Dartmouth College Postdoctoral Association Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 1 12-1pm
DHMC – Borwell 659W

Postdocs in Attendance: 12
Presided over: Kristine Hill, President

Meeting Points:

1. Next meeting: Thursday, May 6th: Hanover location
   
   → Alix and Kris will try to locate permanent room locations we could use in the future for meetings at their respective campuses.

2. Budget request submitted! The meeting at the Provost’s Office went well. They will know more about what they can budget us for 2010 fiscal year in May.
   
   • Current budget update from Josh: Currently at ~$2000. Need to spend it all by June. Could allocate more to the Spring Picnic.

3. Postdoc “RIP” Seminar (Kris): Definitely want to give it a go, but don’t want to compete with other existing series. Discussion oriented around attendance concerns and which format may be most appropriate.
   
   • It was decided that we should first have a mini-symposium to kind of “kick off” the seminar series and make sure there is adequate interest. It could be a 10-3pm sort of thing, with talks grouped by general subject.
   
   • Melanie suggested increasing attendance by offering a raffle of some hot items (e.g. iPods, iPads…).
   
   • Should put a question about interest on the Spring Picnic survey.
   
   • Could be at DOC house with social time afterwards. Should be sometime before summer officially starts, so faculty could still attend. Also so we could use the remaining money from this year’s budget. Maybe a Thursday or Friday, since socializing afterwards?

4. Info posted on website (Kris/Nicole): Nicole has been doing a great job of getting things posted.
   
   → Nicole: Update contact link for webmaster to your address.

5. Newsletter (Kris): Would like to put out a publication 3-4 times/year and fill it with postdoc-related agendas.
   
   • Melanie suggested putting in an “Interview Corner” where postdocs with interesting connections could interview those people for a short column.
   
   • Really need to spread the workload around, so officers (and other postdocs) who are interested should think of what they would like to contribute!
   
   → Alix: Will post the template from Wake Forest’s GSA Newsletter, to give an additional example for the DCPDA Newsletter.

6. Outreach activities (Amorette): Has a contact, Chrissy Morley, who is a biology teacher at the Lebanon high school. Chrissy is interested in getting more
involvement from Dartmouth postdocs and graduate students. Opportunities include:

- A poster-day at the high school in which postdocs briefly present their poster and then field questions on the whole poster process. The students would also be designing their own science posters.
- Earth Day (4/30/10): The high school is doing a big thing for Earth Day in which they have people manning booths and giving 20 minute talks. Theme this year is “Food” so any postdocs whose research is oriented about food (e.g. plants, soil, environment) might be interested in talking or manning a booth. Contact Amorette for details about this event.

→ Nicole & Amorette: Should put a new “Outreach” page on the DCPDA website, which would include opportunities and contact info for those postdocs who are looking for additional teaching & volunteer activities.

7. NH-INBRE grant (Kris/Melanie): Dartmouth is involved in a multi-institutional multi-million dollar grant application which, if funded, would help to elevate the level of scientific curriculum at undergraduate and community colleges in the area. DCPDA is involved because postdocs would be recruited to help teach classes and labs at those colleges. Kris & Melanie will be speaking about this at the site visit next Thursday.

8. Spring Picnic update (Ian, remotely): The Picnic is scheduled for May 14th, 5-9PM at the DOC House next to Occum Pond. The theme will be Cinco de Mayo.
   - We didn’t have time to discuss (the room was scheduled immediately after us), but people should consider if they would want to have something like a Salsa Taste-Test Contest with maybe a prize for the winner.
   - Ian will also need help with set-up and take-down. Please contact him if you can contribute a few minutes!!

9. Other business:
   - Alix: Chris Dant is giving a “how-to” writing seminar tomorrow (Friday, April 2nd) from 1:30-3:00pm in Vail 614 if anyone’s interested.