

Minutes
U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting
12.00-1.00 pm on November 6th, 2020
Virtual meeting via ZOOM

Total Board Member Count: 13

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)
Olja Simoska (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): 10

Present: Esther Chang, Harriet Dashnow, Kenneth Lyon, Kristen Davenport, Marta Szulik, Matthias Lange, Natalia Torres, Olja Simoska, Sharanya Kalasekar, Amy Barrios

Known Absences: Shraddha Nayak

Absences: Noemi Paguiguan, Tosifa Memon

Guests:

Minutes taken by: Harriet Dashnow, Kristen Davenport

Agenda

Old business

1. Introduction of new attendees
 - a. No new attendees or guests
2. Approve minutes from October meeting
 - a. Unanimously approved
3. Committee updates:
 - a. Professional Development Events committee
 - i. October Industry panel (10/22) successful
 - ii. Contacts spreadsheet can be updated with useful contacts (thanks Shraddha, and co)
 - b. Social committee updates
 - i. Pumpkin carving social cancelled due to low RSVPs
 - ii. Pumpkin carving contest currently underway for voting on Facebook
 - iii. Gift cards from previous prizes have been sent.
 - c. Advocacy committee updates

- i. Minutes from our latest meeting: UPDA advocacy meeting this week:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11IyW-zF1uLAY30LE78jAhhfQ1RFzalYsdameaww7wGo/edit?usp=sharing>
- ii. New committee has been launched, which includes postdocs, faculty, etc., and will advise the academic senate on new policy for postdocs. Will focus on salary, grievance policy, leave, retirement and hiring.
- iii. Looking to make an exit survey for postdocs leaving the U. First step is to look at what some other institutions do. Shraddha has made a spreadsheet to collect this info:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BcSHAGnHr8s9p90NeeRhu1NsMvAymzx6sw8aSE5jPdQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- iv. Looking for someone to coordinate this effort with help from the rest of the advocacy committee
 1. Update after the meeting: Sharanya and Sarah Anderson will work on this

New business

1. Communications changes
 - a. Change of leadership and allocation of tasks
 - i. Natalia and Marta planning to step down at the end of the year (we will farewell in Dec).
 - ii. Sharanya Kalasekar will transition out of the communications team to focus on other areas within UPDA
 - iii. Shraddha stepping in to support this team generally
 - iv. Olja new social media coordinator
 - v. Mai Tran taking over emails (not currently/yet a board member)
 - vi. Esther new webmaster
 - vii. Important to spread around the tasks more. Everyone will work on multiple things, not just the specific tasks above. Each member of the team will be trained in all areas.
 - b. No need for committee chair; will work as a team.
 - c. **Follow-up:** Kristen will add access to email and listserv to new committee members.
2. Professional development events committee
 - a. December event – non-PI academic jobs. Will proceed with planning this event.
 - b. November event – getting value from online conferences – decided to push this event to early next year. Should resend form to the committee, etc. Harriet and Sharanya have both attended virtual conferences.
3. Social committee
 - a. November event
 - i. Trivia or games night?
 - b. December event
 - i. Holiday cookie baking or decorating or ornament/craft class
 1. Note that we should avoid specific holidays
 2. Marta concerned that this might be targeted toward women, but others thought it was fine. Kenneth has a recipe for gingerbread cookies he can share.
 3. Another suggestion: holiday cocktail (with mocktail alternative) class
 4. Cookie decorating might be better than baking since it's faster and people can buy cookies if they want to.
 - ii. Cookie recipe exchange (not necessarily live)
 1. People thought this did not sound very social
 2. Could still exchange recipes, since this sounds fun.
 - iii. Holiday movie rental

1. Similarly, this did not sound very social
2. Olja said it was expensive to do this when her organization tried
- iv. Consensus was to set up a class of some kind, depending on who is willing to instruct.
 1. Kristen has a possible suggestion for baking and a possible suggestion for cookie decorating.

Next meeting

1. Guest comments N/A
2. Vote for new board members N/A

Meeting ended 12:40pm