spARO Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 16, 2024

The meeting convened with ARO council updates, the upcoming social offset initiative, and the opening of registration for ARO, expected in October. Updates were provided from various committees, including Accessibility and Accommodations, Diversity and Minority Affairs, and Education. It was shared that the Long Range Planning Committee is still compiling survey results and plans to meet in the fall.

The committee discussed spARO mentoring sessions for the upcoming MidWinter meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts, all sessions will be held virtually, either before or during the meeting. Two possible structures were proposed: four sessions over two weekdays or two full days of programming on separate days, with each session independent, requiring separate registration and feedback forms.

Potential topics for the spARO mentoring sessions were discussed, including Mentor-Mentee communication, work-life balance, careers in academia and industry, and navigating the grant landscape. George will reach out to potential speakers and encouraged other members to provide suggestions.

It was suggested that professionals from the hearing in balance research industry be invited to speak at the event, noting that insights from speakers at various career stages could be valuable, particularly those who have transitioned from academia.

The team discussed potential speakers for an upcoming session focused on grants and funding opportunities, considering inviting someone from the NIDCD for insights on domestic and international grants. They acknowledged the importance of understanding program officers' preferences for effective communication and discussed the possibility of inviting speakers from the Health Foundation for an international perspective.