

**PDFA Executive Council Meeting
April 18, 2024
Teleconference Meeting**

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

Staff: Kayanna Reff, Administrative Assistant
Joy Correia, Director of Operations
Terry Sway, Labour Relations Officer
Christianne Nylund, Labour Relations Officer

Regrets: Scott Harris, Communications

1. Call to Order

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

2. Land Acknowledgment

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda for April 18, 2024 Shui/Alivia	CARRIED
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4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes for March 21, 2024 Alsayed/MD	CARRIED
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5. Director of Operations/Labour Relations Officer Report (Joy Correia, Christianne Nylund & Terry Sway)

5.1. LRO Report (Christianne Nylund & Terry Sway)

Terry is dealing with an ongoing issue regarding the ownership of writings by a postdoc while employed at U of A related to Intellectual Property & Authorship.

6. Communications Strategist Report (Scott Harris) -No Report

7. President's Report (AKM Shahid Ullah)

7.1. Member-At Large Applications

All the applications for the Member-At-Large position were reviewed, and all of them were approved. However, there are only two available spots for this position. Kayanna will ask the three applicants if they are interested in becoming the new VP of Finance, as this position is now vacant.

7.2. VP Finance

The VP Finance position is currently vacant, and Shahid will serve as interim VP Finance.

7.3. Bookkeeping done by NASA

Starting next week, Shahid will transfer all the necessary documents and files to Kristine, the Bookkeeper for NASA. Kristine will oversee keeping the books for the PDFA. She will be provided with all the required spreadsheets and

documents to start working on. This change is expected to streamline the process and ensure that all financial records are properly maintained.

7.4. President's Review

The Presidential Review Board of the U of A has requested the PDFA's review of the current U of A President in four major areas.

- Institutional growth and the promotion of the University's strategic direction and objectives
- Maintenance and enhancement of both internal and external stakeholder relationships
- Fiduciary oversight of the institutions' operational portfolios
- Other strategic operational, administrative, or managerial capacities initiatives

Shahid requested feedback on the current president from PDFA members before he meets with the committee next week. He will also bring VP Internal and VP Communications with him to this meeting.

8. VP Finance Report (Vacant) – No Report

9. Member-at-Large Report (Shui Jiang, & Alivia Mukherjee)

Alivia, Shui, and Henry have completed the PDFA Spotlight report and sent it to Shahid, as he will be the first spotlighted individual. Going forward, PDFA needs to discuss the process of selecting postdocs who will be spotlighted. Should the selection be based on referrals?

Shui will confirm a date in May for her to give her mental health talk.

10. VP Operations Report (Razieh Firouzi-haji)

Razieh has provided an update regarding the outdoor ice skating event that the PDFA had hoped to plan for its members. Unfortunately, it is currently too warm to conduct outdoor skating. Therefore, Razieh will look into organizing a different event for the members, such as bowling.

11. VP External Report (Alsayed Mostafa)

Alsayed met with the University of Calgary (PDAC) to discuss their bargaining. He has brought forward a few questions regarding Union spending caps. He will have another meeting with U of C that will include the University of Lethbridge on May 3rd, 2024.

Alsayed would like to bring forward better ways of managing the PDFA's money, and how they can produce revenue. This may also include the PDFA starting to invest their money.

He has also brought forward an advocacy training opportunity that will be produced by the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars. The deadline for registration is the 26th of April.

12. VP Internal Report (MD Shaheen)

MD expressed concerns that postdocs are not eligible for pensions, but Terry explained that it would be difficult as postdoc positions are typically short-term in nature. Terry has suggested taking that into collective bargaining when the time comes to bargain for the postdocs.

VP Communications Report (Henry Prown)

Henry and Alivia have been working on the PDFA spotlight project. He has also posted the orientation on the Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

Henry applied to join the board of the NGO he volunteers for, which teaches refugees English. He intends to create more volunteer opportunities for Postdocs at the location.

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. In Camera

There was no in-camera session.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.

AKM Shahid Ullah, President & Chair

Kayanna Reff, Administrative Assistant