

PRESENT

Jerry Breslin, Co-Chair PSA, Chair UC Council of Postdoctoral Scholars, Chair, PSA Website Committee
Alison Cole, Co-Chair, PSA
Karoline Weisner, Treasurer, PSA, Member, PSA Website Committee
Marian Bilheimer, Graduate Studies, Program Coordinator, **PROF** Program, PSA staff, Graduate Studies
Jerry Hedrick, Faculty Assistant to the Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs
Sam Johnson, Member PSA Website Committee
Gustavo Barisone, Animal Science, Member, PSA Website Committee
Banaly Pande, Chair, Postdoc Teaching Initiative Committee
Xinhua He, LAWR
Nelly Valkova, Animal Science
Anita Stone, Animal Behavior/Psychology, Chair, PSA Social Committee
Xianoning Zhang
Zhenming Du
Amy Baldwin
Zhiyong Zhang
Dan Qui
Luis Vargas Villamil, Member, PSA Website Committee

Minutes by Marian Bilheimer mlbilheimer@ucdavis.edu or 4-6830.

Introductions by name and department were made all around (but I was out getting forks.) The list above is from the sign-in sheet.

Karoline Weisner, Treasurer, stated that the annual PSA budget at this time is \$11,000; 20 travel awards @ \$250 each, 5 Postdoc Awards for Excellence in Research @ \$500 each, \$2,000 for general travel, memberships and social events, and a gift of \$1,500 from an anonymous donor which adds 3 more awards for excellence in Research. This is a significant improvement over the budget of several years ago.

One National Postdoc Association membership is funded by Graduate Studies for the PSA. The password to that website will be emailed to anyone who requests it from Karoline (wiesner@cse.ucdavis.edu) and will be put on the website by the Website Committee.

Jerry Breslin met with Nefertiri, Communications Director from Graduate Studies and will launch the website with her template soon.

Banaly Pande reported on the Teaching Program. With the advice and assistance of Jerry Hedrick, this teaching program has put together a list of requests to present to Jeff Gibeling, Dean of Graduate Studies and the Council of Deans. The program would generate a list of interested postdocs and these postdocs would meet the professor, attend a class, give a lecture, be evaluated and write exam questions. The faculty would commit to attending the lecture (or view the video) and critique the postdoc.

There are 2 other postdoc programs on campus where teaching experience can be gained. One is the Professors of the Future (**PROF**) <http://prof.ucdavis.edu/>, and the other is Professors for the Future <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/pftf/>. Please visit their websites for more information.

Sam Johnson said that he has taken advantage of available temporary lecturer positions in mechanical and aeronautical engineering. **Banaly** stressed that the Teaching Program does not wish to be viewed as competition with any other opportunities to teach.

Jerry Hedrick mentioned that further discussion with Dean Gibeling was warranted so that any union issues with lecturers were clear. He also advised that the length of time to give lectures be left open.

Albert van Geelen said this proposal had been presented before and he was concerned that advantage not be taken of postdocs as they would teach for free in order to gain experience.

Jerry B. proposed a spring barbeque in April with meat from Animal Science. **Anita Stone** will chair the Social Committee and call a meeting of her subcommittee (I neglected to get names here. Can you help me out?).

Jerry B. would like assistance with the website. He formed a subcommittee composed of **Luis Vargas, Banaly, Karoline** and **Gustavo Barisone**. **Banaly** will update the website regarding the teaching program. **Jerry B.** will call a meeting of the PSA website committee.

Zhi Yong Zhang would like to see more issues regarding foreign postdocs. on the website.

Jerry H. said that it was critically important to spend the money allotted to the PSA so that the need and involvement is clearly seen.

Karoline elaborated on a proposal by Berndt Hamman, Vice Chancellor for Research. At the last postdoctoral scholars reception, he proposed that the postdocs have an annual symposium with a chosen interdisciplinary topic. He said he could match our funding. (I myself heard him say this.)

Karoline announced her seminar series/mini symposium and handed out her flier. It will be 3 hours and the topic is Complex Systems. Karoline views the series as a start to Berndt's idea. She is looking for speakers. **Jerry B.** volunteered.

Jerry B. recommended attending the new Responsible Conduct of Research Series (RCR) designed by the Office of Research, specifically, Sharmen O'Neill.

Xinhua He will attend the 15th New Phytologist Symposium in London. He was urged to apply for one of the PSA travel grants. He will send Karoline the information. The **deadline** for travel grant applications is **2/15/06**. The application should include a letter from the postdoc's mentor demonstrating need.

Alison Cole announced that she will step down as co-chair of the PSA. She is returning to Canada. The association thanks her for her service and wishes her well.

Jerry H. wondered if the attempted unionization of the postdocs at UCSF had elicited any response from the postdocs at UC Davis. **Jerry B.** summarized that when the teaching assistants initially joined a union, the increase in pay resulting from collective bargaining efforts was identical to the dues payable to the union. The dean's office at UCSF has requested that the UCSF PSA not hold forums about union activity because the union organizers view the PSA as "administration." **Jerry B.** has heard nothing more. He said that he knows the Dean of Grad. Studies supports the PSA at UC Davis and that the PSA represents the postdocs.

The **next meeting** of the PSA will be at noon on **March 3, 2006**. **Marian Bilheimer** will look into having it in Meyer Hall.