

WHOI Postdoctoral Association

MINUTES OF MEETING NO 2

Friday August 30, 2005
Clark 271

Committee members present:

Jed Goldstone, Beatriz Mouriño Carballido, Anna Nikolopoulos, and Tim Verslycke.
(Absent: Nancy Grumet Prouty, Rowena Lohman, Luc Rainville,)

Other representatives present:

Janet Fields (Postdoctoral Coordinator/Academic Programs)

• 1 • *Meeting opened by Tim*

• 2 • *Fall's first social event*

The picnic on August 25th turned out to be an appreciated event! The food was delicious, the weather was splendid, we got to train our skills in croquet, bocce, and the Swedish game kubb, and mingle until dusk. Around 50 people turned up, although disappointingly few sponsors and postdocs invited from 'the outside'.

• 3 • *Welcoming of new postdocs (and how will we get in touch with them?)*

Janet handed out updated lists of all appointed postdocs (current and new). She will keep us updated about newcomers whenever they check in with her by sending an email to Tim, who will forward the info to the rest of us and to the international committee. However, only scholars and fellows are checking in with Janet, while the investigators go through the HR office. We should try to engage HR in notifying us when new postdocs arrive, or we need to keep a close eye on the lists for when their appointments start.

Right now only the appointment letter to fellows and scholars include information about WHOI PDA. We should add the same to the investigator letters. Also, we agreed to include info for our newcomers on the postdoc web page. Anna will put together one or two draft paragraphs to be reviewed by email before next meeting. Once the new web page is created we will add the link to all three letters.

• 4 • *When to run the PDA elections*

The suggestion of holding the PDA elections in November instead of September (starting 2006), was added to the policies and approved of by John Farrington as designated representative of the WHOI Trustees.

• 5 • *The annual Postdoc Symposium*

The date for the symposium is set to [Tuesday, October 25th](#) and the National Academy is booked for the event. Jed and Burkard Baschek (MC&G) have been working on the preliminaries of the meeting and suggested tentative dates for various deadlines:

first announcement	September 6
reminder	September 22
registration, talk	September 27
registration, attendance	October 13
submission of talks	October 24, at noon

We agreed on a maximum number of 25 speakers (talks being about 10min each, followed by 5 min discussion). If we run out of speaker-space, priority will be given to the postdocs that didn't have the opportunity to present their research last year.

• 6 • *Career-developing activities*

On the agenda for this meeting was to discuss how to pursue our career-developing activities. As a rule-of-thumb, four meetings should be held per year (one per quarter of a term). Terry Schaff, WHOI's lobbyist in Washington DC, is very willing to meet with us but since the symposium counts as one major career event, and several meetings will be held around the commencement in late September, it seems more reasonable to wait with his presentation until early next year. Jed will check how this works out with Terry's schedule until next meeting.

• 7 • *Postdoc Breakfast*

A preliminary date for the annual postdoc-breakfast, sponsors included, was set to Wednesday, November 30. Janet will check if this date holds.

• 8 • *Report from the Educational Council meeting, Aug 10th*

Jed summarized the council's discussion around the draft of the WHOI "Self Study Report" for the 2006 accreditation visit of the Commission for Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Jed pointed out that the draft currently does not mention the postdoctoral representation at WHOI (in equal manner as for the graduate students) so he will talk to Associate Dean Judith McDowell for including a paragraph about the postdoctoral representatives in the report.

Moreover, our committee needs to agree on which of the issues raised by the postdoc community (health insurance, family-care benefits, teaching, etc) to concentrate on in future discussions with the Ed. Council. Are we already clear on what these issues are, or do we need to make a more proper survey among the postdocs?

• 9 • *Next meeting*

[Tuesday October 4th, 9:00am](#), location determined later.

On the agenda for next meeting is naturally the upcoming symposium, a last touch on the webpage information, and a definite date for the postdoc breakfast. A decision of how and when to pursue the policy-discussion with Terry Schaff should also be made.

• 10 • *Meeting closed by Tim*

(Minutes recorded by A. Nikolopoulos)