

DoLS PDC meeting minutes

Tuesday 18th January 2022
11:30 – 12:30

Virtual MS Teams meeting

Present: Mark Hintze (MH), Rob Bradley (RB), Alice Banks (AB)

1. Apologies for absence:

None

2. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion committee update (AB)

- The PDC had not been made aware of any EDI issues to raise at the most recent EDI committee meeting.
- Postdocs are encouraged to inform the PDC of any issues relating to EDI which they wish to be brought to the committee.

3. Health & Safety committee update (MH)

- All lab users are encouraged to report near misses using SALUS.
- The H&S team are in the process of producing new posters to display safety information.
- Headphones should be discouraged from being used in the lab.
- Lab coat storage is becoming an issue across multiple labs, particularly at times when MRes and BSc students contribute to increased numbers of lab users.
- **Action:** MH to raise the issue of lab coat storage at the next H&S committee meeting – could additional hooks be installed in all labs (or corridors outside) to provide sufficient storage?

4. Research committee update

- No update

5. Infrastructure committee update

- No update

6. UG Teaching committee update (MH)

- The PDC do not need to attend all UG teaching committee meetings as these occupy a significant amount of time and much of the content is not relevant to postdocs.
- Instead, the PCD should speak directly with Huw Williams regarding any issues, and vice versa.

7. PFDC committee update (MH/AB)

- Postdocs are encouraged to attend events organised by the PFDC and to make use of the 10 development days that they are entitled to.
- The *Seeds for Success Fund* and *Wings for Ideas Fund* are open for applications from postdocs whose contract runs at least until 31st October 2022. This is likely to exclude many postdocs due to the fixed-term and short-term nature of contracts.

- It is not always apparent how short-term funding awards will impact on postdoc's existing contracts when salary costs are included in the award. e.g., Are postdocs entitled to a no-cost extension of their existing contract to accommodate the award? At what stage should postdocs speak with HR, to avoid applications to funding calls which do not work with their existing contract?
- **Action:** AB to email Richard Bowman to clarify details on how short-term funding awards affect current contract terms.

8. Events for 2022

a. Pizza & Beer

- No new sign-ups for speakers to present at upcoming events, despite publicising the events at the Staff Meeting and via email to postdoc mailing list.
- It is felt that the postdoc community has suffered from the lack of face-to-face events over the past two years, and new postdocs who have joined the department since the start of the pandemic have not had the opportunity to integrate.

b. DoLS Postdoc Networking Event

- Very low engagement (6 responses) on poll sent to postdocs to gauge interest in this event.

c. Departmental

- Culture Committee weekly coffee mornings were due to start in December but were postponed due to rise in Omicron cases.
Action: MH to check when coffee mornings are expected to start.
- The PDC will use the weekly coffee mornings (in SAF and SEC) to approach postdocs and establish a dialogue to find out what events postdocs would like to see from the PDC.
Action: ALL to draft an email to Robert Endres (Postdoc Champion) and request that this is sent on to PIs to encourage postdocs to engage with departmental events and postdoc community.

9. AOB

None

10. Next PDC meeting

Thursday 24th February, 11 am, MS Teams