

DoLS PDC meeting minutes

Thursday 9th June 2022

11:00 – 12:00

SAFB 3rd Floor Seating Area / MS Teams

Present: Mark Hintze (MH), Alice Banks (AB), Tom Kim (TK) (remote)

1. Apologies for absence

Rob Bradley

2. Minutes from last meeting

No issues

3. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee update (AB)

No update

4. Health & Safety Committee update (MH)

No update

Next meeting 20th June

5. Research Strategy Committee update (RB/AB)

- A Multidisciplinary Research Facility Working Group (MRFWG) has been established to expand the lab facilities available for multi-disciplinary projects. The facility is proposed to be located at White City and would include flexible space for both wet-lab work and offices. Large equipment (e.g., NMR) could also be housed at the facility.
- Phase II of the MRFWG would be to conduct a cross-Faculty survey to identify key equipment for the facility and any gaps which currently exist.
- The issue of staff workload was raised, particularly in relation to second marking; this should be reduced going forward which will ease the workload in this area for the next academic year.
- Focus Day: Although this is still running, it was acknowledged that it is not always practical to avoid emails and meetings on a Friday, however, some staff report being more conscious of sending non-urgent emails on Focus Day.

6. Space, Infrastructure & Facilities Committee update (TK)

No update

Next meeting 12th July

7. Faculty PFDC committee update (MH/AB)

- The PDC fed back that the postdoc lunch for Mental Health Awareness week was a positive event, however, it was only attended by six postdocs from the Department.
- The PDC also reported that DoLS Coffee Mornings have now started and are typically attended by 20-30 staff. Lab-hosted socials are also due to re-start during the summer.
- Concerns were raised about the rise in cost of living and whether pay increases would reflect this.

- Postdocs are encouraged to fill out surveys relating to their experiences, specifically to provide feedback on Fellowship experiences and experience as a long-term postdoc.
- The Faculty are proposing a postdoc networking event during Postdoc Appreciation Week (19th-23rd September)

Action (MH/AB): To contact DoLS postdocs to gauge interest in this event and let Ester know.

8. Reps Network meeting (MH/AB)

- The Concordat progress report has been signed off.
- A wiki page will be created for all Departmental induction packs.
- The PFDC will be sending out a survey for input into improving the website.
- The topic of engagement was raised, and this was reported to be an issue across all Departments.

9. Culture Committee update (MH)

- Coffee mornings are up and running and have been successful so far.
- Lab-hosted socials will begin in the summer on a weekly basis. Matt Child has been in touch with PIs and several have already signed up to host socials on specific dates.

10. Events for 2022

- **Postdoc lunch (Mental Health Awareness Week)**
 - This was publicised by email and with posters in the SAF and SEC. The event had attendance of just six postdocs but was well received by those who did come along.

11. AOB

- The PDC discussed sending out a quarterly or termly communication to the postdoc mailing list. A format was briefly discussed and the topics/items that should be included. The PDC intend to start this in September to announce any events or postdoc activities coming up over the autumn term.
- The PDC discussed Departmental talks and seminars offered more widely across the College. There was the feeling that it would be helpful to have a schedule of talks across the College available in a single web location, although this may be difficult to arrange in practical terms. This would allow researchers working on interdisciplinary topics to access more relevant talks and would also improve attendance.

Action: TK to contact Sandrine to see if there is a way of finding out which talks are scheduled in DoLS and whether it would be able to consolidate a schedule of talks and send it out to staff/postdocs.

12. Next PDC meeting

- 11am 14th July