

**BSD Postdoctoral Association Committee Meeting**  
**12 noon, Thursday February 15, 2007 BSLC 008**

Present: James McCracken (chair), Kolla Kristjansdottir, Rifat Hasina, Jason Ward, Harold Olivey, Judy Cannon, Imogen Hurley, and Madina Sukhanova.

**1. Survey, 2007**

RH and JC tried to contact the person that performed last year's survey, but did not get a response. IH provided the following information about last year's survey. The survey was performed by SurveyMonkey. This site has a monthly fee for the hosting the survey. The statistics were performed by the postdoctoral association, and Melissa has a CD with all of the data from last years survey. RH and JW are going to take a look at this CD to see if the statistical analysis, is present in an Excel file and may be something we can reuse this year. It was also suggested that we contact or advertise (through our email bulletin or on the website) for help with the statistics. This would probably be a graduate student. RH announced that she is job-hunting, and hopes to find a position in the next 6 months. She will continue to work on the survey, but may not be involved until the end. JW has agreed to take on a greater role in the survey.

The committee discussed possible focus topics for this year's survey. JC suggested that mentoring be one focus topic. In particular, answering the questions, are you happy with the mentoring you are receiving, are you aware of the mentoring plan, do you regularly meet with your mentor to talk about future career plans, progress, etc. A secondary focus will be the seminar series—is it informative, and are there seminar suggests. A third focus should be future career plans, which should aide in planning future seminars based on interest.

**2. Career Symposium**

Last year there was a career symposium in Milwaukee called "Put your PhD to Work". This symposium was attended by KK, RH, AS, Imogen Hurley, and JM. At this meeting it was suggested that the University of Chicago and Northwestern University co-host this year's event.

JM updated the committee on the status of the career symposium. JM talked with one the planners for last year's symposium in Milwaukee. He said they are planning to have the event in Milwaukee again this year, but was not opposed to having another event in Chicago. The committee's interest in hosting a second event in Chicago was not great. It was decided that we should better advertise the Milwaukee event trying to get more people to attend.

JM updated us on talks between CAPS advisor Heather Sevener and Isaac Skromne. Heather would be interested in integrating job-related seminars and next year's science job fair. This is something the committee thought would be a really positive and was interested in pursuing. The committee talked about possibly having seminars in the morning and the job fair in the afternoon. JM is going to meet with Heather next week to discuss this further.

**3. Website**

HO has taken over the website, and any additions, errors, mistakes, etc. should be sent to him. Additions to the website were viewed very favorably by the committee, and there were few suggestions on how to improve it further.

KK suggested showing a slide with the websites web address before each of the seminars.

**4. Seminar Series**

KK informed the committee that Yuanxin Hu would be resigning from the postdoctoral association committee. He will continue planning seminars until the end of the quarter. MS expressed interest in helping out with planning the seminar series.

KK updated the committee on the status of the seminar series for next quarter. The schedule is nearly finished. There are still a few seminars that the committee is working on, namely, something to do with mentoring (how to be a good mentor, etc), or a panel discussion about getting through the first couple of years in academics. Other suggestions were contacting the Graduate School of Business to find a professor who could talk about management or negotiating skills.

The committee also discussed staff courses that are available through the Graham School of General Studies. These courses are good sources for post docs to obtain skills, which might be helpful for future career plans. It was suggested that information about these courses be included on our website.

#### **5. National PDA Meeting, Berkeley CA**

RH is still planning on attending the National PDA meeting. She is not applying for the travel award, because she will not be able to commit to the mentoring aspects, which are required for this award. There were no other volunteers to attend the meeting, however RH will go and represent our group and report any ideas and suggestions to make our association better.