

OPA Board Meeting
Friday, June 1st, 2012
Kerr 308A

Present: Siba Das, Rebecca Hutchinson, Julie Alexander, Dave Dickson, David Haim, & Guillermo Diaz

I. Updates

a. Website

Siba inquired with central web services about creating a opa.oregonstate.edu website, but it was \$100 to create and \$130 annually to maintain. Instead, he went with oregonstate.edu/opa (and the board members present agreed). Will probably be free, we're waiting for approval from the responsible administrator.

Guillermo will update site, we discussed what's presently there and what we'd like to add, including:

Website currently has	What we'd like the website to have
definition of "postdoc"	FAQ's
OPA charter	Better/improved interface with OPP website
ties to Grad School (via links)	events list (or calendar, if appropriate)
links to meeting minutes	board members (contact & brief bios)
	welcome packet (probably a linked pdf)
	NPA info and links

b. National Postdoctoral Association Membership

All postdocs have free membership to the NPA, and **Siba** reminded us all to join. It's simple. We could/should do a better job of publicizing NPA and member benefits in order to improve OSU membership.

c. Welcome Packet for New Postdocs

According to **Julie** and **Siba**, **Michelle** is mining some existing materials in Fish & Wildlife to help new postdocs with becoming oriented to OSU and Corvallis. **Guillermo** also suggested we tap some excellent materials provided by the office for International Programs.

Once compiled, we discussed creating a single pdf file to post on the OPA website and considered printing a number of hard copies that OPA members will deliver *in person* to new postdocs when they arrive on campus. The rate is generally a few per month, so we thought this was not a burdensome task and would help new postdocs feel welcomed. **Rebecca** will figure out how to best recruit current postdocs to take up this task.

II. Activity outline for upcoming year

Dave brought up the idea of hosting the NPA national meeting in 2014, but considering how new the OPA is and how transient the board members will likely be in the coming years, the board agreed we should not take such a large task and focus on more manageable regular events at OSU.

a. Outreach at Da Vinci Days

Dave contacted Kate Sanders regarding getting a table or booth for the OPA at Da Vinci Days, under the "Discover OSU" umbrella (still waiting for a response regarding availability and price). Emphasis of our presence there will simply be providing educational material to improve awareness of the OSU postdoc community.

One idea was to have something fun to lure people in, like a “Dunk a Doc” dunking booth. **Dave** will head up organizing what we can, more to follow soon.

b. Postdoc Appreciation Week

We brainstormed over a few ideas and decided to go with: A poster session on Friday afternoon, followed by a BBQ (location TBD, might be on campus, might be in Avery Park, depending on expense and logistics; unclear who’s point person here, **Julie** or **Rebecca**?). Earlier in the week, there may be a few other presentations, such as a talk from KayDee Cole of Clarity Wealth Management. Other events TBD.

c. Workshops

As mentioned above, the first thing we’d like to organize is a workshop on financial planning, probably during Postdoc Appreciation Week. Details TBD (**Rebecca** will work on this one). Ultimately, we’d like to have regular events, maybe every month or two, just ensure the postdocs, as a community, are not forgotten.

d. PIEP

“Postdoc Industry Exploration Programs” – something that’s been tried elsewhere (i.e., Berkeley) with success. This will have some relevance to **Dave’s** new position as an Internship Coordinator in CEOAS, so he volunteered to lead this up once he has a little time in his new position (starting June 29).

III. Liaison with NSF, NIH, etc. about specific leave policies

Siba is looking to write a letter or some other appropriate form of correspondence to raise the issue of unclear leave guidelines for postdocs. Typically, and vacation time, maternity/paternity leave, sick time, or any other form of leave is **NOT** explicitly given to postdocs, so better defined policies from major funding agencies could help resolve this issue.

Siba will take lead, but require help on how to best proceed. He may look into what other postdoc associations around the country are doing. He will also make an attempt at directly contacting Michelle Obama when she is on campus in two weeks for Commencement (he’ll be pursuing this through the Provost’s office, although we acknowledge the likelihood of getting any face time with the First Lady is slim).

Julie will start a Facebook page for OPA to collect feedback from the OSU postdoc community and improve OPA visibility.

Siba, with help from **Michelle** and **Kerry**, will try to track down the female faculty member at OSU who successfully received a grant extension from NSF explicitly to start a family. This might provide a starting point for our efforts to clarify the issues surrounding postdoc leave and maternity support.

IV. Fundraising brainstorming

We should contact Brenda McComb and connect with the OSU Foundation in order to explore some options for funding support (**Dave** and **Siba** will probably lead on this). We also need to have some activities planned in order to demonstrate what we’re doing to warrant support.

Block 15 should be contacted for a fundraising event.

Peers and Beers will maintain the \$1 discount on beers, but attendees will be encouraged to pay that \$1 as a donation to OPA (this will likely be done informally, with a donation jar or similar). Question is execution, someone needs to collect this money at each event and get it back to the treasurer (**David**).

Next meeting: Friday, July 6th, 1pm in Kerr 308A