

## 09/18/2001 PSA Meeting

Minutes of the September 18, 2001 Meeting

Postdoctoral Scholars Association (PSA) of UC Davis

*Meeting location and time:* 192 YoungHall, 5:30 PM

*Meeting attendance:* 9

*Meeting called to order:* 5:40 PM, PSA Chair Tom Peavy presiding

- (1) Participant signed-in. Meeting agenda handed out. List of recommendations entitled "Summary of APD Recommendations" handed out.
- (2) Minutes from previous PSA meeting (05/23/2001) approved.
- (3) Recap of last year's activities (including Graduate Council). Tom Peavy recapitulated the history of the PSA and the role of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Council (in particular the subcommittee on "Academic Planning and Development" or APD) on the wellbeing of postdocs on campus. APD has recently given a point-by-point response to a PSA document entitled "UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholars Association Recommendations to Improve Postdoctoral Affairs" that was submitted by the PSA last February. In addition, UC Davis sent a delegation to the COSEPUP (Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy) convocation on "Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience" on March 2, 2001 in Washington, DC, and sponsored a UC-wide meeting of PSA and postdoc representatives from the UC campuses last May (see item 4 below).
- (4) Report and discussion on the UC-wide Postdoc Meeting (Saturday, May 19, 2001). Chair Tom Peavy was pleased to report on a very successful meeting. The only campuses not represented were Irvine and San Diego, despite repeated efforts of the PSA to recruit representatives. Stanford University also participated as an adjunct member. There were many issues discussed, as there are a lot of common issues. 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 system-wide committees with representation from all UC campuses. The objectives of the meeting were: (1) to facilitate a coordinated effort by UC Postdoctoral Scholars for systemwide committee representation on the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) and the Council of Graduate Deans (CoGD); and (2) to create a network of communication among postdoctoral scholars UC-wide. The campus representatives unanimously decided to form the University of California Council of Postdoctoral Scholars (CPS). Tom Peavy was nominated and accepted the role of interim chair. One of the first immediate objectives of the CPS is to be recognized by the UCOP and to secure funds for the continuity of the organization. UC Berkeley will sponsor a second meeting of the CPS on September 22, 2001.
- (5) Discussion on future goals and activities of the PSA. In the discussion, the issue of a minimum salary and benefits for postdocs was debated. In addition, dissemination of information and participation of postdocs in PSA activities was raised as an important issue. As an example, the PSA needs representatives to committees and subcommittees such as the Graduate Council, the APD, and the subcommittee on "Graduate Student Support and Welfare".
- (6) Announcements/ miscellaneous:
  - (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:* 6:36 PM, PSA Chair Tom Peavy presiding

Prepared by Paulo Verardi, PSA Secretary/Treasurer