

Utah Postdoctoral Association (UPDA) Board Meeting

April 24th, 2014

HSEB 5100D

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Attendance: John O'Shea (Oncological Sciences), Jennifer Mabey (Graduate School), Gemma Robinson (Oncological Sciences), Simran Sidhu (School of Medicine), Martine Green-Rogers (Theatre), Catherine Loc-Carrillo (Orthopedics), Jessica Pearson (Modern Dance), Yen Wang (Oncological Sciences).

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

Unplanned Absences: Hadi Javan (Molecular Medicine), MaryAnne Berzins (HR)

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from last meeting (John)

A. Approved!

2. Committee Members (John)

A. We need to recruit more people to the UPDA board.

B. Martine mentioned that there might be someone from the Engineering department who could be interested. She will contact them to find out if they are interested in getting involved.

C. There will be new postdocs entering the Art and Humanities department so Martine, Jessica and María del Mar will try and recruit these to the UPDA.

D. We also had Yen Wang; a new postdoctoral fellow from Oncological Sciences, in attendance today-- Welcome Yen!

3. General Report of Past Activities

- Ski Day [25th Jan 2014] (Jessica)

A. Not many people turned up.

B. 10 RSVP'd to the event and only 5 actually turned up. Jessica said that it was very difficult to meet with people because it was so busy so she may have missed meeting up with some people.

C. We should offer this event again next year but try to be better prepared with a meeting place e.g., meet at the bottom of the mountain first.

- Academic Career Panel [25th March 2014] (John)

A. This event had a great turn out. We should definitely offer this event again. We should also offer it in conjunction with other University events that follow a similar

theme. E.g., Kristen Keefe in the department of pharmacological and toxicology organizes a similar event.

B. John will contact Kristen Keefe to enquire about any upcoming Career Panel discussions.

C. Biosciences Career Day also holds similar events. These take place every other year. We should help advertise these events when they're organized through the university.

D. We should try and organize such events every year since they're so popular.

- Bowling Social [17th April 2014] (Martine)

A. Very disappointing turnout - one non-committee member turned up.

The most popular social events are those held in the bars. Family type events just do not get a good turn out. Although the summer picnic usually has a good turnout. Better advertising might help: this includes both early event notification and putting up posters. John mentioned that other universities also seem to have the same problems that we have with regards to turnout of people for events.

4. UPDA Upcoming events (John)

- Poplar Street Pub Social [15th May 2014]

A. Simran will put together an email to send out ASAP. Also, send a reminder email out a few days before and on the day. Include in this email a link to the UPDA website.

- Summer BBQ [27th June 2014]

A. Simran and Catherine will organize this event.

B. Sunnyside Terrace has been booked from 5-10 pm.

C. Buy food and then request a reimbursement.

D. Send event email out closer to the Poplar Street pub social event and include an RSVP so that we can judge the amount of food to purchase.

D. Also, put together a flier for this event to post around campus at least two weeks before.

- Meet the UPDA events (Martine)

A. The engineering department UPDA event had around 4 people turn-up.

B. The main point that people made was that their fellowships are relatively short (1-2 years) and, therefore, the impermanence of their jobs hinders their interest in joining/getting involved with the UPDA.

C. They are interested, however, in attending career development type events especially presenting with confidence; industry panel discussion and summer workshop series type events.

D. MaryAnne has offered to take these events to individual departments.

E. They really need representation though so that we can meet their needs!

- Summer Workshop series

A. These are planned for August time and delivered by MaryAnn.

- B. We have dates but no titles.
- C. We should send an email to promote these events soon.

- National Postdoc Appreciation Week (15th – 19th Sep 2014)

- A. Very poor turnout last year – need to brainstorm how we can improve this event. This could have been due to very poor publicity.
- B. John will not be here for this event. Hadi should think about running this event since he will be taking over as UPDA chair come September.
- C. Previous years we have held the AGM and Social on different days and we believe that we should go back to this format rather than both on the same day.
- D. We should hold the AGM on Tuesday lunchtime and the social on Thursday evening at Gracie's.
- E. It might be a good idea to invite an outside speaker in.
- F. Jennifer said that the university has funds available for this should we want to do this. Previous years we have had Vivian Lee speak.
- G. It may be difficult to get someone because it is UPDA week, however we should still try.
- H. If anyone has any ideas of speakers to invite then email John.

6. Recruitment Letter to Heads of Departments (John)

- A. Martine sent John the letter and it was approved for distribution.
- B. We should send this out in an email as opposed to a letter.
- C. Hopefully we will see an increase in UPDA involvement after this has been distributed.
- D. John received a list of all head of departments from Jennifer however it isn't clear if this list is correct.
- E. John and Jennifer will communicate to ensure that the letter is sent to the correct people.

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

- A. Tabled: Hadi Absent from meeting.

8. Promoting use of UPDA website/ Signing up as Affiliate Individual Member

- A. John suggested that we should sign-up as Affiliate Individual Members of the National Postdoctoral Association and include a link on the UPDA website.
- B. It is free to join.

8. Additional Points of Discussion?

- A. Catherine mentioned that the postdoc journal she is affiliated with has requested that we endorse them.
- B. It is unclear what this endorsement means exactly.
- C. It would be great to find out exactly what they mean by endorsement before we provide one.

D. We already advertise this journal on our website.

9. End of Meeting

Next Meeting

19th July 2014

Frances C Hoopes, Marriott Library

12pm.