Physics Researcher Society Meeting Minutes

18th November 2015

Present:
Richard Evans    Lianne Scruton (Chair)
Greg Melia       Leo Tarlirz
Ben Murphy       Sam Thompson
Siew Wai Poon

Apologies for Absence:
Barat Kuerbanjiang
Helen Miller

Matters Arising:
1. Career Development

Career development offered by PhRS to fit into PhD professional skills – ST reported that points on skillsforge can be earned through talk at conferences etc, so any development offered by PhRS can count in a similar way. If courses held by PhRS have good feedback, this should be fed to Phil Lighfoot. **ACTION: ST to inform graduate committee that this information should be made clearer to postgrads.**

Project Management Course: BM to contact RDT about holding a more in-depth project management course. **ACTION: BM**

Feedback on courses held by University: It was suggested that there should be a page on our website dedicated to the courses offered centrally by the University and, more importantly, how useful/relevant these were. Ratings/polls to be provided by attendees. **Action: ST to create page on website. Ongoing.**

Report about MM Microwave industry event: Generally agreed to be useful by those who attended. Highlighted the differences between academia and industry well and was informative about how to apply for industry positions.

Future industry-related events: Possible talks from employees at Kromek and Seagate. Should also take the opportunity to talk to alumni of the physics department during the 50th anniversary celebrations in January. **Action: PD to contact Kromek (Adam Tuff?) / RE to find out more Seagate visit.**

Peer review Panel: RE offered to give a ~1hr talk to postdocs and postgrads about how to sign up to peer review panel and advice on the peer review process. **ACTION: RE, LS to organise.**
Other academic events: It was suggested that courses/talks on Grant writing, fellowship writing and writing papers would be useful. It was suggested that Thomas Krauss might be able to provide good advice on grant writing as he has had a number of successful grants, or professionals could be brought in. ACTION: Ongoing.

Coursera: SWP informed the meeting about an online resource called Coursera that provides online courses on many topics including scientific writing. ACTION: ST to add link onto website.

2. General Society Matters:
Promoting the webpage: It was decided that anything sent out in emails as an attachment will now be sent as a link through the website. This should increase the awareness of the society webpage. ACTION: Revisit at next meeting to gauge success.

Set up email account for PhRS: It was decided that an email account for the PhRS should be created that can be accessed by committee members. ACTION: LS to contact Simon Hart.

Facebook page: It was suggested that a Facebook page should be created to promote events held by PhRS. There should also be a feed available on the society webpage. ACTION: GM to create and update Facebook page, ST to add feed to website.

3. Social Activities:
Suggestions: Walk or hike suggested by Barat in the RF meeting. It was suggested that this should be local (Kirkham Priory for example) with the option of pub food afterwards. ACTION: Need someone to organise this!
Board games were also suggested.

Cake and coffee: It was decided to reduce this down to once per term to encourage higher attendance. It should also be used as a forum to activate discussion about courses/events/opinions etc. ACTION: LS to organise next event in January.

Any Other Business:
It was suggested that a topic for the next meeting could be the induction process for new PostDocs and postgrads. Could there be a “buddy scheme” implemented?

Chair of next meeting: Sam Thompson
Date of next meeting: 27th January 2016, 4pm, YPI (if possible).