

10/26/2000 PSA meeting

Start: 12:10

End: 13:30

Number of participants: 8

(1) Participants sign-in;

Hand outs: (i) agenda; (ii) UC Davis PostDoctoral Scholars Association Charter By-laws; (iii) draft of UC Davis PostDoc "Grievances Resolving Guidelines & Procedures"; (iv) copy of "Recommendations to Improve PostDoctoral Training at UCSF" [taken from <http://saa49.ucsf.edu/psa/index.html>]

(2) Approved minutes from previous meeting; minutes will be posted on PSA web site and archived (from now on, flyers announcing forthcoming PSA meetings will contain a URL reference to facilitate access to PSA web site)

(3) Revision of PSA By-laws; a suggested revision to the by-law section 3F (Officers and Duties of the Secretary) was approved. The amendment stipulates that the PSA secretary also serves as treasurer and as such will manage future PSA funds.

(4) Chair Tom Peavy reported on the Graduate Council meeting (Oct. 19, 2000):

(i) This was the first Graduate Council meeting at which PSA had an official representative. PostDocs will now be addressed specifically at the beginning of each meeting

(ii) Grievance procedures described in the UC Academic Personnel Manual, section 140 (APM-140) also apply to PostDocs. PostDocs, who wish to file grievance, should familiarize themselves with the procedures at the following web sites:

<http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/s1-140.html> and

<http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/apm/140.htm>.

It was noted, as an issue for potential future concern, that the determined 30-day grievance time line probably is not sufficient (but should be extended at some point).

(iii) The Council of Graduate Deans committee (next meeting 11/01 & 11/02) will review PostDoc issues, including the grievance procedure, and subsequently generate a PostDoc document that will be reviewed by all UC campuses and, eventually, PSA at UC Davis.

(iv) It was noted that a PSA representative was still not elected to the Graduate Council's subcommittee on "Academic Planning &

Development"; Vice-Chair Christine Hotz consequently volunteered for this position.

(5) SFSU has requested access to UC Davis' PSA survey data, for further analysis and comparison with their own survey; we decided on considering data-sharing with SFSU only after preliminary analyses at UC Davis have been completed & approved by Dean Gonzales.

(6) Discussion of issues of concern to PostDocs:

(i) PSA web site should get a more permanent location (at this point, the web site is maintained through one PostDoc's home Department)

(ii) PSA aims to unite various PostDoc sub-groups (e.g., international groups) to improve communication among UC Davis PostDocs

(iii) Certain organizers of recent UC Davis activities of potential interest to PostDocs (e.g., career counseling and interviewing) were unable to contact & inform PostDocs via list server. Consequently, PSA discussed and approved that the PSA list server should be opened for such external bodies to indirectly announce similarly pertinent events.

(iv) Funding issue: Certain expenses pertaining to PSA have so far been ameliorated by individual PSA members and, to some degree, by their Departments. These expenses included copy fees for meeting agendas and hand-outs, as well as annual fees for PSA organization registration. We feel that expenses should not be carried by individuals/individual departments and discussed possibilities for generating limited PSA funds. The following revenue sources were identified:

(a) Each UC Davis PostDoc contributes to PSA (e.g., \$5 per annum).

(b) PSA approaches Graduate Council/Graduate Studies for funds.

(c) PSA approaches different departments/faculty involved with PostDocs for funding.

(d) PSA hosts an annual introduction party/event for all PostDocs, and charges nominal admission.

All generated funds would be used to cover regular PSA activities/expenses that ultimately benefit all UC Davis PostDocs. We particularly welcome suggestions/comments from UC Davis PostDocs regarding this issue!!!

(7) We discussed UCSF document "Recommendations to improve Postdoctoral Training at UCSF" (see URL link under (1)). PSA UC Davis decided to follow the example of PSA UCSF (currently the most active PSA in the entire UC system), by identifying guidelines for improving PostDoc training at UC Davis, and eventually creating an appropriate document for UC Davis campus usage.

A relevant subcommittee was consequently founded, consisting of the following volunteer members: Christine Hotz, Tom Peavy, Paulo Verardi and Teresa Dillinger.

(8) Alternate secretary/treasurer Ana Fidantsef stepped back from her position (PSA congratulates Ana on her new job!). We welcome Paulo Verardi as our new alternate secretary/treasurer.

Paulo Verardi

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(9) Our next PSA meeting was preliminarily scheduled for November 16, 2000.

We agreed that PSA meetings should be only 1 hour in length to encourage attendance.