

Minutes
U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting
12.00-1.00 pm on September 4th, 2020
Virtual meeting via ZOOM

Total Board Member Count: 12

Board members:

Esther Chang (DFPM)
Harriet Dashnow (Human Genetics)
Kenneth Lyon (Neurobiology and Anatomy)
Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry, Human Genetics)
Marta Szulik (CVRTI)
Matthias Lange (CVRTI)
Natalia Torres (CVRTI)
Noemi Paguiguan (Medicinal Chemistry)
Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI)
Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry)
Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology)
Amy Barrios (OPA)
Leave of absence: Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine)

Number Present (as recorded in Zoom chat):

Present: Esther Chang (DFPM), Harriet Dashnow (Human Genetics), Kenneth Lyon (Neurobiology and Anatomy), Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry, Human Genetics), Matthias Lange (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Noemi Paguiguan (Medicinal Chemistry), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Amy Barrios (OPA)

Known Absences: Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI)

Absences:

Guests: Mai Tran (Biology, Human Genetics), Olja Simoska (Chemistry Department), Rachel Belote (HCI)

Minutes taken by: Noemi Paguiguan

Agenda

Old business (15 minutes)

1. Introduction of new attendees
2. Approve minutes from August meeting: Approved
3. Brief committee updates:
 - a. Professional Development Events committee
Natalia created an excel sheet (available on Ubox): Names of possible contacts for events pertaining to professional development events.
 - i. October: Industry job panel
Maybe we can invite Scientific writers as part of the panel.
 - ii. November: Virtual conference ideas and tips

Ideas: Survey for suggestions

- iii. December: Academic job panel focusing on positions different than PI
Invite people in the academia who are not PIs (i.e. Grants manager with PhDs, Research Prof, Core directors)
List not yet finalized.

- b. Career Day: Sharanya and Tosifa

Event will be held on October 27 for University of Utah graduate students and postdocs from the Bioscience Program (MB/BC Program)

Speakers were already contacted and most replied positively.

Non-Academic panel discussions will be held in the morning.

Break out session will be done after the morning event.

Followed by Academic panel in the afternoon.

Still needs suggestions for a keynote speaker.

New business (35 minutes)

- 1. Postdoc Appreciation Week

- a. Registration gift (144 were ordered; exact number will be known based on the RSVPs; gifts will be sent to attendees)

Shraddha will design pictures/images that will be on layout of the registration form.

- b. Social event

Suggested activities: yoga and origami

How much time do we need to allot for the activities?

Do we need to do both activities?

We need to determine the timing (based on level of difficulty or availability of the invited host/s)

Should we have break-out rooms to let people choose what activity they want to do?

Can we do the activities during breaks in workshops?

Need to finalize the social event by Tuesday (timing etc) before the email will be sent to postdocs who registered for the social event.

- c. Photo contest

Deadline is Sept 4 for entries.

Do we send a list of possible gift cards and ask the winners what they prefer?

Should the gift cards be mailed or e-mailed?

Should we announce the winner in the social event or during the keynote?

Do we announce the winners during the event that has the most attendees registered?

After the lightning talks?

Announcement of winners during an event and show the photos as a banner?

- d. Lightning talks

Possible participants from the Dept of Physics and Astronomy and Geology and Geophysics Dept

- i. Prize will be called a conference award.

How many awards should be given?

Pick the top but would depend on the number of participants.

How to give a rating per talk? A poll will be done every after a talk and the average will be calculated based on this.

ii. Moderators: Shraddha + _____

Harriet Dashnow

iii. Volunteer to synthesize "what it means to be a postdoc"

3-minute talk (focus on science) +1 min (experience as a postdoc)

Harriet Dashnow volunteered to introduce the speakers and summarize the talks.

iv. Volunteers to help with recruiting speakers

e. Brief update on programming/schedule

i. Volunteers to co-moderate (or independently moderate) other events?

f. RSVP and communications plan

2. Communications committee update

Kristen will develop a NPAW communication schedule

Natalia/or the moderators of the events will send the reminders to those who RSVPd following the schedule.

Natalia shared a document on ubox that has the communications committee update (includes housekeeping protocols and social media initiatives catering to postdocs).

Next meeting (5 minutes)

1. Guest comments