

Minutes
U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting
12.00-1.00 pm on March, 6th, 2020
HSEB 5100A

Total Board Member Count: 12

Board members: Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry), Esther Chang (DFPM), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine), Dr. Amy Barrios (Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs), Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry), Matthias Lange (CVRTI).

Number Present (as recorded in Sign-in sheet): 10

Present : Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry), Esther Chang (DFPM), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine), Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry), Matthias Lange (CVRTI).

Known Absences: Natalia Torres

Absences:

Guests: Cheryl Mathis (Medicinal Chemistry), Harriet Dashnow (via Skype), James Holt, Isha Soni, Kenneth Lyon, Caralyn Flack

Minutes taken by: Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry)

Agenda

12:00 pm: **Introduction of attendees (3 mins)**

12:03 pm: **Acknowledge Contribution of Past Board Members (2 mins)**

We acknowledged the impactful and meaningful contributions by Fatima Abbas during her time in the UPDA board.

12:05 pm: **Approve minutes from February meeting (2 mins)**

Edits were made by Marta Szulik on the February minutes.

12:07 pm: **Discussion on UPDA Working Committees (15 mins)**

- Purpose of committees
- Committee meetings to be held separately/via email – Increase participation
- Recognition Incentives – Titles?
- Potential Committees

Each committee should have set goals and/or milestones. Each committee should be evaluated biannually/annually.

- Communications committee

Improve on how advertisements for events are sent out to encourage more people to join the events.

Shraddha is still working on changing some of the templates for the advertisements.

Cheryl Mathis volunteered to become an assistant to the Chair of the Communications Committee.

- Social events Committee
 - Low attendance in thirsty Thursday could be attributed to advertising.
 - Events are dependent on the season.
 - We should try Thirsty Tuesday Happy hours (\$2 beer) at Porcupine (or other venues close to campus) after work.
 - Shraddha will decide if she wants to chair the social events committee.
 - Shraddha changed her mind and will be the Chair of the Social Events Committee.
- Green card committee
 - Information is not readily available for postdocs who are interested in applying for a green card or other work authorizations.
 - This committee is more of an “interest group” rather than a committee.
 - Will this committee work closely with the university office of the general counsel?
 - Matthias Lange/ Ioannis Karagiannidis are heading this committee.
- Outreach committee – new members, collab. with inter-departmental PDAs
 - The UPDA needs to reach out to other postdocs.
 - The UPDA needs to make sure that all the postdocs are getting the emails or added to the UPDA email list.
 - How do we effectively reach out to all postdocs?
 - The UPDA needs to coordinate with the professors and/or department administrative staffs on campus to disseminate information about the UPDA.
 - Shraddha will help with the outreach committee.
 - Tosifa volunteered to help in this committee.
- Advocacy Committee
 - Create standard guidelines on how postdocs to be properly compensated.
 - Adapt policies that are in place in other institutions.
 - Focus on health benefits, retirement benefits, leave benefits and etc that would be important to postdocs.
- Symposium/Career Fair committee – as needed
- Committee Chairs (CC)– volunteers from Board
 - Chair should have more interaction with the other committees.
 - Chairs will have autonomy.
- Can CCs decide how to recruit members, run committees? – degree of autonomy, work-flow, decision-tree
- Including language in UPDA Board Policy

- Symposium Concerns - What would attract more postdocs to participate in the symposium?
How can we ensure postdoc participation?
The symposium is a half day event to encourage more people to participate.
- Venue not available for May 12th – can we choose another date?
Crocker Science is under renovation.
The date for the symposium is too early and given the time the UPDA might not be able to properly prepare for it.
The UPDA needs to build on what incentive should be given in order to encourage more participation in the symposium.
- Volunteers for Symposium Committee if approved

12:32 pm: **Discussion on Social Events for 2020 (10 mins)**

- Thirsty Thursday – we usually have minimal attendance
Thirsty Thursdays will be replaced with Thirsty Tuesdays (Happy Hour Tuesday)
- What other events can we plan to increase postdoc collaboration and a sense of community?
The UPDA should plan to organize social events on Fridays or weekends maybe this would increase attendance.

12:42 pm: **Discussion on upcoming Events (10 mins)**

- March events
 - Academic Job Search Panel
Martha will reach out to 3 faculty members
 - Industry Job Search Panel
Sharanya reached out to people from the industry.
- April Events
 - Academic CV workshop
 - Industry Resume Workshop
- Thirsty Thursday in March?
Changed the event to Happy Hour Tuesday/Thirsty Tuesdays.
- Next Board Meeting Venue
Marriot Library

12:52 pm: **Discussion on past events (5mins)**

- New Postdoc Orientation
- Time Management
- How to Build a Meaningful Career
- IDP workshop

12:57 pm: **Guest comments (3 mins)**

Move some of the social events to Friday or weekends.

Try asking the administrative people/faculty from different departments to advertise the presence of UPDA on campus.

1:00 pm:

End of Meeting