

YPA OPEN FORUM

Chairs: [8 min]

1. Welcome Comments [Maikel: he/him pronouns and Sam: she/her pronouns]
2. Open chair position: Sam is stepping down at the end of the year.
 - a. That position will be open. If you or anyone you know would be interested in the position, please officially email the chairs while cc'ing the YPA email (ypa@yale.edu). Both Maikel and Sam can provide further details on what the position entails if needed.
3. Title IX workshop debrief.
 - a. There was an open discussion between the executive board and representatives from the Title IX office this morning. The overall goal is to make a workshop available to postdocs since they have a unique dual role (being both mentees and mentors). It was a successful meeting. They discussed what they could offer the postdoc community. The executive board found it very useful and it is still ongoing conversation. There will be a Slack thread created about the topic in which others can chime in and provide their thoughts.

Communications: [10 min]

1. Ask about improvement on the blurb;
 - a. The communications committee wants our opinion on the length of blurbs they provide in our advertising. Do we want short and sweet blurbs or a longer one with more detail? The committee shared their concern that the general audience probably wouldn't read long blurbs. They wanted to ask everyone to send only small blurbs when they submit their events for the newsletter. It was suggested to maybe have the option (depending on the advertising platform) to have an assigned amount of characters allowed.
2. Ask about suggestions on the bit.ly/YPAads;
 - a. The committee also wanted suggestions and opinions on the forms. The general responses said it was working well but gave the suggestion to provide multiple channels (i.e. as dates per media source). The inquired if there was a portal that we can link outsider events? Maybe we can reopen a slack thread now that everyone has had a chance to use it in order to give more useful feedback.
3. Change to better designed website?
 - a. Link: dev.ypa.yale.edu ☐ in the Slack channel.
 - b. Please log in and give feedback on the design. There are some updates that have been backlogged. They will try and update the old website with at least the newsletter link, etc. It will be good not to neglect the old website while the new one is being formed.
 - c. They are overall just trying to improve the design of the website. Certain things are being removed for clarity and there is a better emphasis on trying to make clearer what the YPA does for the postdoc community. It was recommended to not remove things without replacing on the new site so that way we don't lose any information in the transition.
 - d. It was recommended that it might be worthwhile to have a dedicated meeting just for the website to gain feedback.
4. Short links introduction:
 - a. bit.ly/YPANewsletter
 - b. bit.ly/YPATwitter
 - c. bit.ly/YPAFacebookPage
 - d. bit.ly/YPAFacebookGroup
 - i. These are the short links for the YPA platforms. They tried to uniform them to make it easy to remember.
5. Updates (traffic in social media, newsletter, events, new website status).

- a. We have had a high engagement in our social media platforms. The shorter blurbs have been getting positive feedback. They are trying to transition the website to more image-based instead of text.
- b. Question: What is the difference between the FB page and group. The page is public (meaning anyone can follow or share on the page) while the group is closed (meaning you have to be invited/apply to join). In the past the same things were posted in both the group and the page, but now we predominately are trying to transition into just using the page. The group was originally created by an alumnus and seems to have more alumni in it then current postdoc.

Community and Networking Committee: [10 min]

1. Creative Writing Session – 9th October, 220 York Street Room 004 (Victor: he/him pronouns Soumya: she/her pronouns)
 - a. Tomorrow is the creative writing session. A group of Postdocs that are wanting to write stories, poems, etc. The format of the workshop is that each person writes for 45 minutes and then has the opportunity to discuss their own work and give others feedback on their writings for the next 30 minutes. There are no set criteria for the event besides having fun. The goal is to just motivate each individual to be creative and write whatever they desire and get feedback if they choose. It is a drop-in style and there has been around 8 per session.
2. Postdoc Social – 18th October, Christy’s Irish Pub (Victor: he/him pronouns)
 - a. Next Friday is the postdoc social on orange. It’s on the other side of the green.
3. Pasta Cooking Event – 1st November, Sanctuary Kitchen (Maikel, Pepe: he/him pronouns)
 - a. The email will be sent out Friday. There are 16 tickets, so it will be a first come first serve basis. If interested there will be a registration link in the email. In the future we should keep a record of who attends to try and open the event up to as many people as possible so new individuals can be chosen in future cooking events.
4. Psychodrama meeting 10/09 (Bekir: he/him pronouns)
 - a. Yale Child Study Center, 230 South Frontage Rd, Senn Conference Room
 - i. For those who showed an interested you will get an email with the details of the events. They just wanted to remind the ones involved to show up at the venue at 18:15 for a start time at 18:30.
5. Pumpkin picking event with OISS 10/19 (Tuki: he/him pronouns)
 - a. They will have a bus to transport individual interested. The event is basically going to the field to pick pumpkins, explore corn mazes, and other autumn activities.
6. Last Saturday at Museum 10/26 (Gregory Collins: he/him pronouns)
 - a. Date: Saturday, October 26, 2019; Time: 12:30-13:30 pm; Location: Yale Art Gallery, 1111 Chapel Street; Cost: free
 - i. This event is repeated every month. The event is to visit all the museums in New Haven. If you would like to attend, please meet in front of the Yale Art Museum.

Professional Development Committee: [5 min]

1. Career Café [Chantal: she/her pronouns and Eric: he/him pronouns]
 - o Wednesday, Oct 16th: There are over 60 people that has registered for the career cafe. The event will be a panel event on how to start your own lab. They would love if anyone could help them out for the event, please contact them directly if interested, and they can divide up some tasks. It’s one of the biggest events the professional development committee puts on.
2. “What Can You Be With a PhD?” event in NYC
 - o This is an interesting event that OCS and we participate in. It’s been put on by other universities. There are currently 6 people going. Sat and Sun 19-20th. A bunch of panels that discuss academic/nonacademic/ industry etc. Do not have to go to both days. It costs \$20.
 - o They would love ideas for events. November and December are a little quiet.
 - LinkedIn bootcamp
 - Social media in general. How to use Twitter, etc.
3. NEED MORE MEMBERS: if anyone is interested in joining the committee, they can use more help! Please get in touch.

Advocacy Committee: [3 min]

1. Town Hall is coming up on October 23 [Erin: she/her pronouns]
 - a. NEED HELP FOR THIS EVENT: Hoping to have two volunteers per discussion group.
 - b. Erin posted a document in slack for submitting questions in advance to be brought up in the event when questions are slow.
 - c. BUDGET: the catering budget is just under \$500 which is too much for the advocacy's budget. They discussed to split it 50/50 from the discrepancy budget (managed by the chairs). This was brought up on Slack with no objections. Dean Latimore sponsored the event in the past, but he could not attend this year, so the committee felt too uncomfortable asking for the money again. OPA was also approached but they could not cover the event. Next year we should ask for this money to be integrated from the start in advocacy's budget.
 - d. It is a 2-hour event. The first half is a discussion session amongst postdocs talking about issues and concerns postdocs face. The second half is a panel session of Yale admin. The goal is to facilitate a discussion of the topics the Postdocs just mentioned making sure Postdoc voices are heard.

Mentorship Committee: [10 min]

1. Meet a Mentor Tea Event: Thoughts on format moving forward [Summer: she/her pronouns]
 - o See next comment.
2. Postdoc Mentor of the Year Award: Should this be a separate event? If so, how?
 - o Previously, this was a lunch but now it has transformed into tea event. The concept is that Postdocs get matched up with a mentor and they can talk about career development from industry to academia pathways. There was overall positive feedback. Although, the event was cut short since it was associated with the postdoc mentor award (which was 25 minutes long out of an hour session). There was a lack of communications, and as a result the mentor awards ended up lasting much longer than expected, taking away from the time with the mentors. In the future these events shouldn't be combined. Ideally, we should find another event based around a mixer or social to tie the mentor awards to. Something that is more informal that people attend but are not waiting for a second event to happen. Or another idea is to switch the order and do the tea mentor session first followed by the award. Another idea was to pair the mentor awards with the symposium which would ensure a bigger attendance. If this was the case the schedule order would have to switch.
3. Buddy Program update [Anselm he/him pronouns]
 - o They compiled some data for the buddy program and noticed a slump in the fall. They want to re-advertise it in the next newsletter to get an additional push in numbers towards the end of the year. Next meeting is November 7th in which they would like to get together in cooperation with OISS.
4. Recruiting new members to co-host upcoming events/workshops
 - o NEED MORE MEMBERS: if anyone is interested in joining the committee, they can use more help! Please get in touch. Looking for individuals to cohost ongoing workshops or start new ones.
 - o It was suggested to try to always recruit individuals at each committee event in hopes of getting individuals already interested in these topics.

Open Forum Questions/Comments: [10 min]

- 1) Rivendell Institute hosted through the Chaplain's office:
 - a. Riverdall events are to get Yale and New Haven citizens in a social dinner where they can discuss a set of topics with distinguished speakers whom are chosen to present their findings and the set topics.
 - b. The event has ceased to exist after the liaison (Alex Caulk) left last year. If anyone is interested in starting it up again, Maikel and Sam can put you in touch with the Rivendell Institute.
 - c. They have done a postdoc version twice previously. It was cheaper event that just included pizza. We could look to do it again.

- 2) Pint of Science: We would love to continue this event, but just need some person power. We would like to host it once every 3 months. There is already a list of volunteers willing to present. Previously the event was a cross-over between professional development, mentorship, and OCS.
- 3) Want to make a West Campus group. They asked to get emails in order to facilitate events in order to be more inclusive.
- 4) OPA west, Research forum: This forum has several institutes that present their work (elevator pitch style). It's open to the whole West Campus. They would like to advertise YPA at the forum. Maikel offered to join if given more details.