

7th DoLS POSTDOC COMMITTEE

Day/Date 19th July 2016

Time 12pm-1:30pm

Venue SEC, 6th Floor

Minutes

Present: Briggs, David; Haghighat-Khah, Roya; Marbiah, Masue; Matias, Miguel; Grob, Alice;

Apologies: Pang, Poh-Choo; Aw, Rochelle; Storch, Marko, McCrorie, Rama; Mombrikotb, Shorok.

Agenda Item	Action
1. Apologies Pang, Poh-Choo; Aw, Rochelle; Storch, Marko, McCrorie, Rama; Mombrikotb, Shorok.	
2. Minutes of the last meeting Accepted without modification.	
3. Beer & Pizza – SK A.Grob reports 23 attended that last session, up from 17 the previous time. Attendance for the past 5 sessions has been 26, 23, 15, 18, 23. Speakers for the next two sessions (28 th July and 25 th August) have been lined up. The 1630 time slot appears to be successful and so will be continued.	A.Grob
4. Beer & Pizza – SP M.Matias reports that 12 postdocs attended the first B&P session at Silwood – this is over 50% of SP postdocs. The sessions will be continued on the 1 st Wednesday of each month. Feedback from the session reveals that the SP postdocs would be interested in more technical talks and workshops, and would like a talk from the PDC on available training courses. This will be organised. It became clear during discussions that new postdocs do not automatically get added onto the PDC mailing list. This seems to be a rather obvious omission. R. Haghighat-Khah will follow up on this in a meeting with L.Lillepuu	M.Matias R. Haghighat-Khah
5. Silwood Park visit – 13th July Reports from A.Grob, M.Marbiah and M.Miguel. 12 attendees from SK and 9 from SW. There was a tour of SW for the SK attendees followed by a networking event run by Karen Hinxman (PDC), and then a Barbeque with those attending the faculty staff meeting. All had a good time and this event was considered to be a success and will be repeated next year.	

During discussions we learned about “Silfest”, the Silwood park music festival. This is occurring on 20th July 2016, so we are unable to advertise this to SK postdocs for this year. For next year’s event we would consider advertising this as a social event.

6 Have your say campaign

Attendance at these events has been very poor. Via E-mail, R.Aw communicated that only 2 people had attended a session that she went to.

It was thought that a new advertising push might be necessary, and A.Grob will invite Tom Welton to give a short introduction to the campaign at a future Beer and Pizza (SK) session

A.Grob

7 Speed Mentoring.

D.Briggs has been liaising with L.Lillepuu regarding this. Rooms have been provisionally booked for 20/21 September. L.Lillepuu has provided a list of PIs. E-mail will go out to these PIs at the end of this week with a Doodle poll so that a date can be fixed. Following this, PIs attendance will be confirmed, and advertising will start. Targets of 10 PIs and upto 50 postdocs have been suggested.

D.Briggs

8 Equal Opportunities Committee Meeting

Report from M.Marbiah – recent meeting was largely concerned with statistics regarding male:female ratios in grading, degree score, applications, offers, acceptance, etc. It was clear that the EOC is moving from a gender focus to a minority focus.

M.Miguel raised a question about how postdocs can demonstrate that they have promoted minority inclusion when applying for positions in the future, given that they have no direct decision re: hiring. R. Haghighat-

Khah pointed out that Imperial Outreach hold events targeting activities

to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This will be added to the Postdoc Handbook.

R.
Haghighat-
Khah

M.Marbiah indicated that the EOC had asked if postdocs wanted to present in departmental seminars. The consensus from the committee was yes we would. M.Marbiah to make further enquires as necessary.

M.Marbiah

9 Mentoring update

R. Haghighat-Khah gave an update about the mentoring program that has been proposed by the Dean of FoNS. A “Postdoc Champion” (a senior academic, tasked with championing Postdocs issues would assign mentors to Postdocs that required one. R. Haghighat-Khah will follow up with L.Lillepuu.

R.
Haghighat-
Khah

10 Mental Health First Aiders

R. Haghighat-Khah gave an update about this program due to be rolled out in FoNS in the future.

11 Postdoc Handbook

R. Haghighat-Khah gave an update about the latest state of the handbook.

D.Briggs suggested adding contact details for someone in HR who can assist with Visa/Leave-to-remain issues. This will be added.

During the summer break R. Haghighat-Khah will finalise this document, and communicate with the committee via e-mail. Committee members are

R.
Haghighat-
Khah

expected to reply within 1 week if they want to make any edits or suggestions.

12 H&S update

R.McCrorie stepping down both from PDC and as H&S rep.

R. Haghighat-Khah to step in as interim H&S rep.

Given that some PDC members are reaching the end of their contracts, it was agreed that D Briggs should liaise with L.Lillepuu about opening the nominations for new PDC members, including someone who would assume the H&S rep role.

D Briggs

13 Surveys (re: Technical workshops)

This task was originally assigned to R.McCrorie. D Briggs to take this role and organise a survey of postdocs asking what sort of technical workshops they would find useful

D Briggs

14 Symposium

R. Aw had suggested (via e-mail) an all-day DoLS postdocs symposium. This was greeted with enthusiasm. During discussions, it was thought that an all day event, held in one of the large lecture theatres in SAF would be ideal. It was suggested that Postdocs and final year PhD students could submit abstracts to the committee. Speakers would be chosen, and the remainder would get poster slots. A Keynote speaker on a topic with broad appeal (e.g. publishing or science metrics) could be invited. Perhaps this could be combined with a social event in the evening.

A very tentative date a week either side of Easter 2017 was suggested.

It was agreed that this should be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

15 Business cards (AOB)

Karen Hinxman revealed at the Silwood park event that the college offers free business card printing to postdocs. No-one present was aware of this. A. Grob to research this, and to communicate with R. Haghighat-Khah for inclusion into Postdoc handbook.

A. Grob.

16 Date of the Next Meeting

Due to extended absences over summer, the next meeting to be held w/c 5th September. Doodle poll to be sent out by R. Aw

R. Aw