

PDFA Executive Meeting

22 FEBRUARY 2016 / 12H00 - 13H05 / CSC 3-49

In Attendance

Richard, Manmeet, Alison, Nico, Megan, Ann, Neil, Bonnie, Diane, Camille, Nadim, Mahdi

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Transfer Document and Initiatives

Notes

- Importance of advertising and initiatives for postdocs to understand their support
- Challenges of trainee status; lack of mention in Post-Secondary Learning Act
- Buddy program: if there is interest (otherwise ad-hoc / through social programs)
- Transportation: no UPass or staff LRT use; ETS@Work (meeting Tuesday)
- Funding: no regular income (subsidies are through PDFA budget - VP-Research lump sum); fundraising pushes through emails to Faculties (Research Day & Social events); membership levy currently in works (agreed in principle but not implemented)
- Postdoc Survey: 20-25% return rate; rankings of importance to postdocs
- Professional Development: determine best system for delivery to postdocs; grad studies as best vehicle?
- Industry Training: how to help 80% of postdocs that won't get faculty jobs
- Permanent Residency: example of how piggybacking with other groups (Faculty)
- Parental Leave Policy: challenges (funding, organization)
- Board of Governors presentation
- Building Network (Richard?) of faculty reps and department reps
- Social Events: large increase in people attending, more informal events stemming from networking at official events
- Website: need to decide who gets Admin privileges
- Funding: *we need more*

- CAPS: funding from budget for postdocs who attend sessions
- Travel Awards: intermittent; some funding from VP-Research
- Research Day: showcase for fellows; some attendees from Calgary and Lethbridge; Bernard-Snell (covered by Psychiatry?) - end of September? Neuroscience theme; Focus on increasing faculty presence
- Postdoc Office and PDFA listserv; official emails always through PDFA email account; Facebook page and LinkedIn group (need to link them); Twitter account?
- Seminar/session for managing online identity
- Ombudsperson talk?
- (Richard) Grad student vs. postdoc ratio in labs across campus; Research rankings at universities; strength of labs is determined by postdocs running it rather than grad students being at the top; focusing on postdocs improves recruitment; examples + statistics as a narrative for discussions with (e.g.) admin and government
- (Nadim) reach out to other communities, e.g., speaking with Calgary; National Postdoc Association; (international postdocs lose their points for permanent residency); nationwide survey for postdocs
- official shared Drive folder and use of google docs for collaborating (Neil); Templates rather than rewriting emails, etc. (Ann & Alison)