

MINUTES
U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting
12.00-1.00 pm on November 1st, 2019
HSEB 5100A

Total Board Member Count: 12 + 1 (*Dr.Barrios*)

Board members: Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Amelia Hodges (Chemistry), Fatima Abbas (ophthalmology), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Aneesa Al Soodani (Chemistry), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry Department), Esther Chang (DFPM), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine)

Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs: Dr. Amy Barrios

Number Present (as recorded in Sign-in sheet): 9

Present: Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry Department), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Amelia Hodges (Chemistry), Aneesa Al Soodani (Chemistry), Dr. Amy Barrios, Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry)

Known Absences: Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Esther Chang (DFPM)

Absences: Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Fatima Abbas (ophthalmology)

Guests: Ann Liu (Biochemistry)

Minutes taken by: Noemi Paguigan

Agenda

12:00 pm: **Voting:**

Junior Chair: Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine), voted in with 11 votes.

New Board members: none

Aneesa's last meeting before proceeding to her new position outside the U.

12:02 pm: **Approve minutes** from previous meetings – Both are approved.

September

October

12:05 pm: **Attendance policy discussion**

Revisiting the by laws. Do we need to modify it? The board members need to attend at least 50% of the meeting. If you are an officer you need to play an active role by attending >50% of the meetings, at least every other meeting (or depends on special circumstances).

We need to define what 50% means.

Sharanya will send out an email for the trial attendance policy.

Sharanya will send out an email/doodle for a new board meeting schedule.

12:08 pm: **December Board meeting date**

- will not be first week as Sharanya will be traveling then
- discuss postponing it to 12th or 13th

This will discussed after the Doodle survey.

12:10 pm: **Townhall**

Townhall decision summary: A poll was conducted via email to decide whether the November L&L on Postdoc Rights & Benefits should be in the form of the traditional panel discussion, or in the

form of a townhall involving smaller group discussions of postdoc concerns followed by an en masse discussion of the top concerns. A total of 9 votes were cast – 7 for townhall, 2 for panel discussion.

Dr. Barrios will update on the proposed format, date etc., based on her meeting with Mary Anne Berzins of HR.

More roundtable discussions.

Point of discussions: What kind of support do postdocs need to help in their career or experience?

What kind of changes are needed?

What kind of policies should be implemented to help postdocs?

Suggestions for discussion:

Have different themes to discuss in the roundtable discussions. Come up with the top three that focus on policies, career, expectations, options and etc.

Have formal orientation for new postdocs (HR approved).

-What are your rights and benefits as a postdoc (vacation days, leaves and etc)

Dates proposed: 11/20, 12/10, 12/11 and 12/13 from 12-1:15.

Approved 20th of November.

Sharanya will book the room.

Title proposed: Round-table discussion on “Optimizing your postdoctoral experience at the U: challenges and opportunities associated with postdoc rights, responsibilities and benefits”

Title approved.

Dr. Barrios will prepare the handout for the meeting.

Mediator: Mary Anne Berzins, HR

12:20 pm: **Regular Postdoc Orientation meetings**

Discussion by Dr.Barrios based on her meeting with Mary-Anne Berzins

This will start once both are ready.

12:25 pm: **October events**

- October 5th: Hiking - Ibantik Lake Trail – Update by Shraddha – RSVPs: 8, Attended: 9-10 and a dog
Shraddha will organize next events.
- October 15th: NIH Loan Repayment Program: Jan Abramson, OSP – RSVPs: 3, Attended: 4, including Sharanya
The event was great and went for an hour.
- October 23rd : Lunch & Learn – Chalk Talks, Asst. Prof Adam Douglass, Neurobiology & Anatomy, 12-1pm, HSEB 3515B, Co-ordinated by Shraddha – RSVPs: 45, Attended: 30
Everybody enjoyed. The discussions were very helpful and on point.
- Thirsty Thursday: October 31st, Halloween – Will not be held this month

12:30 pm: **Planning Social Events**

Future Thirsty Thursday events: Need social co-ordinator

The board needs somebody to take over Aneesa's responsibilities. Elizabeth volunteered to send out the emails for Thirsty Thursdays events.

For the person taking over the responsibilities: emails should be sent out a week and a day of the event. The place where the event is going to take place needs to be checked.

The UPDA website needs to be updated. Amelia will start working on this.

Holiday Potluck: needs to be planned ahead. Will be held in the HSEB atrium.

Sharanya will reserve the atrium.

Event will be held on a Friday.

Avoid students finals week.

Suggested date: December 11 or 12 at 5-7pm.

Event should be advertised as a holiday gathering and not a pot luck. Attendees are encouraged to bring food.

12:35 pm: **Faculty Application Workshop**

- Diversity Statement will be held November 13th, EIHG 5205, 1-3pm, Dr. Paul Sigala (Biochemistry) and Darin Ryujin, Associate Professor (clinical) and Director of Inclusion and Diversity
- Teaching Statement was co-ordinated by Marta – November 14th, HSEB 3430, 1-3pm, Alyson Froehlich, PhD, Assistant Professor (Lecturer), Dept of Psychology, CTLE

Postdocs that are interested with this event:6

Will food be provided: Yes. Food will depend on the number of RSVPs.

12:40pm: **November events:**

- L&L, if townhall is not on 11/20: Potential topics: Financial Planning, Generating research ideas/productive brainstorming, Families & Careers - academic/industry challenges when you start a family, Teaching as a career
- C&B: Government Positions, Ivy/Erin
- Thirsty Thursday: Cancelled

12:45 pm: **December events**

- December 4th: C&B on "How much can you take with you?" – Dr.Matt Miller, Biochemistry, 10-11am, room to be reserved by Sharanya.
Organized by Shradda.

12:50 pm: **January events**

L&L : Tony Tsai about Creating a Meaningful Career

C&B: Entrepreneurship / Commercializing your Science – TT office / Business school

Shraddha suggested one of Michael Kay's student.

Sharanya will reach out to Tony Tsai.

Sharanya will reach out to people for the C&B event.

12:55pm Guest comments :

UPDA board meeting is very interesting.

Actions are being taken to help postdocs improve their experience at work.

People actually care for postdocs.

1:00 pm

End of Meeting