

1/09/2002 PSA Meeting

Minutes of the January 09, 2002 meeting

Postdoctoral Scholars Association (PSA) of UC Davis

Meeting location and time: Smith Room at the Memorial Union, 12 noon

Meeting attendance: 12

Meeting called to order: 12:08 PM, PSA Chair Tom Peavy presiding

(1) Participant signed-in. Meeting agenda, "Executive Summary of APD Recommendations", and the minutes from the September 18 and November 7, 2001 meetings handed out.

(2) Minutes from previous PSA meetings (09/18/2001 and 11/07/2001) approved.

(3) Updates and Reports:

(i) PSA brochure. A logo for the PSA brochure was developed and the brochure initially designed by (former?) PSA vice-chair Christine Hotz has been updated. A copy of the brochure was passed around for review. The information on the brochure is general so that it will not be outdated soon. Costs for printing are:

500 copies \$313 (~\$0.63/copy)

1000 copies \$374 (~\$0.37/copy)

1500 copies \$439 (~\$0.29/copy)

Participants unanimously decided to approve the printing of 1500 copies to be distributed on campus (Graduate Studies, Services for International Students and Scholars, etc.).

(ii) Graduate Council and our "List of Recommendations". Tom sent an e-mail to the postdoc listserv last month with an update on our progress. The PSA submitted a document to Graduate Council (which is the body responsible for graduate and postdoctoral affairs) entitled "Recommendations to Improve Postdoctoral Affairs" on February 12, 2001. Issues discussed in the document included salaries, benefits, offer letters, etc. After discussion at Graduate Council, our concerns and issues were sent forward to the Academic Planning and Development (APD) subcommittee for further discussion. After quite a few subcommittee meetings in which Teresa Dillinger, Christine Hotz and Tom participated, the APD subcommittee produced a document entitled "Summary of APD Recommendations" which includes a point by point response to our PSA document. The APD document was presented during the June 4th Graduate Council meeting and subsequently approved at the June 28th meeting. We have been given permission by the chair of Graduate Council to post this document on our e-mail listserv and website (<http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/>). The recommendations (as expressed in the APD document) were then forwarded on November 19th to the Chair of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate to be sent out for further input by the Academic Senate, Academic Federation and faculty committees. We are now awaiting for input and responses which has a deadline of mid-February. It is our goal that a plan of action for implementing approved recommendations will be accomplished by the end of this academic year (Spring 2002). Tom mentioned that two issues are still unresolved: benefits for postdocs on their own money that cannot be considered employees (e.g., NIH fellowship

recipients), and the grievance procedures (the grievance must be submitted within 30 calendar days from the date of the act being grieved, and the PSA wants to extend this timeline to at least 60 days).

(iii) UC Council of Postdoctoral Scholars (CPS, UC-wide postdoc organization). Tom Peavy, the interim chair of the CPS, is pleased to announce the upcoming meeting of the CPS at UC San Diego on February 9, 2002. In the first meeting (May 19, 2001) at UC Davis, postdoc representatives unanimously decided to form the CPS to create a network of communication among postdoctoral scholars UC-wide and to assure systemwide committee representation on the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) and the Council of Graduate Deans (CoGD). The CCGA can be considered a systemwide "Graduate Council" of the Academic Senate, and the CoGD is a systemwide meeting of Graduate Deans. Postdoctoral organizations can act locally with Graduate Councils and Graduate Divisions (Graduate Deans), but UC issues such as title codes have to be discussed by the systemwide committees with representation from all UC campuses. The second CPS meeting took place September 22, 2001 at UC Berkeley.

(iv) Pedagogical training - Teaching Resources Center (TRC) and UC Davis Extension courses. The TRC has recently opened up their series of workshops on Teaching, Learning and Technology to postdocs. These workshops are geared for faculty, so they are an excellent opportunity to receive quality pedagogical training. The PSA hopes to work with the TRC and UC Davis Extension to have more opportunities such as this in the future.

(4) Discussion on Future Goals and Activities of the PSA.

(i) Career Services and Training. Tom wants to write a letter to the Provost (Virginia Hinshaw) asking for improved funding for postdoctoral affairs on campus. These funds would be used for career services and training, as well as staff support for postdocs.

(ii) Productive use of PSA funds to support its goals and activities. Part of the funds is used for pizza and refreshments at each PSA meeting. Funds were also used to purchase a copy of "Compensation of Life Scientists 2001" for \$147.50. This reference book (a survey of salaries) has already been ordered and will be kept at the Internship and Career Center for consultation by postdocs. Funds could be used to rent buses to take postdocs to career fairs in the Bay Area.

(iii) Committee representation. Committee representation is essential to accomplish the goals of the PSA. Currently there are two major committees. The Graduate Council (Tom Peavy is our representative), and its subcommittee on "Academic Planning and Development" or APD (for each there are no current representative). Alicia Paulson (afpaulson@ucdavis.edu) volunteered for the APD subcommittee and Carol Thornber (csthornber@ucdavis.edu) volunteered to be the alternate representative for the Graduate Council. Thank you Alicia and Carol for your important contributions to the PSA. The subcommittee on "Graduate Student Support and Welfare" previously represented by Sonja Brodt and Teresa Dillinger is mostly involved in the selection of Graduate Student Travel Awards. The idea of a similar travel award for postdocs was proposed and representation in this subcommittee will not take place until such awards are available for postdocs.

(iv) Vice-chair. The PSA still needs to elect a vice-chair. Nominations are welcome!

(5) Open forum for new agenda items or announcements:

(i) Our next PSA meeting will be held at a date, time and location to be announced by e-mail at a later date.

Meeting adjourned: 1:05 PM, PSA Chair Tom Peavy presiding

Prepared by Paulo Verardi, PSA Secretary/Treasurer