

YPA OPEN FORUM

Chairs [7 min]

Erin welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Welcome coordinators

Chairs welcomed the new coordinators and explained the rules that the executive board changes every 6 months with half of the coordinators being replaced. They shared a slide to show the new structure of the executive board and the names of the coordinators.

Chairs thanked Soumya for her role as the outgoing secretary of YPA and welcomed Michelle as the new secretary.

2. Black Lives Matter update

YPA has launched BLM/Racial Justice initiative. It is mostly being coordinated on Slack. Everyone is welcome to join with another meeting to be arranged soon.

3. Updates on trainee committee meetings

Maikel and Erin have been attending meetings as part of YPA. Postdocs now will get 3-month notice if their contract is not being renewed as part of the new job security measures. Krishna will talk about childcare during advocacy agenda.

YPA now has a new liaison position to work with graduate students on overlapping concerns. Roozbah is the liaison to the Graduate Student Assembly

Treasury [4 min]

1. Budget update

David shared the update from the last fiscal year. We had some budget left not spent. The 2020-21 budget has a 43% increase from last year.

In the next YPA Open Forum each committee will describe how they plan to spend their budget.

Mentorship Committee [4 min]

1. New initiative: Mentoring local high school students

Berrak described the new program that will be launched: Connecting postdocs to local high schools. The committee has spoken to the relevant Yale office for this. A database exists of schools and students. We will be connected to them and we will provide the infrastructure to facilitate the interaction. This will be done online and details will be finalized soon. This will be lead by Akash Kumar.

Advocacy Committee [5 min]

1. Mental Health First Aid training

Jessica talked about Mental Health First Aid training. The training will cover risk factors for mental health issues, strategies to help and where to turn for help. The ad will be on Social Media/Slack if anyone is interested in joining. Please sign up by July 17. Charges will be covered by Being Well at Yale

2. Childcare issues

Krishna described the working on the proposal. They are working in collaboration with graduate students, and Women at Yale. The committee has been in touch with Susan Abramson who deals with this in administration. She has provided feedback on the draft. Committee will be talking to John Alvaro for feedback.

Yale Crisis Care is available at least till the end of this month.

Chairs can bring this document to trainee committee for their feedback and engagement.

Professional Development Committee [7 min]

1. Figure Making Course for postdoctoral scholars and possible collaboration with the Flip Science Fair

Nicole described the Flip Science Fair that present to middle schools and the Figure Making Course. Whoever signs up for the course will need to complete the course as it will be subsidized by Flip Science Fair. We would need to keep track of this. Committee will advertise to see how many are interested and then take it from there.

2. Pint of Postdoc series – monthly event

Pint of postdoc is a monthly event by theme. Each month will have a different theme. Committee will contact some of the speakers from symposium to see if they want to give a longer talk. Will start from August.

3. Updates on past events with Adair Richards

Pre-symposium workshops will be done in October now.

Communications [5 min]

1. YPA website updates

Roosbeh described a new procedure to be introduced for updating the website. A form to fill out to request the updates.

YPA and committee were encouraged to use the website to communicate their work.

Summer asked if it would be possible to add another section for comment/information in the form. This will be accommodated.

Community and Networking Committee [4 min]

1. Art in Research

Art in research co-organizing with Vice Provost Office. 5 judges. Submission deadline is over. Results will be communicated by 1st week of August. There are 37 submissions for this.

2. Happ-E-Hour

One will be organized in July.

3. Socially distanced outdoors event

Committee is thinking of organizing socially distanced outdoor event such as hiking or camping if there is any interest.

Erin. Need to follow state regulations and everyone should be aware of the rules we have and enforce those rules strictly.

4. Arts subcommittee

Arts subcommittee will be lead by Soumya and Tori

Symposium [5 min]

1. First day report

Anne described the first day of the Symposium. There were at least 79 attendees. Great talks and conversation. Posters can be accessed as pdf.

Open Forum - Questions/Comments [10 min]

Please join our Slack channel! Link was shared in chat

Krishna: If anyone knows of the resources regarding childcare or know people who need help, please send our way.