**AGENDA**

**U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting**

12.00-1.00 pm on April 2nd, 2021

Virtual meeting

***Total Board Member Count:***11

***Board members:***

Esther Chang (DFPM)

Jyoti Motwani (Chemistry)

Kenneth Lyon (Neurobiology and Anatomy)

Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry, Human Genetics)

Harriet Dashnow (Human Genetics)

Mai Tran (Biology, Human Genetics)

Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry)

Olja Simoska (Chemistry)

Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI)

Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry)

Amy Barrios (OPA)

Leave of absence: Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology)

***Number Present (as recorded in Zoom chat):* 8**

***Present*:** Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry, Human Genetics), Harriet Dashnow (Human Genetics), Mai Tran (Biology, Human Genetics), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry), Olja Simoska (Chemistry), Amy Barrios (OPA),

Kenneth Lyon (Neurobiology and Anatomy)

***Known Absences:***Jyoti Motwani, Shraddha Nayak, Esther Chang

***Absences:*** Sharanya Kalasekar

***Guests*:** Marta Marie Iversen, Elizabeth Charron, Rebecca Delaney, Elizabeth Sefton

***Minutes taken by:***Noemi Paguigan

**Agenda**

*Old business*

1. Introduction of new attendees – None.
2. Approve minutes from March – Approved.
3. Update on town hall – Amy and Kenneth?

* 20% of postdocs responded to the survey that was conducted.
* Postdoc survey 2021 was based on HCI survey.
* Some highlights from the survey:
* Over the past 12 months, who has provided professional development? 40% of response-UPDA
* How connected are you to your research group prior to 2020? 70% of response-very connected
* How connected are you to your research group during covid? 70% of response-somewhat connected
* Frequency of communication with your research group? 45% of response-much less frequent
* Productivity change since march 2020/ 50% of response-decreased a little
* How the events of the past 6 months impacted the plan for the next position? 65% of response-Stay longer in my current position longer than anticipated. *May be useful to hold a workshop about searching for jobs right now. How do we support postdocs who are planning to stay longer? IDP, etc.?*
* Impact of the pandemic on the current job market-academic positions? 60% of response-Much more challenging. *May want to hold more job search related events.*
* Govt and industry positions? 25% of response- a little more challenging
* What career development activities or support would be beneficial to you this coming year?
  + Career support *– postdocs will have access to career center for CVs, resume, etc.*
  + Mentoring
  + Writing – *maybe peer writing groups?*
  + Budgeting
  + CV/resume
  + Mental health *– how to make postdocs feel more connected?*
  + IDP
  + Mental
  + Workshop
  + Peer
  + Connect
* UPDA Town hall: use this survey answers as launching off points for the event? Survey responses will give more direction to the townhall discussions.
* Comments on the content of the survey: There were no policy-related changes in the survey. All the policy for postdocs are already in progress and hoping to come out in the next few months.
* Some postdocs were pushed to work even though they were uncomfortable during the 2020 pandemic.
* Nipping problems in the bud is the place to start by notifying Amy Barrios as soon as possible with the problems.
* Unintended outcome of pandemic-excess money that can be used to pay career counselors.

1. Scheduling upcoming events:
   1. Planning for townhall should be done by the end of April.
   2. One social event at gather.town in April. Social event should be done right after town hall.
   3. In person UPDA events-wait until everybody is fully vaccinated.
2. Brief recap of teaching event. Teaching event with Betsy went smoothly, good attendance.
3. Communication update:
   1. Monthly newsletter will include:
      1. Announcements
      2. Upcoming events—will also include past events if there were resources pointed out that might be useful for those who missed the event.
      3. Format, etc.: email, sent monthly, before UPDA meeting (Monday before Friday meeting?). This will help UPDA advertise about the organization and encourage more attendees. Advertisements/newsletters will be sent to department liaisons to reach out to more people. Shraddha will work on format in time for May newsletter.
      4. April newsletter will include the announcement the town hall
   2. Website progress? Betsy has joined and will help Esther.
4. Elections in **May**. Nominations now?
   1. Junior Chair
   2. Officer for Diversity and Inclusion-unfilled, EDI related events - Martha Iversen is interested.
   3. Secretary/(Treasurer) – Olja Simoska is interested.
      1. We could have access to funds to use without restriction. Work with Amy if we want to do that.

*New business*

1. Social events
   1. Rooftop social April 22, 4-5. Games, white boards, locations for private conversations, etc.
   2. Ideas for future events: climbing, archery, consistent events, outdoor events
2. Upcoming possible professional development events (May – August+ 2021): call for volunteers!
   1. Finding a scientific society – *Mai Tran*
   2. Grant writing- workshops for writing – *Harriet, Kristen*
   3. Managing a team/managing a lab-find a speaker for the workshop – *Marta Iversen*
   4. Science after COVID/time management/work-life balance – *Harriet, Olja and Amy*
      1. Maybe a discussion group, or a time management expert can be invited.
      2. Event can be in May.
   5. Emotional intelligence - workshop – *Jyoti Motwani interested.* 
      1. Will wait when we are fully open for in-person events.
   6. Budget management? Broaden scope—what we can and cannot pay with grants. What are overheads? *Kristen will follow up, Liz will take the lead.*
   7. Presentation skills, workshop > panel. *Betsy – later in the summer.*
   8. Add an EDI event – Picture a Scientist
3. Guest comments – None
4. Vote for new board members – Elected new board members: Elizabeth Charron, Elizabeth Sefton, Martha Marie Iversen