

## 03/21/13 OSU PDA General Meeting Minutes

### Present:

Jeff Agnoli, Will Cantara, Vanessa Varaljay, Ioana Boeras, Rick Laguna, Asuko Uchida, Shareef Dabdoub, Sukhinder Sandhu, Ciji Lawrence (COM Postdoctoral Program Manager)

### UCAT speaker

Stephanie Rohdieck, M.S.W., L.S.W., the Assistant Director of University Center for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT) is talking about what UCAT is and what services they have available for postdocs at OSU.

UCAT is a free, voluntary service for helping any and all teachers at OSU. For postdocs, they offer help in how to market oneself as a teacher or assist in writing teaching philosophy, for example.

UCAT services are divided into **3 categories**:

**Talk** = UCAT provides consultation about courses and feedback, getting help getting started w/ a new course/curriculum design, they may attend a course a postdoc is guest lecturing and provide feedback. Postdocs can talk to Stephanie about the interview process, their CV (though within the overarching context of teaching positions)

Explanation and samples of teaching portfolios are posted <http://ucat.osu.edu/read/teaching-portfolio>

**Participate** = UCAT puts on 12-15 events per term.

Some examples:

Teaching Academy <http://academy.osu.edu/events/mini-conf/>

Teaching Orientation <http://ucat.osu.edu/participate/teaching-orientation>

Course Design Institute: <http://ucat.osu.edu/participate/course-design-institutes>

UCAT will also do unit events (for example, if we wanted to do a workshop on writing a teaching philosophy).

**Read** = some of their workshop materials are available online. <http://ucat.osu.edu/read>

To keep up to date on UCAT events, PDA members can sign up for the UCAT listserv <https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/ucat>

### Report on Nat'l Postdoc Assoc meeting from Sukhinder Sandhu

The NPA outlines six core competencies for post-doc development: 1. Discipline-specific conceptual knowledge; 2. Research skill development; 3. Communication skills; 4. Professionalism; 5. Leadership and management skills; and 6. Responsible conduct of research. University PDA's are encouraged by the NPA to design and disseminate programming that fosters growth in these areas. Sukhinder reviewed a few tools and events that were discussed:

- Oregon State University PDA has purportedly set up a certificate program for those interested in pursuing work in industry.
- SCI PHD : tool for transitioning from academia to industry  
<http://www.sciphd.com/SciPhD.com/Home.html>
- Other institutes offer programs to visit industry-type workplaces
- Other universities are using [myIDP](#) in lieu of progress reports to track career development.
- “Speed networking” was a popular event among PDA’s  
Jeff suggested that the University Alumni Association might sponsor such an event for us.
- Other PDAs (incl the OSU CoM PDO) have faculty advisors (incl. Nationwide Children’s Hospital PDA)

Also, there are not many places with distinctions between PDFs (Post-doctoral Fellows) and PDRs (Post-doctoral researchers), and if there are, the university can work with external companies to provide the PDFs with comparable benefits to PDRs.

Additionally, the Iowa PDAs (Iowa State & U. of Iowa) have contacted us about collaborating with them on their research day and development of a midwest chapter of the NPA.

**Voting on and/or accepting volunteers for the following positions:**

Sukhinder Sandhu was unanimously elected to the position of Grants Coordinator for the OSU PDA.

**Committee reports**

Vanessa Varaljay was reporting for the Social Committee. The Social Committee will be arranging a monthly happy hour at [Woody's Tavern](#) in the Union. It was decided that this would occur the Friday prior to the monthly general meeting.

The Faculty Club was also suggested as a happy hour location. Including social events on the West Campus was discussed.

Jeff noted that RPAC has responded to our requests and are willing to provide a one week voucher to us and guests (7days) in May or June. Dates to be determined.

**Update on creation of the OSU PDA webpage**

Will Cantara reported on his development of an OSU PDA website in Wordpress:

<http://postdocs.osu.edu/>

Presently the page is a shell with information taken from our wiki site. He gave the [Berkley PDA website](#) as an example to follow. Tabs on our page could include Welcome Page, How to Join, pages for respective committees, and a calendar of events. What sort of images should be featured on the homepage was discussed. Landscape images of campus and icons or pictures representing the different colleges (reflective of our diverse membership) were supported by those present.

**Discussion and review of Post-doc survey questions**

Will presented some example PDA survey questions from U. of Chicago (link to be posted to the PDA wiki). The proposed survey would be set up such that answers would be automatically exported to ensure anonymity. The Office of Research or Statistical Consulting Services could potentially provide support for survey hosting and data analysis.

Ciji reported that the College of Medicine PDO is not planning on doing a survey.

Meeting Minutes prepared by E. Butler (Secretary), approved by S. Dabdoub (Co-Chair)