spARO Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2024
3:00-4:00 PM Eastern Time

Attendees:
George Ordiway (Chair), Audrey Drotos, Micheal Roberts, Samantha Davis, Rose Rizzi, Afagh Farhadi, Ilkem Sevgili, Leslie Gonzales, Matsya Thulasiram, Jessica MacLean, Sumana Ghosh, Rhiannon McNeely (Executive Office)

Minutes:

Safety Survey

The committee confirmed that the safety survey, now approved by ARO Council, would be sent to membership on 12/18/24. The survey will also be shared in the upcoming Q4 ARO Newsletter. The survey aims to gather feedback on safety measures and initiatives that attendees would like to see, such as group meals and travel coordination. Respondents will be asked to provide their names and emails, which will be verified and used to send out the survey link.

Accessibility & Accommodation Committee Update

The Accessibility and Accommodations Committee is working to improve the poster accessibility rating system and planning a coffee hour in January. The committee did not receive any major updates from other subcommittees.

Diversity and Minority Affairs Committee Update

The Diversity and Minority Affairs Committee noted that they were planning another coffee hour and had secured additional funding for an upcoming special session.

Clinician Scientist Committee Updates

The Clinician Scientist Committee is planning two upcoming webinars in the spring as well as a networking event geared towards trainees.

Education Committee Update

The Education Committee is organizing a new initiative on advanced techniques and models for hearing, with the first session scheduled for March. There was no update on the previously discussed coffee hour or special session on publishing.

Long Range Planning Committee Update

The Long Range Planning Committee is continuing work on the draft of the Midwinter Meeting Evaluation Survey, which is currently being reviewed by various committees. The goal is to keep the survey short to maximize response rates.

Membership Committee Update

The Membership Committee shared that they were finalizing a proposal for a pilot program offering free first-year memberships for students, postdocs, and residents to increase involvement and retention. This requires council approval before proceeding. Financial implications were considered, with a backup plan in place if the council cannot forgo membership fees. The committee agreed that the program could provide valuable data on long-term retention.

Poster Blitzes and Volunteer Moderators

The committee discussed the upcoming poster blitzes at the MidWinter meeting, noting there would be two sessions this year for graduate students and postdocs. It was also mentioned tr additional moderators are needed for these sessions.

Sparrow Town Hall Meeting Promotion

The committee discussed the upcoming spARO Town Hall meeting, emphasizing its importance for trainees. It was decided that clearer communication and promotion would be needed to attract attendees. Teh Executive Office will work to promote this event more through social media and email.