

**PDFA Executive Council Meeting
December 15th, 2023
Teleconference Meeting**

Present: AKM Shahid Ullah, President
Sherif Ahmed, VP Communications
MD Shaheen, VP Internal
Alsayed Mostafa, Member-at-Large
Alivia Mukherjee, Member-at-Large
Henry Prown, Member-at-Large
Razieh FirouziHaji, VP Operations
Ahmed Badr, Member, VP Finance
Shui Jiang, Member-at-Large

Staff: Kayanna Reff, Administrative Assistant
Scott Harris, Communications
Terry Sway, Labour Relations Officer
Christianne Nylund, Labour Relations Officer

Regrets: Joy Correia, Director of Operations

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM.

2. Land Acknowledgment

The President acknowledged that the PDFA is located on the territory now referred to as Treaty 6.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda for December 15, 2023 Shaheen/Shui	CARRIED
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4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes for November 9, 2023 Sherif/Razieh	CARRIED
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5. President's Report (AKM Shahid Ullah)

5.1. Board of Research and Compensation Committee Coffee Meeting

Shahid and Henry met with two members of the Board of Research and Compensation Committee over coffee. During the meeting, they discussed the recognition issues that the PDFA is currently facing concerning Postdocs.

Following the meeting, Shahid and Henry attended the first Board of Research and Compensation Committee meeting. Shahid provided a presentation to introduce the PDFA and to lay down the framework for bargaining.

5.2. NASA Contract

The board stated that they would like to renew with NASA. However, they had a few statements to provide during the meeting.

They would like to see communication become a bit more effective.

They would also like to keep the bookkeeping duties within the PDFA, and then decide later on if the duties should be passed on to NASA.

PDFA has requested an Abbreviated version of the Collective Agreement

Shahid and Terry will meet in the upcoming week to sign the contract.

5.3. Joint Health and Safety Committee

Shaheed and Ahmed will be the new representatives on this board.

5.4. FGSR PDFA Onboarding

6. FGSR has inquired with the PDFA about increasing the number of onboarding events to be held at least three times per year.

7. VP Internal Report (MD Shaheen)

MD shared a survey conducted by CAPS, which outlined a four-stage plan to drive innovation and discovery for Postdocs

He wants to know where Postdocs stand in the FGSR department after being absorbed. He has asked that this come forward in the next meeting that PDFA has with FGSR.

8. VP Finance Report (Ahmed Badr)

The current account balance is \$122,000.

Ahmed will take over bookkeeping from Shahid and become a signing authority in the New Year.

9. Communications Strategist Report (Scott Harris)

Scott has been asked to provide a virtual Christmas Card to the PDFA membership

The PDFA has decided to postpone the newsletter to January 10th, 2024.

10. Member-at-Large Report (Henry Prown Shui Jiang, & Alivia Mukherjee)

Alivia has offered to provide a piece of art to add to the PDFA Virtual Christmas Card. She has also offered to team up with Shahid to arrange a membership paint night.

11. Shui has expressed her interest in leading mental health education events for Postdocs in the future.

12. VP Operations Report (Razieh Firouzi) – No Report

Razieh obtained the Zoom account password from Kayanna and will now handle arranging meetings outside of the monthly executive meeting.

13. Labour Relations Officers Report (Terry Sway & Christianne Nylund)

The Labour Relations officers answered any unanswered questions that the PDFA had before their renewal with NASA.

Terry will be meeting with Shahid within the next week to sign the contract.

14. VP External Report (Alsayed Mostafa)

Alsayed will be contacting APEGA and The Association for Chemical Professionals in Alberta and report on this at the next meeting.

Alsayed will also reach out to CAPS to arrange some future meetings.

15. VP Communications Report (Sherif Ahmed)

Sherif is currently working on expanding the reach of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA) on campus through social media. He plans to increase the frequency of posts on Instagram and Facebook. Additionally, he will be creating a "Meet the PDFA Board" post, as well as "Hot Topic" posts to engage with the audience.

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. In Camera

There was an in-camera session.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.

AKM Shahid Ullah, President & Chair

Kayanna Reff, Administrative Assistant