

Tuesday 24th January 2023 - (In person G31 + Teams)

Members of Executive Committee (apologies):

Head of Centre: David Wyllie (apologies)

Deputy HoC: David Lyons (Lead for Research Opportunities)

Deputy HoC: Tara Spires-Jones (Lead for Career Development)

Finance Lead: Sutherland Maciver

Equality and Diversity Lead: Norah Spears

Post-graduate Lead (PI): Paula Brunton

Post-graduate Lead (current student): Constantinos Eleftheriou

Post-doctoral Lead (PI): Emily Osterweil

Post-doctoral Lead (current post-doc): Brianna Vandrey

Professional Support Services Leads: James Griffiths (technical), **Beverly Roberts** (administration)

Seminar Leads: Nicola Romano (Central), **Jian Gan** (BioQuarter)

Remit:

The Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences Executive Committee (EC) will discuss Centre research strategy, career development, best practice in research across the centre, and needed improvements. The EC will meet (approximately) every three months, alternating between Central and BioQuarter campuses (or meet virtually if required). Meeting dates will be announced in advance to allow Agenda items to be submitted for discussion. EC- will consult with Centre members to ensure we are meeting the needs of everyone in the centre as best we can. We will circulate the minutes of our meetings to CDBS members to ensure transparency in the running of the centre. The EC is a resource for all members of the centre and we encourage people to get in touch with any EC members about any CDBS related issues.

Minutes:

1. Minutes from Last Meeting

- EC approved the minutes from the last meeting.

Points noted:

PhD Event - 2nd Year Talks or ERC Symposium:

- PhD/ECR event- will hopefully be organised. This would be an 'in person' event followed by a social get together. New Post-graduate Lead + Brianna Vandrey to look into options. Times in May after exams finish or September before teaching starts were mentioned as potentially good times to host the event.

2. Finance Update

- Sutherland Maciver had not managed to obtain a breakdown of funds from Morag Laidlaw. The P + M system meant a delay in this information being available.
- David Lyons suggested getting in touch with Paula Hamilton (Finance Business Partner/Finance Directorate) [paula.hamilton@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Paula.Hamilton@ed.ac.uk) to obtain a breakdown of grant code spending.
- James Griffiths expressed concern at the difficulty in keeping a close eye on grant spending for labs/Pis, particularly shared accounts, with the new P + M system.

3. Career Development update:

- **Tara Spires-Jones:**

- Chancellor's Fellowships have been advertised with new recruits informed of decisions in mid-late February
- Another CF advertisement is due in September.
- [British Neuroscience Association](#) are advertising for council and committee positions for those interested.
- [Wellcome applications](#) were open and highlighted for ECRs and Pis.

4. Resignations from committee and newly elected:

- Norah Spears (Equality and Diversity) and Constantinos Eleftheriou (Post-graduate Lead)were thanked for their contribution whilst serving on the committee.
 - **Equality and Diversity - new elected lead:** Gulsen Surmeli
 - **Post-graduate Lead - new elected lead:** Laoise Casserly

5. CDBS Seminar Series Update

- Jian Gan (BioQuarter):
 - With a lack of speaker suggestions forthcoming, Jian was finding it difficult to fill Monday seminar slots. He and David Lyons would encourage internal PIs/ECRs to speak.
 - Szu-Han Wang was stepping down as CCBS seminar series organiser after several years – so a replacement would be sought within CCBS.
- Nicola Romano (Central):
 - Most Central slots were now filled with speakers, but often suggestions were from the same PIs.
 - Seminar attendance numbers varied with around half attending in person vs online.
 - Offering pizza following seminars was hoped to improve attendance numbers.
 - Seminar costs had risen (travel and accommodation) so a seminar budget may have to rise in the future.

6. Any other business:

- **Disturbing Incident – Friday 20th Jan:**

A PhD student leaving HRB after hours was kicked and surrounded by teenagers trying to force their way into the building. EC are not satisfied with the response so far from security.

James Griffiths emailed the centre asking everyone to remain vigilant, stay safe, call security if needed, and make people aware of alternative exits. Noted that the main HRB after hours exit has issues with the door opening when people push past or push the button. He will also follow up on some lighting and cctv issues with estates. EC would like more frequent patrols by security - at least between reception closing at 5 - 8pm when most experiments are done. James will be speaking with security and the student involved. Dean BMS and Centre Director will also follow this up.

- **A question raised re CDBS Equality and Diversity lead responsibilities overlapping with those of BMS Equality and Diversity rep – Dawn Livingstone.**

The committee felt it was important to have an EDI rep on our committee since EDI is such an important issue to the centre. The role does not have formal responsibilities which might overlap with BMS but does ensure that we consider EDI in all CDBS activities run by our committee and provides a liaison who can ask questions and find information as needed from Dawn and the wider community

- The date of the next Executive Committee Meeting would be in April/May tbc.
- If you would like anything added to the next agenda, please contact: laura.thomas@ed.ac.uk