

DoLS POSTDOC COMMITTEE

Friday 29th March 2019
12:30 – 2:00pm
213A Sir Ernst Chain Building

Minutes

Present: Aulino Campos de Lima, Melina; Estacio Gomez, Alicia; Grob, Alice; Wei, Ba; Witmer, Kathrin; Haghighat-Khah, Roya.

Apologies: Bradley, Rob; Nowell, Reuben; Wright, Kate.

Agenda Item	Action
1 Apologies	
2 Minutes of the last meeting No issues	
3 Social Media Update. R. Bradley is keeping track of all the events, both in the website and the Facebook group.	
4 Pizza and beer update. A Estacio-Gomez has been co-organising the Pizza and Beer together with M Aulino Campos de Lima, by ordering the pizzas and drinks, however, she will not be able to do it anymore. K Witmer has offered to take care of the April talk, and W Ba will do it in May. A Estacio-Gomez will write down the details about how to order pizzas, and let all members of the Committee know, so they can step in when she is not around. During the next two sessions, M Aulino Campos de Lima will keep organising the speakers, but she will not do it in June, because she is leaving the Committee. We will have to find two volunteers (one to take care of the speakers, the other one to order pizzas and drinks), to run the June Pizza and Beer talk. We have agreed of not having Pizza and Beer sessions for July and August (Summer break). It is very likely that we will have enough speakers, since the people who registered to participate in the Symposium would like to present their talk here. Last Pizza and Beer of March only had 10 attendants.	M. Aulino Campos de Lima, A Estacio-Gomez, K Witmer, W Ba.
5 Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee Update R. Haghighat-Khah has been having several meetings with senior members of the College (Anne Dell, Stephen Curry, etc), to discuss possible improvements for maternity/paternity leaves for Postdocs. She wrote a report detailing the current situation that she presented in the last	R. Haghighat-Khah

EDI meeting of the Department. She also has started communication with HR to gather data about how many Postdocs have asked for this leave in the past years. She has also met with R Bell, the Athena SWAN Universities coordinator, and the discussions/ meetings are expected to continue. However, she feels optimistic about the outcome, and it seems that the College is open to listen to our proposals. A Grob and A Estacio-Gomez advise to get contact information from the Advancement Team, who presented a Donors programme in the last Staff meeting, 27th February, that could be used to fund the improved maternity/paternity leaves conditions.

6 **Silwood Park update**

R Nowell is not present. A Estacio-Gomez to contact R Nowell to ask him to recruit new members in Silwood Park.

A Estacio-Gomez

7 **Future events update**

The 3rd Postdoc Symposium of the Department was cancelled. Only 2 people submitted an abstract, one person a poster, and 16 people registered to attend, having in mind that 8 of those are Postdoc Committee members.

All members

The Symposium was initially advertised on 8th February via email to all Postdocs of the Department, and 11th March was the deadline to submit abstracts. A second email was sent on 25th February as a reminder. Still nobody submitted an abstract, and the deadline was extended to 27th March, advertised with two more emails. Posters had been put in SEC, SAF, and Flowers buildings.

R Enders, Postdoc Champion announced the Symposium in the last Staff meeting on 27th February.

Postdocs were also individually approached once we realised the numbers were really low. To sum up, the Symposium was widely advertised, and all Postdocs approached knew about it. However, due to the low numbers of participation, we had to cancel it.

Both keynote speakers were told, as well as the exhibitors from the Companies. The later were quite understanding of the situation, and will be willing to collaborate in any similar event that we might organise in the future.

Some feedback that we got from some Postdocs to explain the reasons behind the little interest were: lack of cohesion in terms of Research fields within the Department, not a good time of the year since they are busy with their own research and with undergraduate students, not seeing the benefit of presenting, etc.

From the PDFC also suggested to propose talks less research/data oriented and more focused on skills.

We agree on organising a network/collaboration event in September, and possibly to reach other Departments.

8 **DoLS Undergraduate teaching committee**

W Ba started the Science Fridays, together with the help of Teaching Fellow C McClure and R. Haghighat-Khah. The Education office is still gathering the numbers of students who participated. R Haghighat-Khah would like to know how many of those students belong to the widening participation programme. Only 6 Postdocs volunteered to participate, together with some PhD students.

W Ba

9 **Infrastructure and Facilities Committee**

A Grob attended another meeting on 14th March, in which they compiled a

A Grob

list of all DoLS equipments that need maintenance. A Hunter noted a welcome change in the investment policy of the Estate. They appeared more willing to invest in infrastructures before they broke down. Some members of this postdoc committee raised attention to the fact that small electronic devices are trashed because there is not a fixing service onsite. There used to be one, called Workshop some years ago.

10 **Health and Safety Committee update.**

K Witmer

K Witmer could not go to the last meeting of this Committee. She will contact the Chair of this Committee to get invitations for the next meetings.

11 **AOB**

All members

M Aulino Campos de Lima will leave the Committee in June, and A Estacio-Gomez would like to step down as Chair in April, later on she will go on maternity leave in July, therefore, we need more members. A Estacio-Gomez will email all Postdocs in the Department to announce an open call, with special interest in Silwood Park, our guidelines recommend to have two members there.

During the next meeting, we will choose the next Chair, all members of the Committee are advised to propose themselves or others for that.

The PDFC has sent an email announcing the first Q&A with the new Provost, taking place on Monday 20th May 2019, 9:15-11:30. All Postdocs within the Department are invited to submit questions, A Estacio-Gomez will forward this email to all Postdocs.