

BSD-PDA meeting minutes  
May 17th, 2006

Present:

Imogen Hurley, Judy Cannon, Andie Ward, Isaac Skromne, Nilesh Banavali, Zhenwei Zhang, Rifat Hasina, Kolla Kristjansdottir

#### I. Report from National PDA meeting-Imogen

Imogen found it very helpful. About 200 people total. Our PDA is ahead of many others in achievement. Got contact information for those who have already started working on Individual Development Plans (IDPs), do not need to replicate work. We can look to others' websites for survey and IDP. Others have made IDPs into a very big production, including full day seminars. Suggestion for us- incorporate into seminars, CAPs, or ask Dean's office to handle organizing IDP fairs. But, it may not be worth the effort for low participation. Imogen's poster went very well. Imogen now serves on the national policy committee, which will help inform us about national changes in postdoc policy.

#### II. Post doc survey update-Nilesh

Nilesh showed us a draft of the survey. It includes 4 pages with about 4 questions each, answered by pulldown menus. He grouped similar questions on each page, and will allow ranking from poor to excellent as answers to the subjective questions. All comments were left to the end in text boxes. There was a question to be added about foreign postdoc visa status. We discussed the possibility of a prize and Imogen will ask the Dean's office for money to give a prize. It will be entry into a raffle after completion of the survey. The survey will remain anonymous, but then entry will allow people to add names to the raffle. There was a lengthy discussion at the end about how to figure out the salary increase for postdocs here. Nilesh will try to get data about both number of years post graduation, then number of years also at the U of C, beginning and current salary to determine whether postdocs get raises. Nilesh will leave in Aug and will plan to have survey ready to go by June.

#### III. Update on welcome packet-Thelma/Imogen

No progress. Imogen will take the welcome packet on in the summer as her project. Will have draft by July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### IV. NPP-Postdoctoral Association- Isaac/Imogen

Isaac gave a brief history of the NPP PDA, which began around the same time our association restarted, independently and without knowledge of each other. Although the NPP PDA is mostly focused on supporting postdocs within NPP through scientific seminars, there was direct overlap of efforts in their organization of a alternative careers seminar May 19, with scheduled time conflicting the PDA seminar series. The BSD PDA canceled our seminar, scheduled to be Dean Schwartz, and we discussed the lack of coordination between the two PDAs. We found out about their seminar when they asked us to

publicize for them, they clearly had no understanding of our efforts and schedule. We all agreed we both need better coordination and communication, minimizing overlapping efforts. Issac and Imogen will try to meet with NPP PDA to discuss the matter.

#### V. June 9<sup>th</sup> BBQ- Isaac

Scheduled for 4pm, for those helping to set up and clean up, will end at 7pm. Need to set up around 3:15-3:30 in lawn in front. Isaac will also schedule the lobby in case of rain. Andie will order food from same place as last year's kickoff as all agreed the food was good. Last event of the year. Will plan for about 100, similar to kickoff. Nilesh, Kolla, Imogen all agreed to help set up. Will set up table towards front of building with name tags to discourage any possible undergrads from straying in. The alcohol will be in back.

#### VI. Next 2 PDA meetings-Imogen

June 7<sup>th</sup> at noon in BSLC 313. Will be focused on seminar series for next year. Judy cannot make it but Isaac is out of town the next 2 weeks so will keep this date. Kolla and Ayaz have both expressed interest in taking over seminar planning, will meet with Isaac to discuss possibility. Imogen suggested we all throw ideas out for next year, then discuss the logistics of each possibility. First third of meeting just throwing out ideas, then discuss each afterwards.

July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with Dean Nancy Schwartz as a possible meeting date. Confirmed that this dates works for all. Will be a review of what we've accomplished last year. Isaac will discuss seminars, Imogen benefits. To discuss on the agenda: from the last meeting, the Dean had said she would find out about a formal appointment letter, will follow up. Andie will prepare a draft of a mentoring plan. Judy asked about the 5 year rule, which may impact women in the field in a less advantageous way. Judy will send out an agenda the previous week to the Dean.

Rifat is a research professional who is interested in participating, but not necessarily joining the PDA. Zhenwei is specifically interested in foreign postdoc matters and will consult on possible seminars and follow up with whatever might come up regarding foreign postdocs.

JLC 5-19-06