

YPA OPEN FORUM

Chairs: [6 min]

1. Welcome Comments [Maikel Boot]
 - Introduced himself as Co-Chair with Sam Dundon
 - Maikel is alone chairing the meeting today because Sam is at a conference
 - Hope Thanksgiving was great!
 - One new face, Alyssa, a YPPH ARS, who zoomed into last meeting
 - Everybody should introduce him/her/themselves
2. Recruitment of new coordinators
 - Some committees are having difficulty recruiting new coordinators
 - Sam and Maikel want to stress that sending out emails is less efficacious than talking to people at events, so talk to people at meetings to recruit new coordinators and members
 - Treasury, Advocacy, Secretary have openings
 - Tell people what the time investment is per week to give them an indication of the time commitment
 - Colleen is stepping down – Soumya will take it on until we have another Co-secretary join
3. Chair election results
 - Very exciting
 - 189 people voted
 - About 15% of all postdocs
 - Erin Borchardt is the new Co-Chair of YPA and will join Maikel!
 - System is not flawless, but this is a good step towards getting postdocs voting for chair elections

Communications: [5 min]

1. Monthly report/statistics [Anderson Brito]
 - Statistics regarding last newsletter
 - 195 clicks
 - 480 people opened the newsletter
 - More than 1,000 subscribers, though many outside of US
 - 11,000 tweet views but don't know if viewers are postdocs at Yale
 - Not losing followers on Facebook – might extrapolate that what we're posting is relevant given this
 - Most people learn about events from newsletter, less from Facebook, none from Twitter
 - Maikel: Twitter is just nice for outsiders to see snapshots of the events we are holding

Community and Networking Committee: [10 min]

1. Debrief Winter Party, pre-party at West Campus, tailgating [Pepe]
 - Good attendance at Winter Party and West Campus Pre-Party
 - Acknowledgments: Dan, Nikolai, Maikel
 - A lot of people attended
 - Had to escort people out

- Anne: Only 9 RSVPed, but 23 showed up for West Campus Pre-Party!
- Might like to take a bus next year from West Campus
- Anne: we should maybe arrange Happy Hour more often out there
- Anderson: Second most clicked-on event in newsletter was West Campus Pre-Party
- Anne: 87 post docs (about 100 according to Maikel) at West Campus
- Anne is the liason for West Campus

2. Ongoing and recurring activities:

- Social and Happy hour
 - This Friday – likely will not have a great turn out; will be held at Box 63
- Last Saturday at museum
- Creative Writing
- Psychodrama meeting
 - Had an increase to 5 attendees this time!
- Volunteering at Columbus Shelter
 - Have a lot of volunteers, which is great

Professional Development Committee: [3 min]

1. New co-coordinator who will take over in January [Chantal]

- Chantal Vogels will be stepping down next month
- Anna York will take over

Advocacy Committee: [7 min]

1. Long-term goals document [Erin]

- Have been thinking about long term goals (longer than a coordinator's term)
- Feedback on goals? (Posted on Slack; please respond here)
- Sean spent a lot of time on these goals
- Open coordinator position – you can take this in any direction you want
- Anne Wyllie: Has feedback from someone who attended the Town Hall
 - Regarding budgets for staff salary: Since staff benefits' overhead came down this year – don't need to take as much per person – meaning there is room to support us more
- Sean Edington: Only discussed big things that apply for a wide swath of the post doc population, so if there's something important that has been left out, add it in;
 - The two biggest issues are getting Yale to commit to salary and funds for postdoc fellows
 - 2.5% increase per year is what Union workers get, so there is no excuse for not increasing (though sometimes this increase happens after salaries are already set for the year)
- Summer Thompson: MIT solved this in some way
 - Increased all post doc salaries – can talk to their post doc association
 - Need to further look into this
- Maikel: Coordinate work groups for interested people to work together on each of the issues and to alleviate burden on coordinators
- Sean: Important to have a formal vote to show that the YPA is formally behind these initiatives (and particularly regarding the pay raise)
- Maikel: What if only few vote?
- Maikel: Get signatures; go to different buildings and petition
- Maikel: Would be willing to go throughout BCMM to get signatures
- Erin: Please take a look and give us feedback – would be nice to get it this week
 - Maikel: Deadline in one week

- Maikel: At least the executive board should be in agreement before we go to others

Mentorship Committee: [3 min]

1. Launch of Peer Mentoring Program version 2 [Mancy Tong]
 - Previously launched peer mentoring program
 - It focused on academic/non-academic route, Office of Career Strategy (CV development, etc.)
 - Got feedback, and it has been some time since the first iteration
 - Maikel: Remind us of feedback
 - Mancy: Did not get much feedback because there was a lot of drop off and not many people were engaged until the end
 - Summer: This is why they revamped it instead of continuing
 - Academic groups wanted more grant writing and feedback more than readings/curriculum
 - If anyone is interested in this program, have topics of interest, let us know
 - Coordinator – Hada, a previous member of a group
 - Anne: can start PLLS small groups curriculum; can get funding from NPA; can take workshop to become facilitator; Anne signed up; will share with Mancy/Summer; includes online courses/resources

Open Forum Questions/Comments: [10 min]

1. Maikel: Feel free to use this time to ask questions, discuss anything more/less, make remarks
2. Maikel: Last meeting we discussed the designation of the Symposium but did not come to a consensus; should it be a separate committee or part of Professional Development?
 - Good for it to be in Professional Development for now
 - Chantal: Committee deserves to be acknowledged; it's good to get updates, almost take the whole year
 - Anna: Integrate them into the group?
 - Summer: What's the downside to making it a separate committee?
 - Maikel: Would have to rewrite bylaws
 - Anne: Ad hoc committees are included in the bylaws and technically this committee does not all year; co-chairs are completely different and it does run separately from YPA; there is no need for co-chairs to be on the board because it is an event, not a committee
 - Maikel: It could be nice to at least add it as subcommittee to Prof Development to give us updates; should at least be recognized, might be nice to put it in the bylaws and make it official
 - Anne: Abstract submission should start soon
3. Maikel: Everyone should give feedback regarding the website
4. Summer: We got received an e-mail about the new OPA faculty director
 - Lisa D'Angelo e-mailed Sam and Maikel that they should meet with the director of OPA – Elias Lolis
 - Received a vague impression of this individual's roles/plans; mainly seems to be in the main OPA contact between postdocs and faculty
 - Summer: What is the relationship to John?
 - Maikel: He is John's boss
 - Erin: What is his relationship with postdocs?
 - Maikel: He seems to be very nice and an engaged mentor; don't know what he plans, but did seem invested in postdocs having a good time at Yale
 - Chairs will meet with him and John to see what will change and what will happen in the future
 - Told him what the main issues are – hope he will advocate to faculty
 - He seems nice/willing – not sure if role is carved out yet

- Summer: Should we meet with him?
 - Maikel: Yes, chairs will meet with him and John. Let them know if you want them to raise any specific issues
 - Eric: Do you know why this role was started?
 - Maikel: To help out John. Elias is an engaged mentor ; maybe want us to have an additional person to go to
5. Maikel: There is also a new Dean of the School of Medicine; it would be good to talk to her to coordinate our message
 6. New attendees
 7. Happy holidays!