

UWPA General Assembly Notes

Mon, March 2, 2019 (4pm): Loew 310

Attending	Unknown if Attending	Cannot Attend
Rebecca Bluett Alexis Kaminski Jason Coult Karla-Luise Herpoldt Kim Meier (via Zoom)		

Start time: 4:08pm End time: 4:55pm

1. Mystery Zoom link

- a. There was a strange email sent this morning with a Zoom link, stating that “Irene T” was waiting. Nobody present knew where this link appeared from, or who Irene is (possibly somebody from the social?).

2. Potential events

- a. Should we plan a spring event?
 - i. Parenting event? — people got back to Karla saying they were interested;
 1. One thought is to do something low-key like a coffee morning. Saturday mornings seemed good, with some sort of activity planned for the kids to do while the parents had a chance to mingle. Ideally, there would be a designated adult to be keeping an eye on the children and watching out for any chaos. It was pointed out that the Union offers childcare for their meetings. Another option would be to look into daycare spaces on campus.
 2. Another option is a more organized activity, along the lines of visiting a park or the zoo. The zoo in particular offers group discounts, and we could possibly subsidize tickets for events.
 3. Given the current coronavirus outbreak, it was decided that rather than planning something in the next little while we will put a note in the newsletter saying that we are planning for the end of April, pending the public health

situation, and will ask for interest to gauge whether a group discount will be possible.

4. Kim expanded on union plans for childcare. Postdocs haven't needed to use it yet, but the ASE has. They have a licensed childcare person, need to have a room booked near the meeting space, and need at least one day's notice. Kim can find out who they go through to do that.

- b. Reminder for Alexis to email the guy about an immigration info event.

- i. Alexis emailed the OSU OPA again but has not received any response yet.

- c. Becca needs to actually do the raffle and let people know they won a book! List of events from there...

- i. The list of events is in the dropbox. Roughly half were ideas about social events, suggesting this is really a thing a lot of postdocs are looking for.

- ii. It was noted that we have a decent budget that we can use to subsidize events, we just need somebody to organize them! We expect we can spend approximately \$200/event.

- d. Some other event suggestions were brought up:

- i. Intro swing dance sessions — apparently Century Ballroom does these for around \$10/person, and is pretty beginner-friendly.
 - ii. "Discover Seattle" events — introducing UW postdocs (especially new arrivals) to good places to eat/fun things to see.
 - iii. Lunchtime events — it would be pretty straightforward to host a lunch with free or cheap sandwiches, or at someplace in the campus area like Agua Verde. (It was also pointed out that we could in theory do happy hour there when the weather gets nice again.)
 - iv. Brunch events — something along the lines of mimosas and crepes. The challenge here is finding the right sort of space, whether someplace on campus or hosted at someone's home. In the summertime, Gasworks park has shelters that could be booked for barbecues, etc.

3. Newsletter

- a. Publication highlight?

- i. Becca opened a bunch of tabs of things to go in e.g. “managing your advisor”
 - ii. New Nature(?) article/tweet with a bunch of funding resources!
 - iii. Union update: people to sign onto letter to reopen wage bargaining (Kim can send some wording) – trying to get 500 postdocs to sign on ASAP
 - iv. Becca met with Max from Chemistry re: T32 data gathering (exactly how is UW implementing different postdoc classifications?) – people on same fellowship being treated slightly differently
 - v. Last time NIH released pay scale increase, unclear how that was implemented either... some postdocs will receive increases with new guidelines but hope this can happen institutionally
- b. Any known awards/grants/jobs/PD to highlight?
- c. Google Doc of questions to have people highlighted for new careers included below. *Additions?*
 - i. Please send out questions to anyone you know and we can stockpile them for slow release!
- d. PD to follow on twitter- volunteers?
- e. Suggestion: maybe move the “where are they now” section to the website and just include a short preview in the email itself, to keep down the amount of scrolling.

4. Social Media updates

- a. We are still lacking a social media person.
- b. It was pointed out that LinkedIn may be a good option, since it shows other people in a similar role and at the same institution. It doesn’t look like the UWPA currently has a LinkedIn group; the closest match is a group called “UW Postdoctoral Fellows”, which we think is the OPA group.

5. Website

- a. No updates this month.

6. Union updates

- a. Bargaining is reopening in response to the NRSA stipend increases.

- b. The union is trying to get a more comprehensive view of how UW has implemented classifications of postdocs on different kinds of fellowships in terms of job title and funding/benefits.

7. OPAL updates

- a. No updates this month.

8. Happy Hour updates

- a. Should we reinstate same day happy hour email reminders?
 - i. *These never got un-instated, just forgot last month* 😞
 - ii. Karla will reach out to Val and find out where it's happening this month, and whether it's scheduled for this week or next week.
 - iii. Jason commented that happy hours are somewhat underannounced, and when it's in the newsletter it's somewhat buried. He suggested a same-day or day-before email with something in the subject line to indicate "free beer" in order to grab attention.

9. Updates from postdoc diversity alliance

- a. Nothing to announce at the moment but planning something for April (likely April 17, sometime in the morning – details are still being ironed out), so there will likely be something to put in the next newsletter.

10. Parenting group updates

- a. Ajasja is finishing up his two-year fellowship. Karla will try to chase him up and get a google doc going with info about running the parenting group.

11. AOB

- a. Budget: \$5,204.84

12. Next meeting

- b. April 6th, 9-10AM Loew 310