

UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholars Association Monthly Meeting

November 12, 2008 (12-1pm); Room 148 Briggs, UC Davis

Agenda

Update on new PD orientations

Presentation by Internship and Career Center (ICC) on services for PDs

PSA budget for 2008-2009

Possible external support for PSA functions

PD input into Chancellor search

Announcements (Travel awards, Union update, Welcome email)

Present

Joanna Friesner (Chair)

Mark Belmonte (Vice-Chair)

Heather Watts (Secretary/Treasurer)

Praveen Srirama

Abhinav Bhushan

Rita Mehta

Alan Krakauer

Teresa Dillinger and Stuart Henderson from ICC

Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Internship and Career Center (ICC). Teresa Dillinger and Stuart Henderson provided an overview of the services provided by the ICC to PDs. Overall the aim of the center is to provide career services and professional development to graduate students and PDs. They provide individual advising (review your CV, guidance on job searches in academia, government and industry, etc) and sponsor workshops throughout the year. Workshops include CV Writing, Applying & Interviewing for Faculty Jobs, and the Pathways Career Symposium (to be held in Feb). There will be an International Symposium this spring aimed at international students/PDs. ICC welcomes suggestions for new workshops. The ICC website (<http://iccweb.ucdavis.edu>) provides links to many useful resources, and ICC maintains a resource library open to graduate students and PDs (114 South Hall, check for hours). PD do have access to Aggie Job Link (sign up as a student.) Professors for the Future (through the Office of Graduate Studies) is a 1-year professional development program for senior graduate students and PD. They would like to see more PD apply for this program. (There will be an information session for the program in Feb, with applications due in Mar). PD are encouraged to take advantage of these various services and opportunities.

New PD orientations began Nov 5, with 10 PDs in attendance. They will be held the first and third Wed of every month (no registration required). The next orientation will be Wed Nov 19th. Information on the orientation sessions is available on the PSA website and has also been sent to departments.

PSA budget for 2008-2009. The PSA has been given a limited operating budget for this year. This will affect the number of travel awards that the PSA is able to award. Currently we anticipate offering 8 to 10 awards over 2 awards cycles. Graduate Studies will only be able to fund one Excellence in Research Award this year. The PSA will try to offer a second award from the operating budget or by using outside funding (see next item).

Travel Awards. The first round of review is complete. Awards will be announced by Nov. 15. It was suggested that the application be changed to require applicants to submit their applications in PDF format to facilitate review.

Possible external support for PSA activities. A. Bhushan spoke with representatives from Fisher Scientific and they expressed an interest in sponsoring PSA activities. It was suggested that they might be interested in sponsoring PSA awards (either existing awards or a new mentoring award) and/or monthly meetings. A. Bhushan and M. Belmonte will develop a proposal. The PSA will also need to determine that the Office of Graduate Studies does not object to the use of external funds. J. Friesner has contacted Dean Gibeling's assistant and is waiting for a response.

PD input into Chancellor search. There was interest in providing PD input into the ongoing Chancellor search. J. Friesner will contact search committee members on how we can provide input.

Announcements

- (1) Travel awards will be announced by Nov. 15th
- (2) The University has recognized the UAW as the union for PD. There has been interest in getting more information about the unionization process. A future PSA meeting may be attended by HR person who works on UC Davis-union relationships to talk about PD unionization effort.
- (3) All PD should have received a 'welcome email' last week. It will only be sent to existing PD once. The email will now be sent to new PD when they are hired.

PD involvement with Graduate Council. There was discussion about whether PD should be involved in program reviews at GC. Specifically there was discussion as to whether PD should give input during reviews and whether PD training should be included in review. It was noted that the role of the program review is to examine graduate programs specifically, thus the role of PDs was less clear. It was noted that the graduate program/departamental structure at UC Davis means that there is considerable variation in the degree of PD involvement with graduate programs.

Next PSA meeting: Dec. 10th, 12-1 pm; 148 Briggs.

Any corrections or additions to these minutes should be sent to Joanna Friesner (jdfriesner@ucdavis.edu) by Dec. 8th.