



spARO June Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, June 24, 2024

Time: 4:00-5:00 PM ET

The meeting convened with updates from various committees. The Education Committee representative gave an update on the successful middle-ear seminar series, while the Accessibility and Accommodations Committee representative outlined plans for a diversity-focused coffee hour. The group confirmed an upcoming JARO session meeting. Additionally, discussions highlighted the scheduled meetings of the Long-range Planning and Membership Committees to plan future activities. The Travel Awards committee representative informed the group of recent updates, such as the ability for undergraduate students to apply for travel awards this year. The group discussed expanding opportunities for undergraduates, and strategies were suggested to encourage their participation in mentoring programs like the buddy system. Successful mentor pairings with 88 students were reported, underscoring the program's effectiveness.

Next, the group addressed upcoming meetings of the Communications Committee, emphasizing the importance of expanding professional outreach efforts. An idea was proposed to engage younger audiences in discussions about hearing loss, advocating for the group to lead an initiative with adaptable presentations for schools and communities. Concerns were raised regarding initial outreach logistics and feasibility, prompting discussion on potential partnerships with existing groups or securing mini-grants for support.

The group discussed the results of the social offset campaign. Popular suggestions included offering exhibitor booths to charities and encouraging member donations, which ARO would match. There is potential in collaborating with the LGBTQ+ community and various charities such as Equality Florida, Planned Parenthood, and the Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf. Plans were outlined to confirm exhibitor booth allocations with the council and to initiate contact with the mentioned charities, with a proposal to provide event lanyards representing these organizations.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the group's strategy to secure council funding. They agreed to collaborate on a detailed funding proposal using a shared Google Doc, aiming for completion before the next meeting. To streamline communication, it was suggested that a dedicated email chain be set up for involved members.