

## **Postdoc Association Notes**

### **July 17, 2008**

**Attending:** Natacha Bodenhausen, Rifat Hasina, Kolla Kristjansdottir, Guoqing Lin, James McCracken, Luciana Molinero, Christos Noutsos, Harold Olivey, Ben Wolfe, Nancy Schwartz, Melissa Lindberg, and Parag Shah.

**Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves to Luciana and Christos, who are thinking of joining the Steering Committee.

#### **Discussion:**

**Survey:** Ben will chair the survey committee this year. The survey will go live after the picnic. Last year's survey focused on Professional Development: what do we want this year's survey to focus on? Should it be shorter? Last year's survey was 76 questions: the NPA survey seminar said that 40-45 questions was the way to go. Perhaps we can align our survey with the national survey. Some questions will be re-worded, given experience with deciphering the answers from last year's survey. Another item learned at the Survey Seminar at NPA was that generally one large prize works better to encourage participation than lots of small prizes: perhaps we should raffle an iPod again? Other members reported being asked about the iPod last fall. Last year we did 8 smaller gift certificates. Natacha and Luciana volunteered to join the Survey Committee.

Last year's survey is now up on the web site.

**Third Postdoc Information Meeting July 21:** Harold agreed to attend the Info meeting, and take notes of questions/answers. There were more postdocs at the info session in June than at the first one. Hopefully attendance will increase as the word gets out about them.

**Survey:** James brought up the fact that we'd like to do the survey again in the fall, see if we can raise the numbers responding by doing at the same time again. Rifat attended the NPA seminar on surveys, and has some ideas on changes. They also had some notes from the last survey on questions they'd like to reword or clarify. Ben will chair the survey committee this year.

**Seminars:** The Seminar Committee is starting to put together the fall schedule. They're looking to do a big event with Abbott this fall, and are working with Parag and Melissa to set that up.

**PDO:** If we want to press for a PDO, a proposal needs to be written for it; perhaps there should be a discussion of pros and cons so we can decide if this is a good thing. One con might be a loss of autonomy – many places with strong PDOs have weaker PDAs. Rifat will lead the group.

**Website redesign:** Harold, James, and Kolla will comprise the website redesign committee. Natacha and Christos discussed plone, a website template they use in their department. Different people can have access to parts of the website, to make updating much easier. It functions like a wiki website. They will send links so it can be evaluated. Melissa agreed to put together a Facebook group page for the PDA.

**Other:** Nancy announced she is meeting with the Dean's Office to discuss more training in postdoctoral affairs for the Executive Administrators for departments. Melissa will be the representative to the HR Administrators Working Group that Imogen used to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.