

SUPD Minutes
7 Aug 2008. CCSR 4205.

I. Welcome/Attendance

II. Old Business:

1. Town Hall Recap/Feedback
 - a. Food was ordered for about 60 people. The cake was overkill.
 - b. The room worked well. The last one was much larger because the go pass issue had just flared up, and many people came to voice concern over visa issues.
 - c. Overall it was considered a success. Probably use the same format next time. It was good to avoid doing the surveys during the meeting.
2. Wine & Cheese
 - a. There was wine left over, so we could do it a couple more times over the year. Could do activities next time to get people to know others.
 - b. Name tags were valuable.
 - c. Encouraging social interaction was difficult. Perhaps next time, activities could be incorporated. Challenge-type games work well for adults (though perhaps these sorts of activities would be better suited to the BBQ).
3. The Voice
 - a. Response was good.
 - b. Should post it to the website.
 - c. For the future, they are going to ask for specific word lengths, on specific topics, to make it more manageable for the writers.
 - d. Should include it in the orientation packets.
 - e. Could email to most people, but use paper copies for orientation packets.
4. Unfilled Positions/Audit of SUPD Roster

III. Follow-up on Previous Action Items

1. Kevin elected to council. His email is confirmed to be on the council mailing list.
2. Childcare online group (Kevin +/- Will)
 - a. The Yahoo! Website is up and running, we will place a link to it from the SUPD website.
 - b. Could apply for a grant to study childcare issues for postdocs at Stanford. There is a grant deadline for a program requesting applications involving work/life balance for women scientists. Deadline is sometime in September. Kevin will talk to Chequeta and Mona about getting their support for an application.
3. Request money for news letter from John Pringle (Sruthi)
 - a. Need to determine how many new post-docs arrive each year.
 - b. We estimate about 1000 hard copies of the newsletter will be needed.
4. Mentoring award press release (Action: Alison, Sruthi, Annahita)
 - a. The press release went out. Hasn't been seen in the dean's newsletter.

- b. Is it going out to departmental website people?

IV. New Business/Council Reports:

1. UCCPS Report (Will)
 - a. We like the idea of the postdoc research awards.
 - i. We will request more info from UCLA on the awards
 - ii. We feel it may be too much work to implement these on our own, and the environment at Stanford may be too competitive. As an alternative, we could include a research profile in the newsletter each newsletter. Send out an email with the results of my inquiry to the council.
 - b. We would like to find out how they fund social activities (e.g., bar nights).
2. Upcoming BBQ
 - a. The BBQ is in the 07/08 budget. Should hold it in September.
 - b. Have to book the space with Bechtel. Should do it on a Thursday.
 - c. Alison proposes Sept. 11.
 - d. For shopping, should use 3 cars with 4 or 5 people. Have to count on 400 people coming.
3. Budget meeting with Chequeta
4. Website (stop junkmail to cochairs? argghhh!)
 - a. Change the co-chair email addresses to AT/DOT format.
5. Postdoc Commute (Nick)
 - a. Commute committee is currently stalled. They are planning to meet with DP&T.
6. VA (Brandon)
 - a. We (Will, Brandon) established a supd-varesearch email list.
7. Strategic Planning (year's goals)
 - a. Push to gather exit data on post-docs.
 - i. We could establish a database of alumni and whether you are ok to be contacted
 - ii. The post-doc office is going to hire somebody who will focus on the 'grave' part of the post-doc experience, possibly gathering just such data.

Action Items:

- Transportation meetings & update council: Johan & Nick
- UCLA Social Events/Budget: Will
- Research UCLA Postoc award: Will
- Continue Website Update & add childcare link: Will
- "Boring" research: Sarah
- Get in touch with PDO (postdoc Office) about Grant (Kevin & Alison)
- The Voice (suggest topics, solicit articles and recruit editors): Kevin
- Childcare discussion board (& e-mail Yahoo! Site link to council): Kevin
- Budget Meetings with PDO: Brandon and Irfan
- Set up avenue for council to be involved with new PDO position: Brandon & Irfan

- Reserve Bechtel (BBQ): Irfan