

Purdue Postdoc Association (PPDA)

Minutes of the meeting of the PPDA Council

Meeting date / time Tuesday July 6th, 2010, 8.30am
Meeting location Room 111, Matthews Hall, Purdue University
Minutes status Accepted September 2nd 2010

Name	ID	Position	
Kris Villez	KV	Co-President	Present
Valentina Trinetta	VT	Co-President	Present
Nicolas Bordenave	NB	Treasurer	Absent
Kostas Gourgouliatos	KG	Public relations	Present
Charlotte Perrett	CP	Secretary	Present
Peter Richtsmeier	PR	Webmaster	Excused
Dina Banerjee	DB		Excused
Simran Banga	SB		Absent
Christian Hammer	CH		Present
Talvikki Hovatta	TH		Present
Ana Juan Garcia	AJ		Present
Defne Kayrak-Talay	DK		Excused
Tillmann Kubis	TK		Present
Alon Ludwig	AL		Excused
Shexia Ma	SM		Present
Akil Narayan	AN		Present
Anne Roulin	AR		Excused
Jennifer Tsuruda	JT		Excused
Nicole Weber	NW		Excused
Professor Peter Dunn	PD	Faculty Advisor	Present
Professor Jon Story	JS	Faculty Advisor	Excused

Agenda:

1. Approval of previous minutes
2. Update from PR Officer
3. Subcommittees
4. Social events

- 5. Individual Development Plan**
- 6. Callout and elections**
- 7. Orientation**
- 8. Buddy system**
- 9. Any other business**

- 1. Approval of previous minutes**

- a) June meeting minutes are accepted.

- 2. Update from the PR**

- a) KG reports from the meeting with the Dean of the College of Science at which DB, KV and VT were present. Dr Jeffrey Roberts was very encouraging about the aims and role of the PPDA. He also highlighted that in the Department of Mathematics instead of the position "postdoc" they have "visiting assistant professor". Such individuals, while performing independent research and teaching in the department, are not faculty and only have a temporary position at the University. This leads to a discussion amongst Council members as to whether 'visiting assistant professors' need to be included in PPDA membership. KV asks AN his view since AN is a Postdoc/visiting assistant professor in the Math department. AN replies that he feels part of PPDA, and thus KV suggests that visiting assistant professors are included as members of the PPDA. Everybody on Council agrees. KG suggests the definition of PPDA members is altered accordingly in the PPDA constitution. KV and AN agree and will prepare a new definition.

- b) KV updates the Council regarding an additional PR meeting with Dr. Svensson, College of Pharmacy, which KV, VT and DB were present. So far all the Deans that the PPDA have met with have been supportive of the PPDA. The Deans have also agreed to include a sentence mentioning the PPDA in the offer letter for new postdocs.

- 3. Subcommittees**

- 3.1 How do I...?**

- a) TH has no news to report from the 'How do I...?' subcommittee.

- 3.2 Seminar Series**

- a) AJ announces the first seminar organized by the PPDA will take place on the 29th of July at 7pm in Steward Centre, Room 218 A/B. The title of the seminar is 'How Singing, Acting and Preaching Can Make You a Better Teacher' and will be delivered by Professor James Mohler, who will play the piano in the seminar! The event will be advertised via the Purdue postdoc email list and Purdue Today. AJ requests as many people as possible attend since the room is booked for 50 and Professor Mohler is very interactive. AJ also asks about the possibility of providing snacks and if there is any budget for it. PD says that catering in the Stewart center has to be carried out by the catering services there, they don't allow food to be brought in, and the catering is expensive. KV states that snacks cannot be provided.

3.3 Individual Development Plans

a) VT updates the Council regarding IDPs and collaboration with Dr Elizabeth Tran from the Department of Biochemistry. DB, AH, VT, AN and CP produced a final version of the definition 'Postdoc', which has been sent to the organisers of the Pre-tenure Women conference, and will be used for the creations of a Purdue IDP. The 8th of July VT, KV, TK and SM will meet with Dr Tran in order to discuss further action for the IDP project.

4. Social events

a) The social event for July will take place on the 17th of July in collaboration with I-GRASP (Indian graduate student association) at Williamsburg to play volley ball together.

b) The social event for August will be a trip to Columbia Park zoo. A date has yet to be confirmed.

5. Callout and elections

a) KV reminds members that the PPDA callout will take place on September 24th (National Postdoc Day). TH, AN, SM, TH, KN and VT agree to help out with organising the callout. Sherri Nieberts will be contacted to reserve a room on campus. KV explains that he expects the program to be:

- i) Callout
- ii) Presentation of survey results by panel of members of the survey subcommittee
- iii) Election of positions on council

There is a discussion amongst Council members about the program, and whether each of the proposed activities should be conducted in the same day or on separate day. TH suggests in one evening following the order: election, callout, panel. PD suggests doing the callout and panel at the same event and before the election. In this way new people can meet the candidates for the named positions on the PPDA council and propose themselves to join the council at the callout, and then voting can occur at a later date via a postal election. Council agree upon this format and decide that the 24th of September from 6 to 8 pm there will be the PPDA callout with an overview of the aims of the PPDA and a panel discussion regarding the survey results. PD will also announce the Orientation Sessions for Postdocs that will be held by the OVPR during fall 2010.

b) VT and KV decide that at the beginning of September, Council will ask for nominations for the named positions on Council e.g. co-President, secretary, treasurer and there will be a month for people to place nominations. If no one runs for a position, then nominations can be made during the callout.

6. Orientation

a) PD asks for a list of topics from Council that they would like covered during the orientation of Postdocs. VT tells PD that they expect the topics to be those that were suggested at the NPA Annual Conference and from the 'How do I..?' list. KV decides he will send out a list of those topics KV and VT feel are important and then others can add their suggestions.

b) PD asks when Council would like the Orientation sessions to take place. KV says that Postdocs unlike students arrive throughout the year rather than one specific period. VT points out that some Schools e.g. Pharmacy do seem to have many of their Postdocs arriving in one period e.g. July. It is decided September or October would be a suitable month to hold the first orientation session. PD asks whether there will be just the one session per year. KV replies that they would like 2 a year and suggests it should be held 6 months later, so in March. PD feels this is too late and SB agrees and suggests January, especially as there are likely to be lots of questions about taxes! PD suggests a third summer session could be held if there is a need for it. The need would be monitored by how many requests there are for a summer session via the PPDA website. PD asks whether the first orientation session should be held in September after Labor Day. KV agrees with this. PD asks what time of day the session should run and points out it would be easier to organise if held during the day because the members of staff who would be running the sessions will be on campus anyway. VT suggests starting early morning e.g. 8.30am-10am so it doesn't interrupt with the day too much; Postdocs can just go into work a bit late. KV says that this should be fine especially since at the beginning of a Postdoc position there is more freedom in people's schedules as they are not fully integrated into their research group/department schedule.

c) KV confirms that the OVPR will be taking the lead in organising the Postdoc Orientation and offers any help that may be required from the PPDA. The PPDA will also distribute information about and advertise the event. KV suggests they advertise using 'Purdue Today' as they have been very helpful and Postdocs not on the email list have been found this way.

7. Buddy system

a) KV introduces the idea of having a 'buddy system', and idea KV and VT learnt about at the NPA conference. This is where a senior Postdoc i.e. has been at Purdue for a year, can help a new Postdoc who has arrived. The 'old' and 'new' Postdocs would be matched by discipline so they are physically near to each other making it easier to meet. Matching could also be done by language and culture to ensure any information provided is clear. VT suggests introducing the idea at callout so people who would like to take part can make a request to be included. SB suggests introducing the idea at orientation. It is decided to do both and see how much interest there is from new Postdocs. KV reminds Council that senior Postdocs need to volunteer for the process to work, although points out from other similar systems there are often more 'senior' Postdocs than new Postdocs requesting to take part.

8. Any other business

a) VT reminds Council members they need to let her know by the end of the day whether they will be participating in the Council trip to the Indiana Dunes on Saturday 10th July.

b) VT lets Council know that the PPDA Council meeting will not take place in August; there will be a break for summer. Meetings will resume in September.

c) KV announces that several Council members have left or will be leaving – AL, AR, NM and NW. KV thanks them for all the work they have put into the PPDA. KV asks

everyone to consider their future on the Council and asks if they can inform him or VT whether they would like to stay so they know how many Postdocs need to be brought onto Council. KV also reminds Council that it would be good to keep new blood entering Council so ask any new Postdocs you meet if they would be interested.

d) Need to decide on a new meeting time for fall so a room can be booked. KV suggests doing a poll of Council members, however VT points out that Council will change after the callout with the introduction of new members so should wait until they have joined before performing the poll of meeting times.

Actions:

Action identifier [yyyymmdd-no- id/id/..]	Short description	Deadline	Status
20100301-1-AJ/VT/SM/KG	Organise a seminar series for Postdocs	2010-12-31	ongoing
20100301-2-KV/TH/SB/CH	Create a series of 'How do I...' features for PPDA website	2010-09-30	ongoing
20100501-1-KV	Adjust the PPDA constitution for changes in election requirements for different positions	2010-06-30	ongoing
20100608-1-NW/KV/VT	Analyze survey results and present to Postdocs	2010-09-24	ongoing
20100608-2-DB/AH/VT/AN/CP	Prepare a definition of 'Postdoc'	2010-07-01	completed
20100608-3-KV/VT/SB/NW/TK	Prepare an IDP specific to Postdoc	2010-11-30	ongoing
20100608-4-KV/VT	Give a list of topics for Postdoc orientation to OVPR	2010-07-31	ongoing

Date and time of next meeting: 2nd September 2010 at 8.30am. Room MTHW 111