



## **One-Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Meeting Minutes**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 5:00 PM (Stellar Chance Room 104)**

**In attendance: Terry Cathopoulos, Amita Bansal, Mary Anne Timmins, Morgan Kibler, Andrea Stavoe, Dorian Pustina, Rueben Das, Brian Fuglestad, Helene Leger, Juliette Aka, Luz Jeanette Siena, Daniele Moreira, Menyuan Kan, Nehal Solanki-Patel**

1. Welcome
2. Approval of minutes and membership - APPROVED
3. Update from Co-Presidents –Terry and Amita  
No updates
4. Updates from Committees
  - a. Career Enhancement & Training (CET) –Dorian/Jagmohan/Sean  
“The p-hacking seminar organized by us on February 28<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Lot of questions were asked by the audience and many stayed after the seminar to have a discussion with the speaker. We had more than 60 attendees. Food was on time and sufficient.  
We are reconsidering if organizing a seminar on “predatory journals” would be a value addition to our seminar series.”  
Danielle helped a lot with food  
There was a scheduling snafu with the room  
The next seminar is on neuroimaging - part of an interdisciplinary series for non-specialists - March 31st at lunchtime  
Mach forms leave something to be desired  
Working on next seminars for the interdisciplinary series
  - b. Social Media – Yann/Ana  
No update
  - c. Newsletter – Nehal  
Following the executive immigration order - a new one is coming out  
March 16 - H1B visas will be affected - cut out premium process  
Will post the evening of the 16th

Some survey responses might have to be redacted - they shouldn't be deleted without indicated deletion

Can put disclaimer that these aren't the BPC's opinions and explain redaction

Call for anyone to write articles about how the immigration ban will affect science or science policy

d. Penn Editor's Association (PEA) – Diana/Arpita

No updates

e. Community Service –Brian/Amanda

“Continuing with Demos for the Spring, those dates are set and volunteers placed. Will present a booth or two at Philadelphia science festival, need to choose a topic”

Looking to expand - venues will take as much as we can give - venues would like demos every week, but it needs to be a slow cautious expansion.

Philadelphia Science Festival - April 29, 2017 at Penn's Landing (Seaport)- idea from Fatimah Zare last month about Climate Change  
Brian was thinking about explaining what biomedical researchers do  
If you have any ideas for booths, email Brian and Amanda

The committee has a reimbursement mechanism for the science demos - \$50 petty cash limit, if higher, then a request can be put in

f. Diversity –Mat/Dondra

“1. The Diversity committee is interested in collaborating with Ernest Everett (EE) Just Biomedical Society to develop an interactive conversation on Implicit Bias in academia. The event will be on March 22, 2017 and has been organized and planned by EE Just Biomedical Society to bring awareness and understanding that implicit bias can affect many individuals. I reached out to the president of the group and we will be meeting on Wed (3/8) to discuss how BPC Diversity committee can assist during the breakout sessions. Postdocs are invited to participate and help serve during the breakout sessions. More details and a sign-up sheet will be circulated soon.

2. The committee will continue to work with the Office of Inclusion and Diversity to develop diversity recruitment initiatives. We are looking forward to working with in this group and a meeting will be scheduled this month. More details to come.

3. The Diversity committee will submit a proposed plan of activities next week.”

g. Advocacy – Andrea/Jason

“Waiting on Terry to present the proposal we made to Mary Anne.”

h. Social Activities – Rueben

Happy Hour - 8-10 people - let's try to make sure someone from the Council should be there at the beginning

Talk about changing the Friday to the 2nd Friday

22 TedX tickets - no money covered by the BPC

- i. Symposium –Daniele Moreira/Lori Zboray  
Meeting schedule for March 14th, receiving suggestions for keynote speaker
  - j. Environmental – Terry  
Started planting, but nothing else is going on right now  
There will be a garden!
  - k. Fundraising –Terry/Beau  
“The Spring 2017 Vendor Presentation took place on February 23rd, 2017. There were 15 vendors participated in the show and approximately 150 people attended the event. So far, we have collected vendor payments in the total of \$4870 (8 vendors). We should expect to receive another \$4270 from 7 vendors for the estimated total of \$9140. The next vendor will be scheduled in August. Juliette Aka, a new fundraising chair will be the main organizer of the event.”  
Terry updates this to receiving payments from 12 vendors, leaving only 3 vendors to receive from  
Suggestion from Amita would be to have coffee and cookies at 10, but Terry thinks it doesn’t add traffic, but it may be beneficial to spread out the traffic
  - l. Foreign National Committee (FNC) – Jagmohan/Helene/Nicole  
Nicole: “We had a successful welcome session last month. 7 new postdocs attended and they all arrived within the last 3 months. We will be starting the Postdoc lunches in April. I will not be able to attend this month’s meeting, but Helene should be there.”  
Interesting question about taxes - maybe organize a taxation seminar  
Send an email to postdocs about Saturday deadline for H1B visas  
Immigration seminar in June (21-23)  
Questions about daycare and transportation
  - m. Website updates – Terry/Jennine/Amanda/Jason  
“Website build is 90% completed. Largely, we need the CET committee to clean up their section and tell me what to keep/change and help revise the pages they have.”
  - n. Treasurer – Beau  
“The current balance of BPC account is \$15,773.73. We have received an income of \$4260 from Vendor presentation (7 vendors). The total expense for this month is \$997. The details are listed here: \$254 Box lunch catering for vendor \$717 from replica \$26 Petty cash for the BPC newsletter travel ban survey Here is the outline of BPC Expenses for Each Committee (Dec 16 -Feb 17) Committee
- Expenses & Details Seminars and Workshops \$473 -\$453 AXIS  
PIZZA (Immigration Seminar & History Seminar) -\$15 Table covers for immigration seminar -\$5 Table covers for History seminar  
Symposium \$2768 -\$256 Facility -\$46.71 Award for Richard

Davis -\$40 Table cover -\$367.60 Facility -\$248.40 Catering -\$59.29  
Petty cash to Jagmohan Hooda -\$250 Prize for Award Poster -\$250  
Prize for Kumar Award -\$500 Prize for 2016 BPC Poster Award -\$750  
Prize for Award Foreign National and Diversity \$45 Table cloth for  
Thanksgiving Potluck BPC newsletter \$26 Petty cash to Nehal Patel  
for BPC newsletter travel ban survey Fundraising \$254 BOX  
lunch catering for vendors”

- o. Seminar Series – Jagmohan  
Andrea resigns from the committee

5. Other updates/agenda from members

- Question about why postdocs do not qualify for travel pass benefits
- it's on the vice provost's desk, but they are still trying to figure out how to make it work
  - should email the Vice Provost to bring up this complaint
  - there isn't money to pay for employee benefits for all postdocs and postdocs who are on fellowship cannot participate as employees
- We can't login to Linda.com for tutorials - BPP will look into that

Society for Advancement for Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) - Jannette

- Invite speakers, extracurricular activities, job opportunities in STEM, leadership program (virtually), seminars, science policy fellowship
- Serves all minorities, all STEM fields
- interested in developing a program for mentoring grad students to help minorities stay in academia - all mentors welcome
- BPC will make sure the entire postdoc community hears
- for background: <https://sacnas.org>
- there is a waiver for Penn affiliates before March 16 for SACNAS membership

6. Updates from BPP Office - Morgan/Lauren/Mary Anne/Susan

Listserv - Lauren is handling the listserv and Mach form - send it before the Wednesday before you want the email to go out!!!

The listserv is not for personal use - reagents/apartments, etc.

The postdoc discussion list is still alive and well - we should send out an email to remind postdocs about it

Morgan is still the contact for events - for new cochairs, just run through everything - let Morgan know if you will need supplies IN ADVANCE!

Not all information is completely shared between all three BPP office admins because they handle different things.

BPP is working on a panel presentation - Bristol Myers Squibb approached BPP - working on an event for grad students and postdocs - bringing people

with different positions in the company, some that may have started from postdocs - Monday, March 27th noon-1:30. There are questions in advance from both BPP and BGSA. Emails will be sent out once everything is confirmed. This is a career-based event - talking about their careers, how they got there and other broad topics. Want to establish a relationship with BPP/UPenn - they are looking for academic partnerships since the companies have been downsizing their research and development divisions. They may be working with GSK for a similar event - GSK is re-invigorating their postdoc fellowship program.

7. Next Meeting — April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, 5 PM, SCL 104.