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


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