

U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting

January 9th, 2014

HSEB 5100 A

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Attendance: John O'Shea (Oncological Sciences), Jennifer Mabey (Graduate School), Catherine Loc-Carrillo (Orthopedics), Gemma Robinson (Oncological Sciences), Jessica Pearson (Modern Dance), Hadi Javan (Molecular Medicine).

Skype: María del Mar González-González (Art History)

Known Absences: Simran Sidhu (School of Medicine), Martine Green-Rogers (Theatre), MaryAnne Berzins (HR)

Unplanned Absences: Natasha Naylor (Law and Social Sciences)

1. Approve minutes from 11-7-2013 (John)
 - A. Approved subject to correction of spelling errors
 - i. Page 1, Point 2C – College
 - ii. Name spelling correction: María del Mar González-González
 - iii. We should also start posting minutes on the UPDA website starting from these meetings minutes.

Action: Send John a corrected version of the minutes from 11-7-2013 (Gemma)

2. General Report of Past Activities (John)
 - A. Lumpy's and the Marriott Hotel bar socials had poor turnouts.
 - B. The general consensus is that we need to decide whether to have more or less.
 - i. John suggests that every month is too much.
 - ii. A coffee shop UPDA social has also not proved popular
 - iii. Fewer events are probably the best option.
 - iv. Plan to see how the turnout for bowling and skiing days is.
3. Professional development series topic suggestions (John)
 - A. MaryAnn would like some ideas for professional development workshops to deliver in March.
 - B. The career development webinars that Ashley organized last year were very popular
 - i. Catherine has access to the webinars: 'Deciphering NIH funding for beginners', 'NIH Career Development Awards', 'Breaking into NIH funding and beyond'.
 - ii. General consensus is to repeat these in February 2014 over three weeks: 6th, 13th, 20th of February 12-1pm in HSEB. Lunch will be provided.
 - iii. Catherine, John and Hadi will host one event each.

Action: Catherine will send out an email to notify postdocs that the UPDA will be hosting this event.

- iii. Gemma suggested a 'new faculty question and answer session'. John mentioned that this was organized two years ago and was very popular. He will contact the Life Sciences postdoc organization to see if they want to repeat this event with us.

Action: John will contact Life Sciences postdoc organization to discuss new faculty event. Also, everyone should take time to think about other potential workshop ideas for Mary to run in March and email John with ideas.

4. UPDA Upcoming events (John)

- A. "What Makes a Great Job Talk" – Friday January 10, 2014
 - i. This event has had a lot of interest so far and numbers have been increased from 20 to 40. Lunch is provided. The event is currently full.
- B. Ski day – Feb? (Jessica)
 - i. Brighton Ski day: January is 'Learn to Ski' month at Brighton. The offer is Ski or Snowboard for \$49, which includes lift ticket, equipment rental and half-day lesson.
 - ii. This is a great deal.
 - iii. Propose to run this event on Saturday 25th of January 2014 at 1.15pm

Action: Jessica will send out an email with details of the event. This will include details of suitable clothing and links to useful websites such as 'Utah skiing' and 'University of Utah Campus Rec'. Also, include an RSVP option.

iv. Hadi also mentioned that the Cross Culture Club (CCC) usually organizes an event to Snowbird for approx. \$57, which includes lift ticket, equipment rental and half-day lesson. This is later in the season so could be a second option for postdocs.

C. Bowling April 17th 6/7pm (Martine/John)

- i. Bowling near State street. People can purchase their own food/drinks and will pay for their own bowling. No RSVP – just see who turns up.

D. Additional Socials

- i. John's Birthday is the 3rd of May – remember to wish him a very Happy Birthday ☺
- ii. 15th May 2014: Poplar Street Pub for drinks and food.
- iii. Summer BBQ June 27th 2014 – discuss making reservations for this at next UPDA meeting.

5. Counseling Center – Survey for Services (Jennifer and Hadi)

- A. On-going

6. Postdoc Resources (Jennifer)

- A. Dean of the graduate school is eager to make a cultural change towards improvements in postdoc mentoring agreements.
 - i. No time scale at the moment.
- B. At last meeting we discussed sending an email out to Dean's of schools re. raising awareness of UPDA and encouraging postdocs to get involved. Martine is putting this letter together within the next two weeks.

Action: John will forward final email version to Jennifer for approval.

7. Welcome/Survival Package for International UPDA newcomers (Hadi)

- A. On-going
 - i. Once Hadi has the information ready he will distribute it to UPDA board members to take a look.

8. Academy of Health Sciences Educators (Gemma)

- A. This is an initiative being introduced by the health sciences department.

B. There is a level that postdocs can apply to be members of, which aids teacher training and provides teaching mentors for postdocs.

C. We will put the website link on the UPDA website. It would be very difficult to just send the information to health science postdocs due to list server updates. The life sciences postdoc organization may have the relevant contact list.

Action: Gemma will send both Catherine and Jennifer the Academy of Health Sciences Educators website for inclusion on the UPDA and Postdoc website.

9. NPA Conference/General Meeting 4-5th April 2014 in St. Louis. (Jennifer)

A. John will attend this conference with Jennifer and update the board at the following UPDA meeting.

B. Catherine will forward John the email that details the outline for the conference.

10. Additional Points of Discussion?

A. Catherine – when Simran returns from vacation, she will walk her through taking over the communications role including the website etc. John and Simran have been added to receive the UPDA email. Simran will be the person to respond unless she is absent in which case John will reply. Both John and Simran can update the website.

B. Hadi will take over Nelly's role to contact new postdocs. Jennifer will send any new contact details to Hadi. Do not send these emails from your personal address; send it from the UPDA email address.

C. Jennifer will also arrange for Simran and John to receive wordpress training from IT for the UPDA website.

D. John enquired if anyone had heard from Natasha? No. John will try and contact her to see if she still wants to be involved and check that we don't have the wrong email address.

11. End of Meeting

Next Meeting: 2/27/14 Marriott Library - Frances C. Hoopes Seminar Room Rm 2130N