

U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting

February 27th, 2014

Frances C Hoopes Seminar Room (RM 2130N), Marriott Library

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Attendance: John O'Shea (Oncological Sciences), Jennifer Mabey (Graduate School), Gemma Robinson (Oncological Sciences), Simran Sidhu (School of Medicine), María del Mar González-González (Art History), Martine Green-Rogers (Theatre), MaryAnne Berzins (HR)

Known Absences: Catherine Loc-Carrillo (Orthopedics), Hadi Javan (Molecular Medicine), Jessica Pearson (Modern Dance)

Unplanned Absences: Natasha Naylor (Law and Social Sciences)

Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from last meeting (John)

A. Approved!

B. John mentioned that Simran needs to upload the minutes from our last meeting to the UPDA website once approved. The meeting minutes from January 9th 2014 will be the first ones uploaded to the UPDA website.

Action: Simran, please upload the board meeting minutes from January 9th, 2014 to the UPDA website.

2. Committee Members (John)

A. John emailed Natasha but got no reply. To make it easier to get things voted in at board meetings we must vote to remove her as a board member since she has been consistently absent. The board voted to remove Natasha as a board member. However, she is welcome back at any time!

Action: The board voted to remove Natasha as a UPDA board member.

3. General Report of Past Activities

A. Ski Day [25th Jan 2014] (Jessica)

- Jessica is absent from the board meeting so we cannot get a detailed description of how the event was received.

- John believes that four people turned up.

- We will discuss this event with Jessica at the next meeting.

- How many people RSVP'd?

Action: At the next board meeting ask Jessica how the Ski Day was received.

B. Career development webinars [6th, 13th & 20th Feb 2014] (John)

- These were well-attended. Food was provided, which always seems to entice people.

- Different opinions regarding which webinars were good/relevant. However, people seemed to like different elements so generally well-rounded and well-received.

- The board agreed that these should be organized every year.

- John mentioned that the NIH has more webinars available for purchase. However, these are expensive. Also the number of people continuing into academic career paths is low and hence these are targeted to a very small percentage of people.
- General consensus is that we do not purchase anymore webinars and rather use the ones that we already have access to.
- María del Mar mentioned blogs (for example, “The Professor Is In” <http://theprofessorisin.com/>) that are available re. the job market for graduate students/postdocs etc. Therefore, we could provide the links to these on our website? However, there does appear to be a fee.
- Martine asked if we are correctly ‘tapping’ the resources at Utah since there are lots of resources/relevant people available. RATS are available for trainees, which is incredibly wide-spread and useful.
- Jennifer mentioned that she had met with Dean of the Graduate School (Dr. David Kieda) who had some suggestions for targeting postdocs including outreach meetings (with pizza) for physics, biology, chemistry etc by taking the UPDA to “them”.
- This could follow a “Meet the UPDA” type theme where we go to meet them by extending an invitation to discuss any issues.
- We can rotate different departments every other month.
- John mentioned that this will have to be a team effort since he could not attend them all due to time-constraints.
- MaryAnne has offered to send out flyers to her faculty contacts in different departments to energize people to come along.
- Martine and María del Mar have offered to run the first event in the college of engineering.

Tentative Details

Friday 28th March, 2014 @12.30pm

Pizza provided but they need to RSVP

Jennifer will provide Martine with an email list specifically for engineering. The plan is to get the word out using flyers.

If this is successful we will look at organizing events in other departments.

Action: Discuss the outcome of this event at the next UPDA board meeting.

4. Professional development series topic suggestions (John)

A. MaryAnne has multiple events organized including time-management and the summer workshops from May through June (5 weeks).

- Enlist faculty to help get the word out.
- MaryAnn has organized departmental PDS events that have been well-received and can be tailored for each department.
- MaryAnn would be happy to work with small cohorts of postdocs/grad students if they have a specific topic.
- In this scenario, there needs to be at least 10 and as many as 40 in order to run a successful class.
- Graduate students and postdocs welcome.

5. UPDA Upcoming events (John)

A. Bowling Social AMF Ritz Classic Lanes [17th April 2014 - 6:30 pm]
(Martine)

- The bowling venue can provide a discount provided we book a certain number of lanes. However, we don't think we will have that many people turn up.
- Martine will draft an email, but we will not include RSVPs, after she has rang the venue to determine where we stand with lane reservations etc and how busy it will be. Do not book/reserve lanes.

Action: Martine will draft an email for Simran to distribute.

B. Academic Career Panel [27th March 2014 - 12:30 pm] (John)

- 25th March 2014 at 12.30 pm.
- Faculty from chemistry, physics, pathology, oncsci and engineering.
- John does not have a faculty candidate from engineering. MaryAnn can enquire about this and contact John with options.
- Format: Background to their career trajectory, application process, negotiations and Q&A.

Action: MaryAnn will find an early career faculty member from the engineering department and forward there details on to John.

- John also mentioned that his contact in physics thought we should invite a non-academic career panel member. However, this would be difficult for us to implement with such short notice.
- We can plan something along the lines of non-academic career paths for the postdoc week in October.
- To get funding for this we would need to go higher up than the UPDA. For example, the VP for research would need approaching to find funds.

Action: MaryAnn will contact VP for research to enquire about available funding for events such as this.

C. Cross Culture Club Snowbird Ski day (Hadi)

- Tabled, Hadi absent.

D. Poplar Street Pub Social [15th May 2014]

E. Summer BBQ [27th June 2014]

- Friday 27th of June 2014.
- Jennifer mentioned that we can start reserving Sunnyside BBQ pit on March 4th 2014.

Action: Jennifer will reserve Sunnyside BBQ pit for Friday the 27th June 2014 from 5-10pm.

Action: Simran, please update the UPDA website activities.

6. Counseling Center – Survey for Services (Jennifer and Hadi)
Tabled until next meeting.

7. Postdoc Resources (Jennifer)

- Jennifer met with Tom Parks and Cindy Firth from VP for research re. cultural changes to “beef-up” the mentoring side of things for postdocs.
- General idea is a targeted campaign to change the culture of mentoring
- Mentoring information available on the VP for research website under faculty resources link.

8. Recruitment Letter to Heads of Departments (John)

A. Emphasize how this might help the Dean’s e.g., postdoc awareness of training, postdoc well-being, integration into Utah community.

B. Jennifer has a list of head of departments/department chairs specifically those that have postdocs in their departments.

- Ideally we want to get to those as closely involved to postdocs as possible.

C. Martine will update the letter and re-distribute for approval.

Action: Martine will update the letter and send out for approval before distributing to department chair contacts provided by Jennifer.

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

Tabled – Hadi’s computer crashed.

10. Simran (and John?) Wordpress training from IT for the UPDA website?

A. Jennifer will organize this.

10. Additional Points of Discussion?

A. Travel form for John from Jennifer.

11. End of Meeting

Documents Sent: Minutes from January meeting, Agenda & Draft Letter to Deans.

Next Meeting

24th April 2014 – HSEB 5100 D 12:00 - 1:30 PM