



One-Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Meeting Agenda

May 1st, 2017 5:00 PM (Stellar Chance Room 104)

In attendance: Terry Cathopoulos, Amita Bansal, Andrea Stavoe, Beau Wangtrakuldee, Brian Fuglestad, Nicole Anderson, Juliette Aka, Lori Zboray, Leonardo Murgiano, Thea Golden, Kim Lorenz, Carolyn Yngollen, Arpita Myles, Simna Saraswathi, Alireza Badiei

1. Welcome

2. Approval of minutes and membership - Approved

3. Update from Co-Presidents –Terry and Amita

Amita: went to a seminar for early careers faculty workshop put on by career services. It was well done and willing to do a seminar just for biomedical postdocs - will connect the speaker with Jagmohan or Dorian from CET. The speaker is also willing to extend the topic if we have any ideas (skills that are required for young faculty that postdocs can develop now).

Terry: Talking with Jeannette from SACNAS to set up a mentorship system.

4. Updates from Committees

a. Treasurer – Beau

Beau contacted Regina Medlock on 4/28 and 5/1 to acquire the update BPC account. Regina has not informed her of the update.

Kim will be replacing Beau

b. Seminar Series – Jagmohan

No updates

c. Career Enhancement & Training (CET) –Dorian/Jagmohan

Due to an unexpected family need I can't make it today. There are no updates, we haven't met or discussed future meetings yet. I will move to a new job outside Penn in August, so the BPC should seek more actively for someone to replace me. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. ~ Dorian

d. Social Media – Yann

"Amita has seen very strange posts on our facebook page - we should be careful about our posts (post about unionization of grad students)" No idea which post it was but I focused on posting only postdoc related news.

Send Yann any ideas for facebook posts

e. Newsletter – Nehal

Sorry I won't be able to make it to today's meeting. I'll be sending out writer requests for a newsletter for the month of June. Is that okay? So far I have two articles and one March for Science event page. I hope to have more by the time we meet next month.

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

Meeting amongst editors to increase visibility

Made posters that editors posted around and met with administration to improve visibility

Maybe have some seminars to increase awareness

g. Community Service –Brian/Amanda

Sorry neither of us can make it today... Things are moving along. The science festival booth was a great success! Now we are plugged into the official UPenn STEM outreach for similar events in the future. The Free Library and Moder Community Center partnerships are continuing. A contact from the Free library asked about continuing demos through the summer with a group from a summer program they have there. This sounds like a great idea and will be a good chance to keep these going through the summer.

We did subsidize the cost for postdocs that traveled to DC for the March for Science (12 traveled)

BPC banner should be returned to Morgan/BPP office after you use it!

h. Diversity –Dondra/Heather

I am the former co-Chair of the Diversity Committee and I am responding to the idea of a member of the LGBTQ community being added as a co-Chair to the Diversity Committee. Although issues related to diversity and inclusion are the goal of the Diversity Committee, I believe it would be more appropriate to have an additional LGBTQ Committee to address this communities specific issues.

Otherwise, no update from the committee

i. Advocacy – Andrea/Jason

Terry and Andrea met with MaryAnne and Susan to discuss issues the Advocacy committee would like to pursue

Unfortunately, postdocs cannot get any pre-tax benefits (403(b), health care FSA, etc) common among other kinds of employees because postdocs on fellowships are not eligible for them by law. Penn decided to treat all postdocs the same, so no Penn postdocs are eligible.

We also asked about discounts for SETPA passes, but the SEPTA system is still behind implementation and nothing can be done until then.

MaryAnne indicated that she would like the Committee to advocate for postdocs who are in trouble labs by identifying PIs who aren't good mentors and making tenured PIs accountable - this especially applies to

foreign national postdocs.

The postdoc office now has a mechanism to track IDPs and store them.

Postdocs are entitled to keep a copy of their lab notebooks.

Invite Vice-Provost to talk about issues

Is there a formal way to lodge a complaint? No, we only have informal ways to lodge complaints.

Come up with measures to help these postdoc populations - surveys, seminars?

Reach out to faculty who receive good mentor award from BPP and get their input

j. Social Activities – Rueben

TEDxPenn April 2017: 21 postdocs purchased tickets for the event. Since I did not go to the event I can't tell you how many actually went. Happy Hour shifted to the middle of the month. Last happy Hour: 6 people (new!) attended. Since it was Good Friday maybe that's why the poor number of attendees. The next happy hour is May 19th at City Tap House in the tasting room. Other people were there, but the hostess sent them to the wrong place. Maybe order appetizers for the postdocs attending.

The committee is looking for a new co-chair!

LGBTQ Committee co-chair discussion - ask LGBTQ center to suggest someone

k. Symposium – Lori/Danielle

We have set a date (emailed out) Dr. NIMH

October 24, 2017

Currently looking for more committee members - all major positions have been filled

Organization meeting: May 9th, 4PM, probably in SCL 104

l. Environmental – Terry

Garden in constructed and planted - two “permanent” planters were installed

Planted lots of peppers, peas and red cabbage and lettuce/arugula

Herbs: chives, oregano, cilantro, thyme, mint

Garden is in the “smokers area” outside CRB

Looking for a co-chair!

m. Fundraising – Terry/Juliette

Next vendor fair will be sometime in August - need to pick a day

Need another co-chair for this committee

n. Foreign National Committee (FNC) – Jagmohan/Helene/Nicole

We had our first postdoc lunch last month. Unfortunately, we didn't have anyone come.

Talking to immigration lawyer to set up the next session. He is also coming to CHOP, so the sessions will be on the same day

Try coffee/tea

No welcome session this month

o. Website updates – Jason

Website has all edits incorporated and is about to go live, pending the IT people at UPenn. One question we will need to discuss is video hosting. Unfortunately, my kid as a dad-kid event at school Monday night, and I won't be able to make the meeting :(

Just need to link to youtube

5. Other updates/agenda from members

6. Updates from BPP Office - Morgan/Lauren/Mary Anne/Susan
Not present

7. Next Meeting — June 5th, 2017, 5 PM.

Social, CET, Fundraising, Environmental, Seminars, [LGBTQ Co-Chair for Diversity]