

12/07/2000 PSA Meeting

Location: Memorial Union (Smith Room)

Start: 12:07 PM

End: 1:00 PM

Number of participants: 10

- (1) Participant signed-in. Meeting agenda handed out.
- (2) Minutes from previous PSA meeting (11/14/2000) approved.
- (3) Announcements:
 - (i) COSEPUP (Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy) is a joint committee of The National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. COSEPUP will hold a Convocation on "Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience" in March 2, 2001. One representative from each Postdoctoral Association will receive funds to travel and attend the convocation to be held at The National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. Issues to be discussed include the recognition status of postdocs, compensation and benefits, and responsibilities of funding organizations. PSA chair Thomas Peavy was nominated to attend the convocation. Further information about the meeting will be provided by Tom at a later PSA meeting.
 - (ii) UCSF will hold a special panel discussion ("Postdoctoral Training in the 21st Century") addressing local and national advancements in postdoctoral training, Tuesday, December 12, 2000, 6:00 PM, HSW300. PSA chair Thomas Peavy will represent UC Davis.
- (4) Graduate Council Subcommittee reports:
 - (i) Subcommittee on "Academic Planning and Development". PSA vice-chair and representative to this subcommittee, Christine Hotz, together with chair Thomas Peavy, reported on the meeting organized by Christine on November 27, 2000 at 6PM in the Smith Room. The subcommittee on "Academic Planning and Development" is planning a revision of the existing postdoc manuals (<http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/apm/140.htm> and <http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/s1-140.html>) and there are some new issues related to postdocs that need to be discussed. A list of recommendations to postdoctoral policies will be made by the PSA. PSA invites all UC Davis postdocs to provide feedback on this issue and to participate in the revision process..
 - (ii) Subcommittee on "Graduate Student Support and Welfare". Teresa Dillinger attended the last meeting (11/30/00) as Sonja Brodt (PSA representative to this subcommittee) could not attend. The selection of Graduate Student Travel Award took place in this meeting. The idea of a similar travel award for postdocs was proposed by Teresa. PSA members agreed that this is a good idea, and chair Thomas Peavy will talk to Associate Dean Jerry Hedrick, as such award could be funded by Graduate Studies.

(5) PSA received \$3,000.00 in funds from Graduate Studies for this year's budget. PSA thanks the Dean of Graduate Studies Cristina González and Associate Dean Jerry Hedrick for their support. The following suggestions on the use of these funds were made at this point:

(i) Annual fee (\$35.00) to register PSA as a campus organization.

(ii) Refreshments for PSA meeting attendees.

(iii) Quarterly Postdoc gathering. This reception would be held once every quarter (except summer) and would allow PSA to welcome new and continuing postdocs on campus. In addition, it would be an opportunity for the PSA to advertise and disseminate information pertinent to postdocs. The first reception is tentatively scheduled for Winter Quarter 2001 (possibly in the month of February). PSA will send an e-mail to the UCD postdoc listserv to ask feedback for the date and type of event (e.g., barbecue, etc.), and also to ask volunteers to help putting the event together.

(6) List of recommendations for Postdoc policy/procedures to be submitted to graduate council

(i) Formulate clear policies on postdoc and mentor responsibilities.

(ii) Educate both faculty and staff about these policies.

(ii) Different title categories make it difficult to find postdocs on campus.

(iii) Appointments should always be 100% time, unless clearly wanted by the postdoc.

(ii) Ph.D.s must be hired under PGR V or higher.

(iii) Minimal salaries for postdocs and PGRs with Ph.D.s.

(iv) Extend benefits (medical, dental and vision) to all postdocs, independent of hiring title. Include "unclassified" scholars (those with their own source of money). They should be allowed to at least buy into the UC health insurance plans.

(7) Other announcements:

(i) Teresa Dillinger from the Internship & Career Center at UC Davis announced that the 2nd Annual Pathways to the 21st Century Career Symposium for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars will be held Saturday May 5, 2001. Teresa proposed to advertise (in the postdoc listserv) a call for volunteers to a committee to discuss workshop topics, etc.

(ii) PSA alternate secretary/treasurer Paulo Verardi reported on the idea of submitting e-mails to several listservers on campus to advertise the PSA, the postdoc listserv and the websites. Paulo will send quarterly e-mails to the SISS listserv visitors. **Postdocs are encouraged to send this e-mail to other listservers as well. Contact Paulo (phverardi@ucdavis.edu) to get this e-mail message.**

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