

BSD Postdoctoral Association Committee Meeting
12 noon, Thursday October 18, 2007 BSLC 009

Present: James McCracken (chair), Judy Cannon, Rifat Hasina, Cheng Huang, Kolla Kristjansdottir, Guoqing Lin, Melissa Lindberg, Victoria Robinson, Parag Shah, Isaac Skromne, Madina Sukhanova, and Ben Wolfe

1. Orientation Pack/Brochure

ML is running out of orientation packs to send to new PDRs and discussed updating the information contained therein. Another possibility raised was moving to a brochure with information about the association and helpful web addresses. Design ideas and especially photos should be sent to ML.

2. Benefits Changes

Benefits changes move forward. Attached below are notes from a meeting with Pat Shymanski of Academic Affairs:

Attending: Pat Shymanski, Judy Cannon, Kolbrun Kristjansdottir, Guoqing Lin, James McCracken

The decision to move forward or not has passed and changes to the health, dental, and life insurance benefits are moving forward to be in place Jan 1, 2008.

The guiding principle for the change has been that it "has to be as good as our best offering", which is the Maroon plan. Equivalency for fellows and scholars was also very important.

The new health plan will be a PPO from United Healthcare. Access to University physician will not be affected. The method for fellows to pay for coverage will remain very similar to the current system, with PI funding covering single coverage, and more coverage if agreed upon by the fellow and PI.

The dental plan will have 2 levels of coverage, basic and enhanced for an increased premium.

The life insurance starts at \$20,000 coverage and goes up from there. This life insurance also covers repatriation of remains for foreign citizens.

The broker for these products, Garnett-Powers & Associates (<http://www.garnett-powers.com/>) expects to be on campus the week of October 29th to present the new coverage to postdocs as well as their online system for accessing benefits. PS and KK are looking at the seminar schedule to see what works well, whether our usual time or during the work week.

Scholars will no longer be able to access staff plans. These changes do not affect RPAs.

Family Medical Leave Act coverage changes in that the provosts office will recognize time as a fellow as "employment" for the purposes of FMLA

Other potential benefit changes discussed included a change in the window of eligibility for being a postdoc at the U of C to 7 years from the granting of the degree and 4 years at the U of C. It was asked that the provost consider extending tuition benefits at the lab school and U of C schools to fellows as well.

There has been more than a little confusion over the way in which postdocs are being informed of the change in their benefits. The committee elected to draft our own notice, have this notice

cleared by Pat Shyamnski and Nanacy Schwartz and sent out to our email list. JC volunteered to draft this letter. Also, posters advertising this change will be placed on bulletin boards.

3. Survey drawing

The drawing for prizes won by filling out our PDA survey will be held live at our November 2nd social.