

The Yale Postdoctoral Association Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 9th 2019 | 6 pm | BCMM 206/208

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chairs: [5 min]

- Welcoming remarks [Daniel and Sam]
- Daniel will step down from chair position at the end of June.
 - Incoming chair election held in May
 - Eligibility: Attend one-year general meeting/50% attendance and/or be a Coordinator for at least 6 months
 - Email both Daniel and Sam

Mentorship Committee: [10 min]

- Meeting with the Provost Office
 - Mancy, Katya, Kelson, and Summer met with Provosts
 - Goal: Improved retention of Underrepresented Minority and women postdocs and faculty
 - Perspective on mentorship
 - Provost Office is enthusiastic to bring “good mentorship practice” in Faculty orientation when new members on board: mentorship training, what postdocs are looking for in PIs.
 - However, there is a concern about how do they deal with current faculty members, especially tenure faculties. Response: Provost office starts with small administration change.
- OISS clarification on multi-year visas and offered services
 - Mancy, Alejandro, and Anselm met with OISS
 - NPA poster presentation
 - OISS is generally supportive of multi-year visas
 - John Navarro also supportive of multi-year visas
 - Some HR departments more reluctant to issue multi-year visas, their reasoning is unclear
 - What happens if have visa but no funding? Visa is nullified
- YURA: Please help us spread the word!
 - Check if department has something like this
 - Flyers that Katya made. Please post around building if possible
- Upcoming Mentorship committee events:
 - May 1st, 5pm at OISS: Buddy Program Party
 - May 16th, 12-1pm: Mentorship lunch

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- May 21st, 11.30-1pm: Peer Mentoring Group check-in followed by an OCS/Professional Development workshop on Transferable Skills

Community and Networking Committee: [8 min]

- Budget
 - \$864 (buses for events)
 - \$100-Rivendell (pizza)
 - \$190 left
- Spring events
 - 27th April-Brewery Tour
 - 11th May-Mystic Aquarium (with OISS)
 - Tickets must be purchased-will advertise in newsletter
 - 22nd June-Thimble Island Tour (with OISS)

Professional Development Committee: [15 min]

- IDP - meeting with John and Grace and way forward. Anyone else interested in working on this?
 - IDP-annual report
 - On board with improvements
 - 47 responses for the IDP survey
 - People can join the YPA slack at <https://ypa-yale.slack.com>
- Annual survey and options available to us. Create a small working group for this?
 - Retain underrepresented minorities
 - Liked idea of annual survey (data can be valuable to Provost Office and others)
 - Is there a way we can encourage OPA/Provost to run this with our help, instead of the other way around? Response: Currently we have to lead it by ourselves. Otherwise it will not happen.
- Symposium update
 - Speakers selected, fundraising went well, things moving forward as planned.
- Open House, contribute to ideas for ‘tables’
 - We would like to make our “Orientation 2.0” in a “Open House” form. Please contribute ideas via Slack for offices that should be involved.

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- NPA conference
 - Academia-Industry Opportunities Group at UCONN-Farmington
 - 25th April 5-8 pm-Speed networking event (RSVP), advertise ASAP

Communications: [7 min]

- Mailchimp newsletter
 - 760 subscribers-50% open, 20% clicks each link,
- Facebook
 - 270 members “Liked” the page
- Looking for someone to help with newsletter and social media to increase open and click rate
- If Committees need to recruit, we can advertise in newsletter

Questions/Comments: [5 min]

- Open forum:
 - Hiring faculty who value mentorship
 - Shocked at YPA surveys and how postdocs feel undervalued
 - 4 members of search committee were present (of >20 on the committee in total)
 - 6 YPA members present
- Rivendell: only one single email?
- YPA does not have annual survey
- Annual survey should be Yale sponsored not run by YPA labor
- John got email from Provost if YPA was finished requesting money for symposium from Yale departments/offices
- Check online calendar when planning events, so activities don't overlap (ypa.yale.edu)
 - Coordinators can add events to directly to calendar
- 26th April-Postdoc social and Philharmonia Concert