

UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholar Association Monthly Meeting

Thurs, Jan 15, 2009; 12-1 pm, Room 148 Briggs

Agenda

- 1) Report on UC Council of Postdoctoral Scholars meeting- Joanna Friesner
- 2) Update from Graduate Council Meeting – Joanna Friesner
- 3) Discussion- Are UC Davis job-fairs useful to postdocs? How can they be better?- JF
- 4) Union update- Laura Bartley, UCD representative to the bargaining team
- 5) Obtaining external sponsorship- Mark Belmonte
- 6) Announcements
- 7) Open floor

Present

Joanna Friesner (Chair)
Mark Belmonte (Vice-Chair)
Heather Watts (Secretary/Treasurer)
Jerry Hedrick (Faculty Advisor to PSA)
Laura Bartley (UCD representative to union bargaining team)
12 other postdocs

Minutes from the December Meeting were approved.

Report on UC Council of Postdoctoral Scholars meeting- Joanna Friesner

UCLA may be a good model for postdoctoral support at UC Davis. Of particular note: (a) UCLA has a postdoc association office (plus a PSA) with a full-time staff member, and a part-time Associate Dean in the Graduate Division (Belinda Tucker) that is responsible for PD training and appointments, (b) UCLA has a new “PD toolkit” (similar to the UC Davis handbook currently being assembled) that is distributed to all PDs, faculty, administrators, and department heads. The toolkit includes guidelines about what it means to be a mentor to PDs as well as rules/obligations/regulations, etc. We hope to eventually include similar guidelines in the UC Davis handbook, (c) UCLA has developed its first annual UCLA Postdoc week to celebrate PDs this March. It includes campus PD orientations, presentation of the Chancellor’s award for PD research at the PD Reception, companies recruiting PDs day with reception and Keynote Address, PD career fair, and a PD social networking event.

A UC PD newsletter will be produced by UCB. It’s still under development but will tentatively involve solicitation of topics and rough drafts which will be edited and arranged by members of the UCB School of Journalism. Ideas for submissions are being solicited.

Update from Graduate Council Meeting – Joanna Friesner

Dean Gibeling noted that in the absence of a state budget, Grad Studies is expecting budget cuts. It is not clear if/how this will impact the PSA budget.

Graduate studies is expected to contribute their portion of the PD handbook this coming week, at which point it will be posted online. If not received, the current draft will be posted.

Discussion- Are UC Davis job-fairs useful to postdocs? How can they be better?- J. Friesner

An informal poll at the meeting showed that about ¾ of PD in attendance were considering careers in industry in addition to, or instead of, academia. Few PD reported having attended a UC Davis career fair, but there was agreement among those who did that they seemed primarily targeted at students

with bachelors or masters degrees. One problem with attendance is that many PD are unaware of the career fairs. It was also noted that PhD students may also be currently underserved by career fairs and would also benefit from career fairs targeting PhD's.

It was suggested that the PSA could put on our own career fair. Scripps' Society of Fellows could serve as a model for how to do this. This could potentially be used as a revenue generating mechanism. However, companies may require substantial data on career fair attendance if they are to participate in a career fair at a cost. *Chair's note:* career fairs take significant time investment's to organize. Improving current career fairs to better suit postdocs and graduate students is an initial useful investment in time. I am scheduled to speak to career center staff.

Union update- Laura Bartley, UCD representative to the bargaining team

The union has been working to put together proposal to bring to the University. There was an election for the initial proposal ratification that passed in December. The union and the University have now exchanged proposals which are now public documents:

(http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/news_events/0901-heera_notice_px.html).

There will be opportunity for public comment on these proposals (on both sides) Jan 20th at the UC administration building in Oakland, and also Feb 3rd. Laura encouraged PD to attend and comment. The first bargaining meeting between the union and the University will be held Feb 5th and 6th. The union will be conducting bargaining surveys over the next couple of months to get PD input, however PD must sign a card to give input. They are also conducting campus working conditions surveys to collect information on good and bad practices. The union will also be seeking authorization to go on strike if necessary during the bargaining process. This will be done through an election, no date has been set. PD who would like more information or have questions can contact Laura. *Chair's note:* Laura confirmed that signing a card to give input does NOT enroll a person in the union. Joining the union as a member requires an additional, affirmative step.

Obtaining external sponsorship- Mark Belmonte

Postponed until next meeting due to time constraints.

Announcements

- (a) Pathways Career Symposium will be Sat Feb 7th. PD are encouraged to attend, register online.
- (b) Reminder that PD Orientations are held the 1st and 3rd Wed of each month (12-1 in Mrak)
- (c) The next Travel Award deadline is 2/16/09. Details are available on the PSA website.

Open floor

Chris Janousek wanted to make PD aware of UC copyright policy as it pertains to PD and also suggest that PD may want to advocate for change to this policy. Chris noted that currently PD (and temporary lecturers) do not own the copyright to work we produce as scholars (e.g. journal articles, lectures, books) while employed at UC Davis. This is in contrast to policy for graduate students and faculty. Chris and J. Friesner will try to include information on this policy in the PD handbook. L. Bartley noted that this is an issue the union is currently negotiating.

Next Postdoc meeting is scheduled for Wed., Feb. 11th from 12-1 pm in 148 Briggs.
As usual, pizza will be served.