

**Minutes**  
**U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting**  
12.00-1.00 pm on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Virtual meeting via ZOOM

**Total Board Member Count:** 11

**Board members:**

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

**Number Present (as recorded in Zoom chat):** 10

**Present:** Esther Chang, Kenneth Lyon, Kristen Davenport, Mai Tran, Matthias Lange, Noemi Paguiguan, Olja Simoska, Sharanya Kalasekar, Shraddha Nayak, Amy Barrios

**Known Absences:**

**Absences:** Tosifa Memon

**Guests:** Betsy Charron, Liz Sefton, Jyoti Motwani, Angela Berti

**Minutes taken by:** Noemi Paguiguan, Kristen Davenport

**Agenda**

*Old business*

1. Introduction of new attendees
2. Minutes approved from January meeting
3. Professional development events committee
  - a. Future events:
    - i. January - virtual conferences – success
    - ii. February – retirement – Mai – *will be held Feb 12 at noon. Kristen/Shraddha will take notes, which can go under resources on the webpage. Teo from Fidelity will present.*
    - iii. March - teaching undergraduates – Betsy. *We are still looking for potential speakers for this event. Please share ideas on Slack. Goal is people who have done postdocs. Planning on 30min for 3 panelists, then 10-15min for questions and 10-15 minutes for discussion about teaching opportunities at the U.*
    - iv. April - science policy – Liz. *Ideas for panelists: Director of health and science policy program at the U. Liz will reach out to someone from the Journal of Science Policy and Governance. And a former AAAS fellow, now policy analyst at NIHMS. Will try to make somewhat specific for postdocs. Questions raised during the discussion: What kind of science policy people are interested in? How do we use policy to influence science? How do we help shape policy with science? Has the UPDA ever done a panel consisting of grants officers at the NIH/NSF/private foundations, etc.? We had one grant officer on our panel in December. Since it's so easy to get people on zoom, we might want to add them in before things go back to in person events. Contact Sarah K. Yeo assistant professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Utah. Share other ideas with Liz via Slack.*

- v. Add to February, March or April: mindfulness/mental health – Kenneth  
*Kenneth has not heard back from contacts he emailed. Kristen will push again; Amy offered to help with contacts as needed.*

#### *New business*

1. Communications team: procedure to keep website, etc. updated. *The team plans to go through all the links and will update the information as needed, including lists of fellowship resource links on the website. Will check links twice annually. The team set March as deadline to be able to do the above activities. Will also add a feature for postdocs who have won awards, fellowships, etc.*
2. Social update: we will add “mingle time” to future events. *Shradda’s suggestions: First 10 min will be breakout sessions in two different rooms. 5 minutes will be allotted per break out room. Will provide prompts. Kenneth suggested to try <https://gather.town/> platform for online socialization. UPDA may try it for the next board meeting.*
3. Advocacy update:
  - a. Town Hall (Amy) – *Amy Barrios is working on doing a survey for postdocs for the town hall. Survey will be shared first and findings will be used to guide discussion (and results will be quantified). Town hall will be in **late March**. Will try to separate discussion into COVID and general issues. By then, should be able to share update from senate and discuss next goals. Townhall can be scheduled on March to wait for the review and changes in the academic senate policies. Could try gather town for the town hall?*
  - b. Academic Senate committee update. *Policies will include but not limited to the following: Creating a unified hiring, setting a minimum pay, instituting a 5-year term limit, parental leave, orientation for postdocs. Executive committee meets in February, then we finalize.*
  - c. Exit survey (Sharanya) *Outline is ready. Will share soon.*

#### *Additional discussion:*

1. Elizabeth Sefton asked about recording of events or posting minutes. Too many privacy concerns regarding having events recorded? Could try to set up a webinar (anonymous), but it’s less interactive. Could take notes and post them, but don’t want that expectation because it makes the website look out of date if we don’t keep up. Will ask retirement speaker if we can record (he said no).