

FEBRUARY 2015 POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

DAVID CLARKS LAB, ROOM 123

FEBRUARY 19, 2015 AT 12 PM

In attendance:

Dr. Amy Savage (President)
Dr. Megan Andrews (President-Elect)
Dr. Alexis M. Barbarin (Secretary)
Dr. Hongying Du
Dr. Alexander Franke (International Officer)
Dr. Jeremy Heath (Social Committee)
Dr. Brett Lehman (CHASS Representative)
Dr. Warren Sconiers (Diversity Officer)
Dr. Avat Shekoofa (CALs Representative)
Dr. Nisha Cavanaugh (OPA Director)

Minutes:

I. Presentation by Ashley Grantham (Associate Director for Technology at DELTA).

Contact information: aegranth@ncsu.edu

Ashley Grantham is the Associate Director for Technology at DELTA at NCSU (<http://delta.ncsu.edu/workshops/>). She spoke about training opportunities available to postdocs who may be interested in becoming future faculty and integrating technology into their teaching/classrooms. DELTA provides support for instructional technology in the classroom. Those services are offered to “faculty” however, the term faculty is used loosely, and includes anyone at NCSU that is in a teaching role or is interested in pursuing training in teaching with technology. The workshops offered by DELTA provide instruction on how to use Moodle, Blackboard Collaborate, among others, and My Mediasite, which is a desktop recording platform where instructors can record short videos or lectures. In addition to workshops, DELTA training can be arranged on a one-on-one basis, or departmental or group consultation. Lastly, DELTA courses also count for those who are interested in the Certificate in Teaching Technology (CITT) program (http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/postdoctoral-affairs/ncsu_citt.html).

Additionally, there was a short question/answer session:

Q: Is there any technology that postdocs in particular should be familiar with?

A: Smaller teaching institutions often want someone who is familiar with or interested in teaching online courses. Therefore, it is wise to familiarize yourself with an online course management system. Skype, Google Hangouts and other such programs are useful because they allow you to have virtual office hours. They can also be used for interviewing purposes.

Q: Why should we use technology in the classroom?

A: Technology helps to make life easier, but you should choose the best strategy to achieve your learning objectives. It is best not to incorporate too many different technological elements at once. This can be overwhelming to students because they have to learn the material and how to use the technology as well.

Q: What do you do if students do not have access to technology (smartphones, laptops, etc.)?

A: Many of the colleges require students to have laptops, particularly the college of Engineering. Other options include suggesting the student rents a tablet or laptop from the library. Or require them to work in groups so that at least one person in the group has a laptop or smartphone.

II. Committee Updates

Diversity Committee: The Diversity Committee has developed a survey of the post-doc community. The survey has been circulating for several weeks and will soon be closed. Everyone is encouraged to submit their answers to the survey. A reminder email notifying members of the close of the survey will be sent out in the upcoming weeks. Dr. Sconiers is also working on collating resources on diverse post-doc issues, which will be uploaded to the new PDA website.

International Committee: Dr. Alexander Franke spoke on behalf of the International Committee. The rates for health insurance costs for postdocs on J1 and J2 Visas have changed, but the university will cover and adjust for the cost of required insurance.

College Representatives: Dr. Avat Shekoofa is the new CALS Representative. Other Representative-related announcements will be forthcoming.

Social Committee: Weekly happy hours are going well. Additional happy hour locations will be announced via email. On March 4th, we are having our first collaborative event with North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and the Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)! The topic is: Tweet? Twittersphere? Come learn about Twitter and how scientists can leverage Twitter for communication, science news and job advancement on March 4th at 6pm. Our speaker is Dr. Holly Menninger, the director of Public Science for the College of Sciences at NC State. Doors open at 6pm and pizza will be served. The presentation begins at 6:30p.m. at the NC State Centennial campus Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC) room 135. Subsequent information will be sent out via email.

III. Postdoctoral Research Symposium

The keynote speaker for the postdoctoral seminar has been selected and confirmed. He is Rob Nelson from Untamed Science of Charlotte, North Carolina. Rob will talk about research communication, and his path from the role of researcher to the translator of other research to the public.

The postdoctoral research symposium is set for May 20th. We would like to invite postdocs from other universities to attend and present posters of their research. Abstract submission will be due at the end of April. We also need to secure judges by the end of April. The judges can be faculty members, postdoc alumni, and grad students. Please mention this to anyone you know who may be interested in judging.

We are also looking for companies interested in sponsoring/supporting the research symposium. The company would be allowed to have a table at the symposium to promote their organization. We would also promote their company on our fliers and announcements. If you have any connections at any companies that may be interested in sponsorship, please contact Dr. Nisha Cavanaugh (nacavana@ncsu.edu).

Want to know more about instructional technologies available at NC State?

Teach!

Visit the DELTA Knowledge Base at <http://delta.ncsu.edu/knowledgebase/>



Learn!

DELTA offers workshops and seminars to learn how to use technology, best practices and strategies to improve teaching and learning in your course, one-to-one instructional technology assistance, and many online resources to assist you with your teaching endeavors.

For information about our current schedule of training offerings, visit:

<http://delta.ncsu.edu/workshops/>



**DELTA's workshops and seminars are available and free of charge to all NC State faculty, staff and graduate students serving in an instructional support role.*

To request a one-to-one instructional consultation with one of our staff, visit:

<http://delta.ncsu.edu/request-an-instructional-consultation/>



To view online versions of many of our workshops and seminars, visit:

<http://delta.ncsu.edu/workshops/class-recordings/>

Get Help!

Email or call [LearnTech](#) for answers to questions about NC State's learning technologies. Contact us at learntech@ncsu.edu or (919) 513-7094.



Stay tuned in to the latest news, learning opportunities and teaching with technology trends by visiting [DELTAwire](#).

Help for FACULTY

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