

PAS Business Meeting – Saturday March 18, 2023 (12 pm) – Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Dia Beachboard, Robert Coxe, Giancarlo Cuadra, Chris Dolanc, Michael Foulk, Sherry Fuller-Espie, Lara Goudsouzian, Brian Gray, Valbona Hoxha, Logan Johnson, Joy Karnas, Zeb Kramer, Steve Mech, Russ Minton, Monique Rogals, David Singleton, Tammy Tintjer, Matt Wallace, Erica Ward, André Walther, Sandy Whidden, Jennifer White, Rachael Zhu

Begin at 12:05 pm (Andre W)

Welcoming Remarks (Andre)

- Delay approving minutes from last spring business meeting (need to locate file)
- Thanks for joining business meeting
- Discussions about meeting attendance and format in future:
 - This year # abstracts lower, barriers were location, weather, early date
 - All asked to spread word to colleagues at other institutions – hope to go back to larger meetings before Covid
 - Emphasize student friendly, poster and oral formats, prizes including money for presentations; experiencing scientists interacting with other scientists, broad range of disciplines and types of presentations, costs are relatively low for a two day conference, money for travel grants available
 - Historically more faculty have presented on their own research, especially newer faculty; also had educational presentations (like a module from a classroom, new techniques)
 - Any ideas or comments to share?
 - Students may be in middle of work in progress, not ready to present yet
 - Response: we are limited by outside factors when picking dates and this year is early, but next year will be mid-April so will be a month later; from a student perspective this is an opportunity to get students to present in a relatively low-stress environment and experience a real conference
 - Joy - We do need to take into account schedules of other schools and when their conferences are; some people only go to regional conferences – this one has a broader range of topics
 - Sherry - Some conferences have a specifically designated work-in-progress forum; perhaps we could consider having lightning talk venues with lots of students in very limited period of time (low stress, less prep, give some experience); we could also allow faculty to give mini-talks
 - This is a very supportive environment for next generation of scientists, but there is a lot of value to past practices when PI gave major talk for 20 minutes and then faculty talked with each other afterwards, there is less of that; we want this to be an opportunity for both faculty and students to ask questions and discuss science
 - Lara – we should spell out we are encouraging work that isn't entirely finished

- Chris D – reiterate idea about speed talks
 - Larry – link to students who did a grant proposal
 - Joy – what about a checkmark when submitting proposal to say whether project is linked to a grant or not? Maybe these should not fall under the judging
 - Steve – what about a workshop where we present ideas and work with Rachael for next year
 - Sandy – we want to make sure speed talks don't compete with regular talks, since we are down total talks anyway; many students might choose to give a speed talk instead of a regular – this may be a concern, but it may not be the same population of students
 - Dave – recommends PAS buys a gong for speed talks
 - Important to build confidence in younger students, good idea to bring freshmen to expose them and they will be less intimidated to present once they have research results
- Great comments, working on a list to contact Chairs of departments around the state to market and promote the academy; including program will advertise the format of the conference, awards, breadth
 - Gian – could we target some emails to a critical mass, with new initiatives related to STEM, etc.? there aren't many emails, we could certainly send more out, each with a target topic
 - Response – we are working on building on infrastructure/web to reach out to membership in way that is easy on corresponding secretary, be more professional and efficient
- We are healthy financially with large endowments so we have funds to support initiatives within academy, more research and travel grants
 - Dave S – Share overview of UG research grant process:
 - Reminder email to reach mailing list with deadline Feb 1
 - Want literature review, methods, straightforward process
 - After deadline ask faculty to review proposals over next 4 weeks
 - Quality of proposals is impressive for undergrad proposals, many of the students were only involved for a few months at time
 - Had 19 proposals with \$750 cap, all were of a caliber for funding
 - Travel funding: criteria are desire to come to meeting
- 2024 Meeting at Messiah University (99th) – relatively central location
- 2025 100th meeting at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology – will get governor, exciting keynote speaker, more awards, reflection
 - Robert Coxe will chair committee for this meeting
- Darbaker Prize request (Matt W)
 - Established 1952, but we have not regularly given this award out. Want to make a yearly award, for any projects in “microscopical biology” – we are interpreting that broadly, any field that uses a microscope. Prize is \$1500, plus another \$500

after submitting a paper to JPAS. Preference to junior faculty. Proposals due April 15.

- Journal Editor (Steve M)
 - In need of papers relating to sciences in PA – have a rapid turn around, and moderately high acceptance rate
- Judging (Chris D and Mike F)
 - If enter data yourself don't bring in forms, print name not sign
 - Make sure abstract number is correct on form
 - 22 posters so far, more in afternoon

Elections:

- Treasurer-elect: nominee = Valbona Hoxha (2023-2025)
- Corresponding Secretary = Chris Kavanau (2023-2025)
- Directors at Large – attend board meetings (virtual in October), spring meetings, be a voice, share thoughts and insights to help Board make decisions
 - Russ Minton – coming off, will become Associate Editor
 - Remaining: Giancarlo Cuadra, Robert Coxe (2022-2024)
 - Three open positions (2023-2025):
 - Zeb Kramer (LaSalle on again 2023-2025)
 - Erica Ward (Harrisburg) nominated 2023-2025
 - Brian Gray (York) nominated 2023-2025
 - Dia Beachboard (Desales) nominated 2023-2024
 - Monique Rogals (Marywood) nominated 2023-2024
 - Logan Johnson (Pitt-Greensburg) nominated 2023-2025

Motion to approve, seconded. All approved.

New election slate is approved. Goes into effect 8 am Sunday 3/19/23

Final comments (Russ): lunches, parking, directions to board meeting, will not have breakfast

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm