

PSA General Meeting Minutes – March 17th, 2015

Location and Time: Chemistry 172, 12:00-1:00 PM

Officers in Attendance: Jonathan Ashby (Chair), Molly Foote (Treasurer), Kaisa Kajala (Career Development)

Total number of attendees: 10 postdocs, 2 guests

Meeting Minutes:

Introductions – All postdocs introduced themselves with name, affiliation, and time at UC Davis.

Guest: Teresa Dillinger, Office of Graduate Studies

- Teresa distributed information about the GradPathways program as well as the Professors for the Future program, and discussed how the Office of Graduate Studies is working to determine additional programming for postdocs on campus.
 - o A question was asked about participating in some of the PFTF programs without being a fellow (specifically, the seminar on college teaching). Teresa directed the postdoc towards the Center for Educational Effectiveness (<http://cee.ucdavis.edu/>) to look at opportunities for education-centered training.
- Teresa also mentioned potential changes to the Postdoc Orientation program, to improve postdoc attendance at the orientations and help to get information out to postdocs in general. Molly suggested having PSA officers come at the end of the meetings to discuss the PSA.

Update: Postdoctoral Research Symposium, postdoc-relevant awards

- Jon reminded attendees that the symposium deadline for abstract submission and registration is next Friday, March 25th. Interested postdocs should submit an abstract for review, and volunteer as reviewers and/or judges if interested.
 - o A question was raised about whether the proceedings can be considered peer-reviewed/refereed. Although the abstracts are peer-reviewed, the symposium would not be considered refereed for the purposes of CVs. It would be considered more of an invited talk or non-refereed presentation/poster.
- Molly gave award updates:
 - o There were 20 nominations for the Excellence in Postdoctoral Research award, 4 times as many as last year. As previously, two winners will be selected. The prize has been increased from \$500 to \$1000. The PSA is looking for postdoc judges for the award.

- The next Travel grant deadline is April 29th, 2016, for travel to conferences between July 1st and September 30th, 2016.
- Jon also mentioned a freshly approved award for Excellence in Mentoring of Postdoctoral Scholars. Additional information will be relayed through the listserv as it becomes available.

Discussion on Bylaws: It was requested that the information be resent out to the listserv, and the bylaws approved electronically. The link to the bylaws approval is below:

<http://goo.gl/forms/FaUH2Lq1Pp>

Discussion on Mentorship: Jon brought up some of the initiatives currently going on at UCD to improve mentorship and menteeship. The PSA will be planning an open forum in Spring quarter to discuss what guidelines postdocs have for effective mentorship by PIs, as well as being effective mentors towards graduate students and undergraduates.

Guest: Sarah Mccullogh, Office of Graduate Studies (contact: smcc@ucdavis.edu)

- Sarah discussed a current proposal idea for general improvement of resources available to visiting scholars and postdocs at UCD. She requested suggestions from the PSA audience (If you have any additional ideas, please forward them to the PSA or to Sarah directly):
 - Establish guidelines to PIs for visiting scholars to avoid research encroachment of graduate students and postdocs.
 - Address needs of families (children, spouses, et cetera), particularly in terms of information pertaining to financial support of families as well as resources on campus to support families.
 - In general, there was a strong push to integrate postdocs into the family housing, as well as offer stronger support for international students just arriving on campus and to offer more centralized source for all of this information. UCD Front Door (<https://frontdoor.ucdavis.edu/>), which is a website that collates a large amount of this information for new employees, was mentioned.
 - Finally, it was suggested that there be a position on campus dedicated to postdoctoral support, as well as an online database (similar, but more upkept than the UC Davis Wiki) to ease the transition of postdocs into UC Davis.