

Purdue Postdoc Association (PPDA)

Minutes of the meeting of the PPDA Council

Meeting date / time **Thursday October 7th 2010, 8.30am**

Meeting location **Room 111, Matthews Hall, Purdue University**

Minutes status **Accepted 4th November 2010**

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

Agenda:

1. **Approval of previous minutes**
2. **New PPDA Council member**
3. **Update from the PR**
4. **Callout**
5. **PPDA elections**
6. **Subcommittees**
7. **Social events**
8. **Senate seat**

9. Any other business**1. Approval of previous minutes**

- a) September meeting minutes are accepted.

2. New PPDA Council member

- a) KV welcomes new Council member, Solange Lewis, and everyone gives a quick introduction of themselves.

3. Update from the PR

- a) KV reports to Council that DB, KV and VT were trying to meet the Deans of the College of Agriculture but they only had one reply. LM informs KV and VT that there are several interim Deans and this may explain the lack of response.
- b) NB and VT inform Council that the Department of Food Science would not add information about the PPDA to their offer letter to Postdocs as the Department was concerned that other organizations would then demand to also be included. KV mentioned that the Department of Chemical Engineering will also not include a sentence on the PPDA because it would cause the letter to be longer than a page! This problem was being addressed by creating a flier to be included with the letter.

4. Callout

- a) KV and VT ask for feedback about the PPDA callout. Everyone is of the opinion that it went well, which is in agreement with KV and VT's opinion.

5. PPDA Elections

- a) KV highlights that currently only 1 person is standing for each of the elected positions; President, secretary and treasurer. However, KV still feels the election should take place and has asked NW to put together a voting site.
- b) KV suggests that since it is likely there will only be 1 president next year, it may be necessary for the President to delegate some of the roles the two co-Presidents have performed this year to other Council members, so the President doesn't become overburdened. KV asks AH's opinion since he will be President in the most likely scenario and, in that case, will be affected by this. AH responds that until he takes over it is difficult to know what help he will need. KV states that it is up to AH and successive Presidents to decide how it is best for them to run the Council and delegate tasks. PD suggests that Sherri Neibert may be called upon to help with some tasks e.g. sending Council meeting reminders. PD also suggests that the PPDA could have a Vice President in addition to a President, with the aim of the Vice-President taking over from the President in the following year. KV disagrees with this model for the PPDA as Postdoctoral positions vary in their length and it may not be possible for a Vice-President to make or fulfil this commitment. KV also states that the President will have 6 months of support from the previous Presidents so it is not necessary for the President to have previous experience of the role. PR suggests it may be easier to fill the Vice President role than the President role as there is less pressure on that person. NB says this will only apply if the Vice President is not the successor to the President the following year! KV suggests that there could be two scenarios in Council next year; the first is that PPDA has a President, secretary and treasurer. The second is that PPDA has a President, Vice-President, secretary and treasurer. In addition a position of 'Communication Officer' could be added to either scenario, with their role being to deal with matters such as the PPDA newsletter and making sure necessary

information reaches Postdocs. CP asks whether there is a specific role for the Vice-President. JS says that since the PPDA is a young organization the role is probably not clear and can be developed over time. CP expresses her concern that the Vice-President will end up becoming a Co-President if the roles are not distinguished. KV asks for a vote on whether the PPDA should have a Vice-President. There is unanimous support. KV states that like the other positions it should be an elected position. LV suggests that if no one stands, then the position doesn't need to exist.

6. Subcommittees

4.1 How do I...?

a) AH reports that by November a final draft of The 'How do I...?' should be completed and ready for approval by PPDA Council. KV informs Council that TH is leaving Council and therefore a new head of this subcommittee will be required.

6.2 Seminar Series

a) VT informs Council that the President of the Student Government has offered for two of their subcommittees to collaborate with the PPDA. One of these is the career development subcommittee, one of their activities of which is to organize career-related seminars with pizza. VT will ask AJ, DK and LV, who form the PPDA Seminar subcommittee, to collaborate with this student committee on the seminars. A sign-in sheet will probably be used to monitor how many Postdocs attend these seminars and if there are a significant number of Postdocs they may ask for money towards the pizza provided.

6.3 Survey

a) Council is informed that the subcommittee hope to have the 1st draft of the paper covering the survey results by December.

6.4 Individual Development Plans

a) The IDP subcommittee have met with Dr Tran to give their feedback on how to make the template IDP they were given more 'Purdue-friendly'. Dr Tran is now preparing the final IDP to be used in the Department of Biochemistry, with Postdocs discussing their IDP every 6-12 months with their mentors.

6.5 Career fair

a) VT mentions that the PPDA has so far concentrated on Postdocs with academic career ambitions, but of course there will be those who may hope to find employment in industry. VT also highlights that through discussions with her Head of Department she found out that many companies will have different recruitment processes for Post-doctoral candidates. Therefore, she proposes the PPDA should collaborate with the Graduate Student government on their Spring Career fair to provide opportunities for Postdocs looking at other career opportunities. SL volunteers to be the PPDA representative.

b) PR asks whether anybody knew whether companies would employ Postdocs with non-traditional skill sets e.g. Postdocs with Arts or Humanities backgrounds, and if so what types of positions they would recruit these candidates into. SL says that student societies often invite industry speakers to campus where students can then chat and ask questions with the speaker, and therefore PR could attend one of these. PR also suggests speaking with Tim Luzader, Head of Careers.

7. Social events

- a) JT reminds Council the October social event is a visit to the Corn Maze on Saturday 9th October from 11am-2pm.
- b) JT informs Council the November social will be a bar crawl around Lafayette on November 12th starting at 7pm and with a RSVP date of 10th November so a table for dinner can be booked. PR asks whether a family-friendly restaurant can be chosen so people with families can join in at the start. PD also suggests changing the description of the social since sensible drinking is being promoted on campus.

8. Senate seat

- a) KV mentions that at the PPDA callout, Professor Camp, who is a member of the Purdue Senate, mentioned that the PPDA would be welcome to request a seat on the Senate since Undergraduate and Graduate students have representatives and there is currently no representative for Postdocs. KV and VT are of the current opinion that it is too early to have a Senate representative since the PPDA is a young organisation and still working out its goals. NB suggests there is no reason a Postdoc representative shouldn't be sent despite the specific aims of the PPDA not being set in stone since attendee is a representative and as with the Graduate student representative is representing a collective of people who may not necessarily all have the same views of their organisation. PD suggests that since Senate meetings are open a PPDA member could be sent to watch proceedings and provide feedback to Council. In this way the PPDA can understand the types of topics that are addressed by Senate and establish how these issues could impact upon Postdocs. Then, when PPDA feels ready to request a Senate seat they would be able to support their request by outlining areas covered by Senate that affect the Postdoc community. LM, as a former Senate chair, suggests there would be no problem for the PPDA to have a chair now as in all honesty one seat is unlikely to make a major impact. However, it would allow the PPDA access to the subcommittees where they could obtain useful information and promote the Postdoc cause. It is decided to allow AH, as next President, to find someone to attend the Senate meetings and report back with the decision to review the request for a Senate seat at a later date.

9. Any other business

- a) KV hopes to work on creating a 'buddy system' once he is no longer co-President.
- b) PD informs Council that he has not been able to work on setting up an orientation session. However, hopes to organize one before the end of the semester.

Actions:

Action identifier [yyyymmdd-no-id/id/..]	Short description	Deadline	Status
20100301-1-AJ/KG/LV	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
20100608-1-NW/KV/VT	Analyze survey results and present to Postdocs	2010-09-24	completed
20100608-3-KV/VT/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	completed
20100902-1-KV/VT	Hold PPDA Callout	2010-09-24	completed
20101007-1-NW/VT/PR/AH	Prepare a paper on the PPDA survey results	2010-12-31	ongoing
20101007-2-AH	Find a PPDA member to attend Senate meetings and provide feedback to PPDA Council	2010-12-31	ongoing

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 4th November 2010 at 8.30am. Room MTHW 111