

UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholar Association Monthly Meeting

Wed., May 13, 2009; 12-1 pm, 148 Briggs Hall

Agenda

- 1) Approve April minutes by consent - Joanna Friesner
- 2) Report on meeting with UCD Provost- Friesner
- 3) Update on Excellence in Research Awards- Heather Watts
- 4) Program for UCD Postdoc Recognition Day (May 28)- Friesner
- 5) New PSA officers being recruited: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer
- 6) Announcements:

Present

Joanna Friesner (Chair)

Heather Watts (Secretary/Treasurer)

Abinav Bhushan

6 other postdocs from around campus

April minutes approved by consent

Report on meeting with UCD Provost

Friesner, Belmonte & Watts met with the Provost Lavernia earlier this month. Friesner reported that they informed the provost about the PSA in general and its accomplishments over the past year. As the provost has PDs in his own lab, he recognizes the importance of PD on the UC Davis campus. Friesner proposed a Postdoc Recognition Day, of which the provost was very supportive. He also offered to support the effort to complete the PD handbook. Finally, the PSA raised the need for a dedicated staff person for PD on campus.

Update on Excellence in Research Awards

There are currently 12 applications under review for the award. The committee now has the applications and should be meeting to make its decision in the next week or so.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Postdoc Reception by the Office of Graduate Studies on May 28th.

Program for UCD Postdoc Recognition Day (May 28)

The PSA is organizing a Postdoc Recognition Day on May 28th, to coincide with the Graduate Studies Annual Postdoc Reception. The agenda is as follows:

3-4 pm: Postdoc social hour with refreshments (1065 Kemper Hall)

4-5 pm: Panel of speakers on "Preparing for your career after the postdoc" (1065 Kemper Hall), Simon Chan (Plant Biology) and Judy Kjelstrom (Director of Biotech Program) will speak, addressing career within academia and outside academia.

5-7 pm University Club, Club Room- Annual Postdoc Reception by the Office of Graduate Studies, including presentation of the Postdoc Excellence in Research Awards, and refreshments.

New PSA officers being recruited:

The PSA is recruiting officers for next year (July 2009-Jun 2010). This includes the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Chair's responsibilities include running the PSA, representing the PSA on Graduate Council, representing the Davis campus to the UC Council of Postdoctoral Scholars, as well as running the monthly PSA meetings. Some duties (e.g. Grad Council) can be shared with other officers as needed.

The Vice-Chair supports the Chair in these endeavors.

The Secretary/Treasurer's responsibilities include maintaining meeting minutes, representing the PSA on Graduate Council, assisting with budget maintenance.

Contact Joanna Friesner if you are interested to serve as an officer

(jdfriesner@ucdavis.edu) or the general PSA account (after July, 2009):

ucdpsa@gmail.com

Announcements:

(a) You are encouraged to participate in the Postdoc Recognition Day, May 28th (see schedule above)

(b) The next set of travel awards are due June 15th, to attend meetings held 9/1/09 to 12/31/09.

(c) Negotiations between the union and UC continue. The union hopes to conclude negotiations by June.

(d) Next month's PSA meeting will include appointments/voting on new PSA officers.

Open floor:

(a) It was suggested that we should meet with the new Chancellor to make her aware of postdoctoral issues on campus. There was general agreement that this is a good goal once her appointment begins.

(b) There was discussion of what the role of the PSA would/should be now that there is a postdoc union. It was agreed that there is still an important role for the PSA. Suggested roles included: (i) advocating for PD on campus especially on issues outside of employment, (ii) a source of information for PD, (iii) finding out what PD want and work towards that, (iv) as a resource for postdocs outside the traditional university structure and the union, (v) a means for informal communication with the university, (iv) to manage the postdoc awards (e.g. travel awards) and provide a social outlet for postdocs.