

DoLS POSTDOC COMMITTEE

Monday 30th September 2019
12:30 – 2:00pm
SAFB G15, South Kensington Campus.

Minutes

Present: Bradley, Rob; Grob, Alice; Witmer, Kathrin; Haghighat-Khah, Roya.

Apologies: Farrant, Katie.

	Agenda Item	Action
1	Apologies	
2	Minutes of the last meeting No issues	
3	Social Media update R Bradley will update the website with the latest changes of committee members and 2019 events. He will also put up the award received by Alicia Estacio Gomez from the PFDC.	R. Bradley
4	Pizza and beer update. R Bradley has secured speakers for October (31 st) and November (28 th) sessions. K Witmer will order pizza for the October session. While attendee numbers (~10 postdocs) were low at the May and June sessions, informal survey confirmed that Thursday 4.30pm is the preferred time for this event. Numbers might have been low due to the approaching summer break.	R.Bradley, K Witmer
5	Future events → Speed Networking R Bradley is making progress on defining the event content. It should be a 90min-2h event, starting with a quick intro then an icebreaker exercise from Mark Bambury before the actual 3-5min speed networking. The aim of this event is to promote collaboration and skill exchange among the postdoc community. The event should finish with more chance for networking during a DoLS social event organised by the committee. The event should take place On the 15 th of November from 2.30 till 4.00 pm. R. Haghighat-Khah has been in contact with the DoLS EDI committee about securing two 2000£ prize for the two best research proposals resulting from this speed networking event. Applicants would write a 1 page proposal and DoLS would be in charge of selecting the awardee. Once the outline of the event is finalised R Bradley and R. Haghighat-	R. Bradley, R. Haghighat-Khah

Khah will go to EA/HoD to confirm that DoLS will indeed support the event.

The event could lead to a follow up event where awardee would present their work.

→ **Coffee mornings**

A Grob

The committee wishes to go ahead with the creation of coffee mornings. These would be held every 2nd Thursday of the month from 10 to 11am. A Grob needs to contact G Masters to see if catering DoLS could take care of catering. The committee envisages ~ 15 attendee. A Grob will also insure booking of Flowers ground floor for the event. Organisation of this event could be on a rotation basis among committee members.

A Grob

→ **Symposium**

Despite a lack of speakers for and cancellation of the 2019 DoLS postdoc Symposium, the committee is planning on organising another Symposium for March 2020. A Grob will contact R Aw about successful planning of the event.

6 **Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee update**

HR confirmed that qualifying staff made redundant during parental leave are entitled to their full parental benefits without the requirement to come back to work for at least 3 months. R. Haghighat-Khah will draft an email to disseminate this info to all Postdocs.

R.
Haghighat-
Khah

R. Haghighat-Khah will also look into organising a grant-writing course targeting towards life science for the DoLS postdocs. Such course presently exists for the academics and research fellows. Postdocs specific ones are offered from the PFDC but they mainly advice to follow the guideline. DoLS postdocs would like a course more tailored and possibly delivered by someone actually writing grant or involved in grant reviewing panels. R. Haghighat-Khah is also liaising with DoLS to include postdocs in departmental emails with information on grant and other funding opportunities. One way this might be achieved is for the emails to be sent to DoLS postdoc committee in order to be cascaded down to all Postdocs with warnings regarding who should be named for these grants.

Unfortunately, there will be no travel grant award until May 2020.

7 **Staff meeting**

R. Haghighat-Khah presented the postdocs affairs at the last Staff meeting in Silwood. R. Haghighat-Khah discussed the possibility of being informed of the Fellowship and Honours committee decisions to avoid unnecessary work of postdocs preparing an application for a fellowship that DoLS has decided not to support (like the ISS Springboard Fellowship 2019). She will follow up on that.

R.
Haghighat-
Khah

8 **Silwood Park update**

At the staff meeting in Silwood Park, R. Haghighat-Khah promoted our lack of postdoc rep from Silwood. Alex Mas Sandoval volunteer to be the Silwood Rep. A Grob needs to contact A Mas Sandoval and welcome him to the committee. She will also ask him to sit at the Health and Safety Committee.

A Grob

9 **Health and Safety Committee update.**

K Witmer attended the meeting on the 27th of June. There was no specific concern for postdocs.

- 10 **DoLS Undergraduate teaching committee** K Witmer
W Ba and K Witmer both missed the last meeting held on the 14th of May.
K Witmer is now the official postdoc rep sitting at this committee.
- 11 **Research and Strategy Committee update** K Witmer
Since taking over from M Aulino Campos de Lima, K Witmer has not been contacted by the committee. She will make sure that the RSC are aware that she is the new postdoc rep for this committee.
- 12 **Infrastructure and Facilities Committee**
Last meeting saw progress on fixing current issues and revealed that DoLS PI bought a new sequencer.
- 13 **New members** A Grob
A Grob is to send a call out for new members.
- 14 **AOB**
Wellcome Trust is currently running a survey to improve the research culture in universities. This survey (<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=156751261332&s=W>) is opened till the 6th of October.