

WHOI Postdoctoral Association

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 13

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Caryn House

Committee members present:

Heather Benway, Angela Dickens, Henrieta Dulaiova, Ted Durland, and David Ralston.

Other representatives present:

Janet Fields (Postdoctoral Coordinator/Academic Programs)

1. Meeting opened by Heather

2. Photo contest

We had 61 gorgeous photos submitted. We decided to increase the number of photos people could vote for to 5 photos/each to make sure we have enough votes for each photo. Heather will count the votes and Angie will work with Graphics to print the photos. Anyone available from the PDA will get together to decide how many prints to make and how large to make them. Voting opens today and will close January 31.

3. Gender Equity Committee Report - Heather

The Gender Equity Committee worked with Bernice Sandler (who runs the Chilly Climate workshop here at WHOI) to come up with potential gender-related interview questions for WHOI Director candidates. The committee is also looking to select a 2007 Visiting Scholar (Meg Lowman was the 2006 scholar).

4. Housing survey

Rob Evans contacted the PDA to see whether he could distribute a survey about local housing to postdocs. We agreed and forwarded it to postdocs.

5. Education Assembly Meeting Report – Dave, Ted and Janet

There wasn't a lot at the meeting relevant to postdocs, although the assembly did formally accept the discussion points for each new postdoc and their advisor to cover. They should discuss these issues during the first three weeks of the postdoc's tenure and revisit them at the annual review. This system should be up and running in time for the next batch of new postdocs, who should start arriving in May. This issue is pretty much resolved from the PDA's perspective, although the actual wording still needs to be worked on between Janet and Jim Yoder.

6. International Committee Meeting Report

The committee has a new website that includes reviving the Volunteers program to help new arrivals to Woods Hole get set up. The person leading the international tax seminar needs to reschedule it, and the committee will hold the spring pizza party sometime in March.

7. JP Alumni Career Forum

The organizers are postponing the career forum – more details later.

8. Postdoc alumni list

Janet has been putting together the postdoc alumni list. Many whose whereabouts she knows are WHOI scientists, which is not useful for contacts about pursuing alternative careers. Heather is culling the list to find those who might be good contacts about non-academic career paths. Eventually, the PDA committee will divide the list and try to track down other alums. We will also try to make an alumni registry.

9. Postdoc room in Caryn House

Renovations are coming along well. When they are complete, we will have a reception in the new space where the winning photos from the contest will be unveiled. All postdocs and anyone who was instrumental in the physical and administrative process involved in making this room a reality will be invited.

10. Meeting closed by Heather

(Minutes recorded by Angie)