



## UIPDA Exec/Council Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2015

9-10am

Location: *UCC 1117*

**Present: Rachel Marek, Kate O'Brien, Jennifer Teitle, Kim Chickering, Ali Firoozfar, Steven Pennington, Anup Tilak, Cara Hamann, Annie Gutman**

1. Committee updates
  - a. Policy/advocacy
    - i. Postdoc retirement: Postdocs who are not US Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) are exempt from IPERS and are defaulted into TIAA CREF.
    - ii.

Kate O'Brien gave updates for the Policy & Advocacy committee. Discussion was had regarding retirement: Postdocs are not able to change retirement options from IPERS to TIAA-CREF even if they switch titles from postdoc to a permanent position. Kim said this is a general rule for all employees, not just postdocs.

Kate also gave an update on postdoc web presence and said things are moving along well.

- b. Professional development

Annie reported that the professional development workshop on effective presentations was well attended and an overall success. She said there will be no October event, but they are working on one for November, probably on writing tips for career development awards, such as K99 and K01s.

Rachel suggested a prof dev workshop or short course on negotiation skills that could apply to negotiating job offers for all job types (academia, industry, etc.).

- c. Social

Cara reported that the September social at Mosley's was well attended and fun. She informed the group that the next happy hour will be at Backpocket in Coralville on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

2. Midwest Postdoctoral Forum (MWPDF)—Updates and postdoc day 2016

Cara gave a brief background on the MWPDF formation and goals. Kim reported that the group might benefit most from focusing on a LinkedIn type format.

The MWPDF is going to contact KU Med to see if the MWPDF research day event can be piggy-backed onto their event for this next year, rather than UI and Iowa State hosting again every other year. If KU Med option falls through the group agreed it would probably be worth trying to host it here again. Kate suggested that it be turned into an Iowa Postdoc research day for all the Iowa public universities (UI, IA State, UNI) and then the MWPDF could still be invited. Kim stated that the past research day (2 years ago) gave the group some good traction and momentum and encouraged us to consider continuing that type of event, even if the KU Med/ MWPDF falls through.

## UIPDA LEADERSHIP

### Executive Board

*President*

Cara Hamann

*Vice President*

Kate O'Brien

*Secretary/Treasurer*

Marie Breen

### Council of College Reps

*Carver College of Medicine*

Anup Tilak

Kristan Worthington (secondary)

*College of Dentistry*

Christina Nicholas

*College of Engineering*

Yi Liang

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

Annie Gutman

*College of Pharmacy*

Haibo Qiu

*College of Nursing*

**Vacant**

*College of Public Health*

**Vacant**, Kate O'Brien-proxy

### Policy & Advocacy Committee

Rachel Marek

Annie Gutman

Kate O'Brien- Chair

### Professional Development Committee

Annie Gutman- Chair

Steven Pennington

Kristan Worthington

### Social Committee

Cara Hamann

Greg Thomas

Marie Breen- Chair

### Contact

grad-uipda@uiowa.edu

### 3. Certificate of appreciation/participation/mentorship awards and travel awards

Cara announced that a pilot program for travel awards has been procured by Shelly Campo for this academic year. There will be \$5000 available through the end of the fiscal year, but a process for application and selection needs to be set up prior to monies being available. The graduate students already have a system in place and a lot of their structure could be adopted. However, the grad student program is set up as a scholarship, which is directly deposited to the person's paycheck and is taxable.

Rachel asked if this could be changed to be charged via an MFK. Kim said we would need to check with Jennifer Crawford. Cara asked Kate and the Policy Advocacy to review the grad student set-up and draft a program for postdocs. Kate will also contact Jennifer Crawford to inquire about options for how these are paid out. The group agreed that having applications due on a quarterly basis should be frequent enough.

### 4. UIPDA past leadership on UIPDA web page

Cara has updated the UIPDA leadership web page with a past leadership table at the bottom of the page. It is almost filled in, thanks to help from Maggie Chorazy. Cara will follow-up with other past leadership to try to fill in the rest of the table.

### 5. College Rep updates

Anup gave the update that he is still working on web presence and the main problem has been getting consistency within Internal Medicine. However, he is moving forward.

Annie said CLAS has all postdocs listed on web sites, except for 5 or 6 departments that have 4 or fewer postdocs. She will follow-up with those departments.

Rachel gave College of Engineering updates for Yi, who couldn't be there. The COE is on board for listing postdocs, but Yi and Rachel are working with them to get it to actually happen via their web masters.

### 6. Items not on the agenda

Cara informed the group that the OPDS is considering changing the format of postdoc orientation to have fewer in-person sessions, probably two per year in August and Jan/Feb. In-between these two times they will reach out to new postdocs with information, such as the soon to be finished handbook and other resources. Kim informed that benefits already sends out a packet to all postdocs and was hoping we could piggyback on that. The group agreed that it would be good for the UIPDA to reach out to all new postdocs via email to welcome them to the group. Cara suggested that the respective college reps be the ones to send emails and also suggested we think of a swag item to give to new postdocs, such as a microfiber cloth or something small that could be campus-mailed. On the cloth we could put our logos for UIPDA and OPDS and also QR code and/or URLs to relevant info. Kim said that lists of new postdocs could be forwarded to the college reps, since the OPDS already pulls those lists.

**Next Council/Exec Meeting: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 9-10am, 3289 CBRB**

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