any ideas, start thinking and adding to the Fundraising Contact sheet (incl. door prizes); **Action:** all to finalize list for April 1st
- Social: Sarah wants to organize trivia night for postdocs vs. profs @ Dewey's
- Sarah will put brainstorming doc up; need door prizes
- Organizing door prizes: either separate social and Research Day or stockpile
- Sarah to update "ideas/help" doc
- Idea: regular writing group (somewhere on campus, weekday afternoons)
- Job-seeking brown bag lunches: invite folks who are going through prof applications (guest speakers?); possibly add other lunches if they work **Action:** Ann to send email for initial brownbag

5. Extended Health Coverage

- Health coverage is good but not broad (no vision coverage); potential for health budget flex/customizable account instead of coverage for different things that might not be used
- Need to look into whether insurance has different packages (ideally vision)
- Piggyback on grad student benefits? Need to see what GSA benefits are; challenge in getting added to plan
- Not necessarily changing whole plan but look into whether we can get vision plan
- **Action:** to discuss with Diane

6. Professional Development

- Mahdi to discuss ideas about professional development
- Informal brown bag lunches (etc.) with set purpose for discussion, other postdocs at similar level/area
- Also simple discussions like what to do in Edmonton
- One or two execs at each brown bag with information
- To be continued!

7. Adjournment

- Approved: Ann, Richard

Notes

- Everyone wants Ali back :-)
- Social events that are more informal
- Social media + email out for all of PDFFA web presence
- Neil to talk to Diane and Ali about sorting out website