

## 03/12/2001 PSA Meeting

Minutes of the March 12, 2001 Meeting

Postdoctoral Scholars Association (PSA) of UC Davis

*Meeting location and time:* 307 South Hall, 5:30 PM

*Meeting attendance:* 7

*Meeting called to order:* 5:37 PM, PSA Chair Tom Peavy presiding

(1) Participant signed-in. Meeting agenda handed out. List of recommendations entitled "UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholars Association Recommendations to Improve Postdoctoral Affairs" handed out.

(2) Minutes from previous PSA meeting (02/05/2001) approved.

(3) Report and discussion on the COSEPUP and Science's NextWave meetings:

(i) COSEPUP (Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy) held a Convocation on "Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience" on March 2, 2001 in Washington, DC. UC Davis sent a delegation to the meeting, including PSA Chair Tom Peavy, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Jerry Hedrick, and Postdoctoral Scholar Linda Lingelbach. Tom and Linda reported on their experience:

- Overall, the meeting focused on advertising and praising the book "Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience for Scientists and Engineers: A Guide for Postdoctoral Scholars, Advisors, Institutions, Funding Organizations, and Disciplinary Societies", recently published by COSEPUP.
- Discussions were limited to Universities invited for the panels, with only a couple of minutes for questions, and no social afterwards. A positive point was the breakout sessions of Postdocs, administrators, funding organizations, disciplinary societies, and postdoc advisers.
- Funding agencies (e.g., NIH) commented on the issue of promoting good oversight and guidance of Postdocs (e.g., by making sure health benefits, etc., are given to Postdocs), but they generally feel that it would be too invasive to intervene in University policies.

(ii) PSA Chair Tom Peavy also participated in the "Postdoc Network National Meeting" sponsored by the Postdoc Network of Science's NextWave. This event was held March 3, 2001 in Washington, DC, the day after the COSEPUP convocation, in an effort to allow networking among the different PSAs. Tom made the following remarks:

- UCSF, UCB and UCI PSA representatives participated in panels.
- Most attending Universities give part-time or full-time administrative support to their PSAs. It was suggested that administrative support should be added to our list of recommendations to the Graduate Council.

- Most PSAs receive good funding (\$10,000-20,000 annually), and all PSAs sponsor activities of interest to Postdocs (e.g., seminar series, etc.).

- Stanford's PSA announced that it is considering unionization. Other PSAs mentioned they want to check on this possibility. A suggestion was made to invite Stanford's PSA to come to the UC Systemwide PSA Meeting that UC Davis will host this Spring Quarter and talk about their unionization efforts.

(4) Report on the Graduate Council meeting. Teresa Dillinger (Internship and Career Center) attended the last meeting (03/05/01) as Tom Peavy (PSA representative to the Graduate Council) could not attend. The list of recommendations to improve postdoctoral affairs was discussed in the meeting. Every member of the council showed interest for the recommendations. Teresa reported that the members of the Graduate Council mentioned that some of the issues cannot be dealt with by Graduate Council, as they involve UC systemwide policies. Tom Peavy made a motion to prioritize the PSA list of recommendations. The motion was seconded and after a brief discussion, a prioritized list was unanimously accepted by vote (n=7):

- Item 3 of the list: salaries -- follow current NIH (NRSA) payscale.
- Item 4 of the list: benefits.
- Item 6 of the list: offer letter ("contract").
- Item 8: postdoctoral evaluation.
- Item 5 of the list: vacation, sick and maternity leave.

(5) Pathways Career Symposium. Teresa Dillinger announced that the *Pathways Career Symposium* for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars will be taking place on May 5th in Wellman Hall. There will be a table with information about the PSA in Wellman Hall during the lunch hour.

(6) Upcoming meeting of Deans & Departmental Chairs. Monika Doblin reported on the upcoming annual meeting of Deans & Departmental Chairs, taking place either this month or next month. The PSA will have an opportunity to talk about the PSA and to discuss some important postdoc issues that are relevant to deans and chairs (e.g., offer letters, etc.).

(7) Announcements/ miscellaneous:

(i) One participant suggested that the PSA should consider obtaining funds for travel awards for Postdocs to go to meetings and symposia.

(ii) One participant suggested that a UCD picture ID card for postdocs should be considered in the future to facilitate postdoc access to certain items and services on campus.

(iii) 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: 7:10 PM, PSA Chair Tom Peavy presiding*

Prepared by Paulo Verardi, PSA Secretary/Treasurer