

PDA Winter Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2018 @ 9:00am
Carmichael Playzone, Carmichael Recreation Center

Agenda

- About the PDA (Kurt Schab)
- Peer Scholars Program (Mohan Ramaswamy – NCSU Libraries)
- Counseling Center (Jeremy Miller - Mental Health Ambassador, NCSU Counseling Center)
- Grad School Opportunities (Nicole Ditillo)
- PDA Diversity Committee (Catherine Zhang)
- Accelerate 2 Industry (Jason Cramer)
- PostDoc Research Symposium (Nicole Ditillo)
- PDA Social Committee Programs (Melanie Hedgespeth)

Minutes

- Called to order by Kurt
- **About the PDA:** Our purpose is to: Build a community of postdocs, connect postdocs with opportunities, act as a voice for postdocs on campus
- **Peer Scholars Program:** NCSU Libraries- Mohan Ramaswamy, head of research engagement and graduate services. How can postdocs be supported? A need identified was teaching experience. PSP was developed. Purpose is to provide a platform where postdocs can present a tool or more broad topic than research interest. Example: How to make an ePortfolio. Please contact if have an idea to present in this series. Benefits: Teaching experience for resume, feedback from librarians and peers to improve presentation skills, opportunities to repeat the presentation and grow your skills. Incentives are provided (\$300 honorarium per workshop). Support is provided, including opportunities to rehearse the workshop, utilization of high-tech presentation spaces, etc. All workshop content is archived for later reference. Google “NCSU Scholars” to find form to submit a proposal for a topic.
- **Counseling Center:** Jeremy Miller, Mental Health Ambassador from Counseling Center. Group counseling is offered. No appointment required. Group lists (Example: ADHD, Guided meditation group) are on Counseling Center FB page. Personal and academic counseling appointments are available. (Academic counseling is help with building posters, study strategies, etc.) Postdocs are allowed full access just like any other student. Visits are free. Personal counseling: First time appointment, must do a survey on computer and see a triage counseling to help you get matched up with a counselor. Why see a counselor? Not just for “a breakdown.” They can help with preventative mental health care, like stress, and give you strategies to deal. 2017 Survey: 1/3 of NCSU students at some point experienced severe depression, which is correlated with suicidal ideation. Please come take advantage of the resources. If the counseling center can't help, they will find someone off campus who can for low or no cost. Career

counseling is available. \$25 fee for assessment test. Can help you network, reach out to people already in the industry you're interested in. All counseling center information is kept strictly confidential except for harm to others or legal court order. Trying to develop post doc and grad student group counseling in the next couple semesters. Watch for it on the FB page. An emergency counselor is always available by phone. There is a counseling satellite location on Centennial campus. Suggestions for improvement from meeting attendees: extended hours for post docs to more easily be able to utilize resources. There is a counseling satellite location on Centennial campus.

- **Grad School Opportunities:** Deepika Saini/ Nicole.
 - Karissa is head of Thesis/dissertation support services. Help with communication and writing skills. Services for post docs as well as grad students. Workshop: Developing a Daily Writing Habit. Online writing accountability group. Writing group with dedicated writing hours. Workshop: Prepping for a presentation.
 - Vanessa is the head of the teaching and communication program. Teaching and communication certificate. Series of workshops and other components, Ex: Hours of experience and portfolio required.
 - Upcoming workshops on the website: conflict leadership and supervising.
 - STEM Faculty Launch May 17, 2018. Bootcamp for those hoping to become faculty in STEM. Topics include advising, working with admin, grant writing, etc.
- **Catherine:** Diversity Lunches. January was a French restaurant. Weekend was chosen to allow more participation. Feb will possibly be hot pot. Open to suggestions for coming months.
- **A2I:** Jason Cramer, director. Employment in the academic sector is decreasing, while demand is increasing for PhDs in industry. But there is a training gap for transition from academia to private sector companies. A2I aims to fill the training gap. Teach skills valued by industry: Leading by inspiration, communication, technical writing, communicating across cultures, working within a team, collaboration, being aware of corporate culture, understanding how to move projects forward (entrepreneurship), evaluating market landscapes, understanding IP/regulatory affairs, commercialization. Other support: personal branding, interviewing, resume, portfolios, strategic planning. Program creates networking opportunities with industry professionals. Program is series of modules. Industry Immersion week is a part of the program. Have now added additional training a la carte: Specific 1-2 day series sponsored by companies or departments. Semester-long team project (practicum), which is a team of 4-5 given a problem by a company and tasked with developing a deliverable. Industry job search strategies workshop series. Industry company site visits, here on campus or on location. Industry internship: helping industry companies recruit interns. There is an interest form online for participation in the modules. Go.ncsu.edu/a2i.
- **PostDoc Research Symposium:** Annual event May 25, 2018 in McKimmon Center. Committee is organizing. Poster session open to all postdocs NCSU and other Universities in triangle. Good practice for presenting your research to a broad audience. Great way to meet other postdocs socially and develop collaborations. We need poster judges.

- **Social Committee:** Opportunities for people to socialize outside of work. Weekly/biweekly happy hour. Accepting volunteers to host and suggestions for locations. Possible visit to a challenge course in the spring via the rec center. Possible sports meetups. Please send suggestions.