

Communications Committee Meeting

Monday, July 22, 2024, 1P-2P EST

Attendees:

Mike Bowl	Francisco Barros Becker
Kelsey Anbuhl	Dietmar Wohlbauer
Marisa Zallochi	Hainan Lang
Nicolas Grillet	Ruben Stepanyan

Apologies:

Kristin Johnson, Executive Director

Unexcused:

Ariel Hight	Sara Momtaz Bokharaei
Randy Kulesza	
Sree Varshini Murali	

Minutes:

Review of Previous Minutes

The group commenced by reviewing and signing off the minutes from the previous meeting, ensuring all participants were aligned on past decisions and discussions.

Committee Charges and External Relations

Mike Bowl discussed ongoing issues regarding the consolidation of the External Relations and Communications Committees. He highlighted the lack of clarity in the charges set by the Council for these committees and his efforts to seek clarification from Council members and the ARO President. The action points from the last meeting included Mike sending an email to both Barbara Canlon and the Council President, awaiting their response on the committee's objectives and the Advocacy Liaison positions.

Educational Outreach Initiatives

Mike Bowl brought up the topic of educational outreach initiatives, particularly focusing on educating young people about the dangers of noise-induced hearing loss. Francisco Barros shared feedback from spARO, expressing interest in the initiative but raising concerns about organization, funding, and the best ways to approach schools. Kelsey Anbuhl suggested partnering with established science outreach programs like BioBus to facilitate these initiatives. The discussion also covered the logistics of approaching schools and the potential content of presentations, with suggestions to tailor the material based on the age group of the students.

Funding and Awards

Hainan Lang shared her experience and plans related to outreach in diverse communities, highlighting a funded initiative focusing on hearing loss prevention among African American students. The conversation then shifted to the potential use of mini grants for outreach activities, with Mike Bowl and Nicolas Grillet discussing the allocation of funds and the structure of these grants. The idea of an outreach award was proposed to incentivize participation, with suggestions on how to structure the award to provide recognition and possibly cover minimal expenses like travel or presentation materials.

The meeting concluded with plans to potentially skip the August meeting due to holidays, with a final decision to be made based on member availability.

Action Items:

1. Mike Bowl will reach out to contacts for potential slide decks for outreach presentations.
2. Mike Bowl and Nicolas Grillet will follow up on the status of the Mini Grant fund and discuss its promotion.
3. Mike Bowl will discuss with the council the possibility of establishing an outreach award.
4. Kelsey Anbuhl will utilize her contacts in science communication to gather feedback on creating engaging and educational outreach materials.
5. Executive Office will provide a list of current ARO partnerships/collaborations
6. Executive Office will send out a time survey for an August meeting. If availability is low, a meeting will not be held.