

UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholar Association Monthly Meeting

Wed, Dec 10, 2008; 12-1 pm, Room 148 Briggs

Agenda

Update on postdoc handbook

Update on UC-Unionization process, (Danesha Nichols UCD Labor Relations)

Open Floor-Discussion

Update on postdoc handbook

The PSA is still awaiting the contribution from Graduate Studies. The handbook will be launched in Jan., with the GS portion added at a later date.

Update on UC-Unionization process, including Question and Answer Session (Danesha Nichols UCD Labor Relations)

PD hired under title codes 3242, 3253, 3254, 3240, 3243, and 3245 are now represented by the UAW (which also represents graduate students on campus). This has been acknowledged by the University. The University and UAW are now preparing to negotiate a contract. Contract negotiation typically takes 9-22 months. UCOP is soliciting input from campuses. The UAW will hold an Initial Bargaining Proposal Ratification on Dec 18th. Currently on PD who have signed a UAW card can vote. However, it is unclear whether PD who have not signed cards will be able to vote on the final contract. Further, it is unclear whether signing a card obligates a PD to become a union member. D. Nichols will look into these question. Systemwide union team is being lead by Mike Miller and Meredith Wilson, from UCOP Gail Saxton and Myron Okada are lead individuals. The primary contact for PD who wish to give input into contract negotiations is the UAW. It was suggested that PD could also discuss issues with faculty who have advisory role to the University.

Open floor/discussion

(1) J. Hedrick noted that he had contacted the Office of Research at UC Davis to notify them about changes under the America COMPETES Act as it relates to external support from NSF, NIH, etc. For example NSF policy in the Grant Proposal Guide from January 2009 states “Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a separate section within the 15-page Project Description, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. Examples of mentoring activities include, but are not limited to: career counseling; training in preparation of grant proposals, publications and presentations; guidance on ways to improve teaching and mentoring skills; guidance on how to effectively collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary areas; and training in responsible professional practices. The proposed mentoring activities will be evaluated as part of the merit review process under the Foundation’s broader impacts merit review criterion. Proposals that do not include a separate section on mentoring activities within the Project Description will be returned without review.”

(2) There is interest from the PSA in providing input into the job search for a new Chancellor.

(3) Teresa Dillinger is soliciting feedback from PDs on how the Career Center is serving their needs. One question is whether the career fairs are useful to PDs and could they be more useful.