

UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholar Association Monthly Meeting

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

Note: the November meeting moves to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Date: November 12th (location: 148 Briggs)

Agenda:

PSA by-laws

New Postdoc Handbook

New Postdoc Orientation

Portability of PD funding

November PSA meeting discussion (including Teresa Dillinger)

Travel Awards- first deadline 10/15/08

Announcements (UCCPS meeting update, Union status, National Postdoc Association)

PRESENT

Joanna Friesner (Chair)

Mark Belmonte (Vice-Chair)

Joy Skirikanchana

Praveen Srirama

Liza Conrad

Plus seven other postdocs from around campus

Minutes by Mark Belmonte (mfbelmonte@ucdavis.edu), additional edits by J. Friesner.

Introductions by name and department were made all around and can be found on the sign-in sheet currently held by Joanna.

PSA by-laws. The minutes from all meetings are to be recorded and distributed via the listserv before the next monthly meeting. Any corrections or additions to the minutes will be made following their approval. It is also important to note that voting motions are not decided upon the same meeting in which they are raised in order to provide adequate time for discussion from all members of the PSA.

New Postdoctoral handbook. Some sections are still a work in progress, however it was noted that Graduate Studies will take care of the formatting of the document. The document is to be an on-line resource only since funds are unavailable for printed copies.

The handbook is slated to be ready by the end of October, early November. All new and existing postdocs are to be informed as to the existence of this document – possibly through SISS.

Postdoc specific orientation to the UC Davis campus and benefits: A new postdoc / employee orientation is currently in development and is to be geared specifically towards PDs.

The new orientation is designed to be shorter and more concise. The proposed orientation tentatively will consist of a 15-30 minute talk from K. Smith (re. benefits) and then a 30-45 minute orientation from Graduate Studies (re. intro to UC Davis, campus orientation, expectations and opportunities from PD as well as other information). The frequency of the orientation (ie, weekly, bi-weekly etc) is still under discussion. However, K. Smith is willing to hold weekly PD benefits orientations.

Unfortunately, not everyone is aware that the current new employee orientations exist. It is the goal of the current PSA to inform all PDs on campus about this new orientation and other vital PD resources. A 'welcome letter' is being prepared by PSA members to be sent to all PDs informing them of resources.

It was noted that all Departments on Campus should be aware of this program and SISS has indicated a willingness to relay details to all campus departments that it deals with.

Moreover, if postdocs would like to continue to attend the current longer new employee orientation program, the committee felt this should be allowed if possible. This will be discussed further by the executive with Dean Gibeling and Kathleen Smith.

Topic of PD funding: An issue of interest brought to the table included PD's rights to funding and whether or not funding obtained by PDs could be taken away from the University by the PD to another location. A more thorough investigation into PD funding policies and restrictions may be examined by Liza Conrad who brought up the topic.

Next Month's Meeting: Joanna noted that Teresa Dillinger (ICC/Grad Studies) has been requested to attend and is willing to present at the next meeting to gain insight into what PDs want to see from career services and other matters of interest.

Some possible topics brought up by PDs to discuss with Teresa:

Why do so few PD look to academia as a career option? Does money talk?

What types of interests to PDs have? What kind of commitment do PDs want to commit to service?

Opportunities for employment in Industry; How to write a recommendation letter

Travel Awards: The first round of travel awards applications are due by email to J. Friesner on **Oct 15th**. See this URL for details: <http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/awards/awards.html>

Announcements

(1 UC Council of PD Scholars (CPS): At the CPS meeting in July, one of the major concerns for some postdocs is that there is no single administrative (or higher level) point of contact for PD issues on each UC campus – some campuses like UCLA do have this. This may have something to do with the amount of funding...i.e. there is none. UCD has benefits liaison (K. Smith).

- A UCB PD suggested a newsletter for all UC postdocs. **Deadline for submissions for the first issue is 11/1** and can be emailed to : astiles@nature.berkeley.edu

- CPS currently lacks funding for administrative help, travel to CPS meetings or to fund a west coast PD meeting. CPS is working on a grant application to the Sloan Foundation for support.

(2) A number of updates regarding the PD union were also mentioned. These include:

1. Aug. 19th: PERB confirms majority of UC PDs signed cards to join an organized union.

2. Sept 10th: UC filed objection to recognition of the Union.

3. Sept. 22nd: PDs who signed cards can accept nomination to be on negotiation team. Each UC gets 1 rep. Deadline was Sept. 29th to accept nomination.

4. Laura Bartley became the non-contested UC Davis union negotiating team rep.

5. UC Davis PDs had the chance to meet with Laura to ask questions regarding the union October 2nd, 3-5PM at the Allstate Insurance Building, 437 F Street, Davis, rm 4.

It was also noted that the UC Davis PSA is not to be directly affiliated with the new union, but since the union represents PDs, relevant information will be relayed via the PSA.

(3) Laura Bartley also mentioned that the NPA (National Postdoctoral Association) has developed a list of recommendation about PD curriculum. What should PDs be developing as skills during their tenure? What makes a better PD? These ideas should be downloadable from the NPA website. (Chair's note: the list couldn't be found when searching the NPA website. I found recommendations from the NPA to the NSF dated Feb. 2008:

<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/atf/cf/%7B89152E81-F2CB-430C-B151-49D071AEB33E%7D/Mentoring%20Implementation.pdf>)

A timeline of recommendation was also brought up as to what a PD should be doing during their time as a PD? Resources are currently available online through the NPA as well as in the journal Nature.

NOTE: SEND CORRECTIONS/EDITS TO Joanna Friesner (CHAIR) prior to next meeting which will be Nov. 12th. Email to: jdfriesner@ucdavis.edu