

MUPA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Feb 20, 2007

8:00 -9:00 AM

372 Life Sciences Center

Attendance: Jenny Zhang, Craig Emter, Rachel Ruhlen, Dr. Sheryl Tucker, Charlotte Kenning, Kia Dalili, Todd Jones-Farrand, Siva Chudalayandi

Notes taken by: Todd Jones-Farrand

I. Announcements:

a. New website is up on Feb 4th

Updates are coming, including an “Accomplishments” section and a link to Career.edu which will allow automatic updates of job postings from their site onto ours.

b. Newsletter is out on Feb 4th (Print out? \$0.15/color page)

GO READ IT IF YOU HAVEN’T, & PASS IT AROUND!

II. Events & planning:

1. Event report → Jenny

a. Tax workshop (80 attendee, great turn out, might have it next year)

This sparked a discussion about the status of a potential refund of FICA taxes to postdocs. Dr. Tucker gave us an overview of what is going on, who the players are, and what the possibilities are. In short, the University is awaiting a judgment from the IRS and this has delayed efforts to get all postdocs under a consistent job title with consistent benefits. The next meeting among UM System officials is on March 5th. The council requested that Dr. Tucker or someone she recommends write a summary of the issue and the March 5th meeting for the next MUPA newsletter.

b. Event flyer distribution

Jenny has asked 11 department/centers to distribute future event flyers for MUPA, mainly identified departmental staff supporters as MUPA’s coordinators. Agreement forms and several flyers were sent out Feb 7th. So far there are 4 relies. Jenny will keep on getting the feedback forms from them. This idea was from Sherry Chao.

MUPA’s color printing account was established through life science center’s color printer.

2. Future events: (this spring 08)

a. “30 sec elevator speech for scientists” [In progress by Charlotte]

No date is set for this event yet, but 4 facilitators have been identified and 3 have agreed. Sign-ups will be available for 16 postdocs (4 groups of 4).

b. Dr. Michael Warnock: “Research funding F&A cost” [May, 2008]

Did not discuss

c. Sheryl Konig: “NIH grant workshop” [ask for volunteers to organize]

Did not discuss

III. Administration

1. Newsletter → Arka (Not present, lead by Jenny)

a. Next issue content

The council is seeking contributions in addition to 3 ideas: FICA update (Dr. Tucker), Women's Leadership Conference summary (Rachel), and MUPA news (Jenny).

Kia Dalili agreed to assist with the next newsletter, and a tentative date of end of March was discussed.

2. Travel awards → Rachel & Elizabeth

Application date was extended in hopes of receiving more applicants. Currently 8 folks have applied. There will be a meeting on Feb. 27th to review applications.

3. Woman leadership conference (Mar. 2008) → Rachel

Rachel, Jenny, Sherry, & Charlotte will be holding a workshop as part of the Women's Leadership Conference on March 1, 2008. The discussion will focus on gender issues in the workplace.

4. Initiation on the "MUPA Annual Report" process → Jenny

Jenny handed out an outline and tentative schedule. This document will be important for tracking our progress and showing our funders that their money is well spent. Jenny aims for us to have this done by April 11th.

IV. Finance → Elizabeth (unable to attend)

1. 2007 budget report

Did not discuss

2. Winter 2008 budget planning

VERY IMPORTANT! The Office of Research, who has been a major backer of MUPA, is facing unprecedented funding reductions. Dr. Tucker advised us to contact them soon. It is unknown if the new administration there is aware of past commitments to MUPA or has planned for MUPA in their next budget.

NPA dues will be due again soon. We need to be sure that the proper folks are aware and this gets paid.

Purchasing Cards – Jenny had inquired about getting an MUPA purchasing card that could be used for future events. Dr. Tucker checked into this and found that it would be very difficult to get a group card. It would be much easier for individuals within MUPA who have purchasing cards for their research to use their card and have their fiscal officer send the charge to Ruth Erwin.