

DMAC Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 1PM-2PM EST

Attendees:

Ilkem Sevgili	Melanie Barzik
Betsy Driver	Reza Amanipour
Agudemu Borjigin	Marina Silveira
Jarnail Singh	Michele Insanally
Melissa McGovern	Anahita Mehta
Kristin Johnson, Executive Office	

Minutes:

ARO Scholars Task Group Update:

The meeting began with a discussion among ARO members regarding upcoming tasks and updates. Marina and Ilkem provided an update on the ARO Scholars program. Melanie discussed potential funding from the Boroughs Welcome Fund. The Executive Office has launched the donation campaign for ARO Scholars and gave an overview of what has gone out so far. The campaign has only been active for 2 days and has exceeded \$200 USD. Kristin clarified the request for statements from task group and committee members marketing materials noting that the quotes need to be personal explaining why the program is important to the individual or why the broader impact is important. Successful fundraising progress was noted, exceeding previous campaigns. The task group had not yet heard back from BWF. Reza agreed to follow up with them this week. Whether awardees will continue to present a poster at the next MidWinter Meeting (MWM) or begin presenting at the MWM following their summer research was discussed. It was decided that for this year, it will remain the same as last year with the awardee presenting a poster on the research they have already done rather than on the research completed over the summer with their stipend. The task group will discuss how and when to consider changing this in the future.

Special Session Task Group Update:

There was a reminder about the approaching deadline for the special session task group proposal submission, with clarification on the submission of individual abstracts for speakers at the deadline. Emphasis was placed on providing basic information for speakers and as detailed an overview of each speaker's topic as possible, noting in the submission that the finalized abstract will be submitted later. The reason for this is so that the score is not negatively impacted by missing information during the review process. Finalized abstracts can be submitted until sometime in December. This year's symposium will focus on celebrating black scientists in honor of Black History Month, with efforts being made to include underrepresented black scientists at different career stages as speakers. Suggestions for potential panelists and speakers were discussed, including reaching out to Andrea McQuate and Jasmine Kwasa. The need for a female speaker at the postdoc or early faculty stage was emphasized. The importance of geographic diversity in selecting speakers for the panel was emphasized as the current 3 speakers are all from the same state with two being from the same institute. The idea of adding a fourth speaker to diversify the speaker lineup was brought up. It was decided that the task group will aim to have 4, 15-minute talks with a 15-minute panel and a 45-minute mixer to promote networking.

Coffee Hour Task Group Update:

The task group is planning for a coffee hour on writing successful diversity statements sometime in July after the holiday on the 4th. The format will be a panel discussion featuring a mix of senior faculty who regularly participate in hiring committees and junior investigators who were recently hired by their institutions. Two panelists from each category have been identified, but two additional panelists are still needed. Suggestions for panelists are welcome. Timing and marketing considerations for the coffee hour were also discussed, noting that headshots, affiliations, bios, etc. would all need to be submitted to the Executive Officer as soon as possible so marketing materials can be created. As much time as possible to advertise the session is needed to encourage good attendance. The task group agreed that finalizing the schedule and providing the speaker information noted above is a high priority.

Miscellaneous:

Matt Macedo-Lima announced that he would like to help on a task group but that he will be on parental leave for 3 months soon. The committee agreed that the leave is no problem, and that Matt can help with any task group he likes. Matt will let the chairs know which task group(s) he would like to help with. Kristin noted that, with the Special Session submission deadline approaching this week, the Special Session Task Group can reach out to her directly if they need assistance. The meeting concluded with plans to send out minutes and meet again in a month.

ACTION ITEMS (outstanding Action Items from previous calls will remain here):

- Reza will follow up with BWF
- ARO Scholars Task Group will discuss future plans regarding when awardees will present (at the next meeting or after they've completed their summer research which might involve changing the submission timeline in the future years.
- Coffee Hour Task Group will focus on scheduling and obtaining required speaker information for marketing materials
- Special Session Task Group will finalize and submit their proposal on or before the deadline (June 17th, 2024)