

AJED Meeting Minutes 9/12/24. 248 BioSci (Cogitron). Noon-1PM.

Attendees:

Rossie Clark-Cotton, Jill Chaskes Foster, Jean-Philippe Gibert, Ze-Yi Han, Alison Hill, Kelcey Majors, Carl Manner III, Kathleen Miglia, Mar Martinez Pastor, Nina Sherwood, Lucia Strader, David Su, Emma Wallace, Emily Bernhardt

1. Welcome and updates

Full list of this year's committee members below.

Rossie Clark-Cotton, Jill Chaskes Foster, Jean-Philippe Gibert, Ze-Yi Han, Jessica Harrell, Alison Hill, Kelcey Majors, Carl Manner III, Dan McShea, Kathleen Miglia, Steve Nowicki, Mar Martinez Pastor, Nina Sherwood, Lucia Strader, David Su, Emma Wallace, Yochebed Woldeyohannes, Emily Bernhardt.

(Dan, Yochebed, and possibly Jean-Phi have time conflicts with this semester's meeting.)

2. Review of last year's progress/initiatives, and setting priorities for this year

a. Nowicki Potty – Gender Neutral Bathroom – Almost Done!!

1. Per email update from Steve: Construction is scheduled to start in mid-November rather than mid-October, but it's definitely happening because a contract has been signed with OC Mitchell, the construction company.

“...Alphonso is being pro-active in letting us know where things stand. I haven't had to badger FMD since he was assigned to the project!”

2. Can we arrange a lovely bird wallpaper? Perhaps a ribbon cutting ceremony with Steve and a pair of giant scissors?
3. A round of applause was initiated by Carl, for Steve!

b. BCA/AJED Mixer – Mentoring Program planning

1. David is representing for BCA; he will meet with Yochebed soon. They lost a lot of their members to graduation but are/have recruited new ones.
2. Hopefully will plan a mixer with AJED this semester?

c. Graduate Students

1. Carl (IDEA rep?)

- Union contract in negotiation with grad students – can the department make it a priority with General Counsel to protect double TA'ing? Emily will discuss with others how to most effectively get this done.
- University-Sponsored Graduate Student Housing – Carl is prioritizing this initiative and will work on it with IDEA
- Updates on the Mutual Aid closet - IDEA Meeting will happen in Sept. and Carl will find out if there is a new AJED rep. Brought up Field Day idea (for field equipment exchange, plus fun field-related relays for the department!), Carl will bring this up at their meeting. Remind him to also bring up applying for money idea, where students (or other lab personnel) could apply to AJED/dept. for money to fund field equipment or other needs. The goal is to avoid creating a room that's just full of free table stuff that IDEA then must maintain.

2. Ze-yi Han

- Mentor Training with Jessica Harrell – two successful training sessions for grad students happened over the summer (~15 students total)
- More Training needed for Grad to Postdoc Transition, and how to be a mentor (vs. be a mentee)
- Z, Carl, and Emma all agreed that (in contrast to Jessica's training) the RCR mentoring training is short so it's hard to develop conversations. This summer's training with Jessica did not count for RCR credit, but it can be arranged for future sessions.
- Mar: mentoring training for postdocs/research scientists was one of the great things to come out of AJED last year.
- Emily will contact Jessica to request a proposal to offer annual training for various department members.

d. Staff – Jill notes that at the recent DUS Meeting, Duke Life (First Gen organization) presented. One big concern was

1. Duke now has 22% Pell Grant receiving students- up from 11% year prior

2. More students deal with food insecurity than most would realize, even here at Duke!
 - Food Pantry – Smith Warehouse; Grad Student Pantry; Any new app development?
 - Procedures may be needed to better support food insecurity on campus – Emily notes this is a Mary Patton problem (university-wide), and instead,
 - How can we best help these students in Biology? Maybe text-based alerts so students can opt into it. Emma suggests using Remind app.
 - General discussion about how to best target free food to those in the dept who need it the most
 - Carl (suggested after the meeting): food cards or \$ availability — it would be good to time this for when the food points run out mid to late semester. Also, a recommendation that people mention this in their classes or in their syllabi.
- e. International Scholars – Mar notes they have a draft summary of their survey from this past spring, which we can discuss at the next meeting.
- f. Postdocs – (ran out of time!) But Rossie suggests the possibility of combining forces with Research Scientists (Mar). (NTS: we should also consider recruiting another PD and RS to AJED.)
- g. Pumpkin carving event! We need volunteers!!! Happening the Friday afternoon before Halloween.**

Action Items: 1) Emily to Email Jessica. 2) Kelcey to distribute food leftovers using supportive messaging moving forward. 3) Kelcey will talk with Mar about how pumpkin carving was done last year.

Random Notes: Text Service – Remind 101. Science-y Musical! – Lifeline

Submitted by: Kelcey, Lucia, Nina