

UCLA Postdoctoral Scholar Advisory Council (PSAC)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, May 28, 2020

Attendees: Iriss Brion, Lori Ishimaru, Brittany Jackson, Renate Lux, Portia Mira, JoAnn Roberts, Johnny Saldate, Nanthia Suthana, Lynn Talton, Daniel Wong, Yuting Wu

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Updates for Action Items

- A. Virtual Postdoc Orientation
 - a. The Postdoctoral Scholar Appointments and Services held its first virtual Postdoc Orientation in the Spring quarter. About 20 postdocs attended the orientation.
- B. 1:1 Writing Appointments for Postdocs
 - a. The Graduate Writing Center expressed interest in working with the Graduate Division and Nanthia to provide writing appointments for postdocs. They hope to receive more official commitment/confirmation about the budget for next year to move the project forward.
- C. How PDAs are supporting their postdocs
 - a. Portia reached out to a faculty member at UCLA, Dr. Clarice Aiello about postdoc resources. She shared a program at MIT called REFs (Resources to Ease Friction and Stress). Portia also attended a meeting with the Ombuds Office to get this started at UCLA. She will provide more updates about this program for the next meeting.
 - b. Useful links:
 - c. <https://studentlife.mit.edu/conflictmanagement/refs-programs>
 - d. <https://gsc.mit.edu/committees/hca/irefs/>
Berkeley has a similar program,
<https://sspc.berkeley.edu/about/>
Same with Brown,
<https://www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/improving-professional-structures/home>

2. Discussion Topics: attendees had free-form discussions about the topics below.

- A. Track Sick and vacation leaves for postdocs
 - a. Some UCLA departments are using TRS system to track sick and vacation leaves, which can be recorded to UCPATH. South campus uses its departmental system to track the times and HR records it through a spreadsheet. HRs also enter the information to UCPATH.
 - b. TRS will see more accurate tracking time
- B. Faculty Quick Reference Guides
 - a. The reference guides help keep faculty up to date on the different requirements for the Union. It is a quick way to provide information that they need to hire a postdoctoral scholar. Postdocs will have access to the reference guides as well. Brittany will also create reference guides to cover the following topics:
 - 1. Library and technology access

- 2 Postdoc Orientation
 - 3 PDA
 - 4 Professional Development Resources
- C. PSAC Diversity sub-group
- a. A proposal for the postdoc recruitment process
 - b. Stage 1: used by UCLA, and potentially expand to UC wide
 - c. Goal: retain the talent in the state and move graduating PhD students to different UCs, instead of going to other institutions

3. Future discussion topics:

- A. Set up a meeting schedule for the academic year of 2020-2021
- B. Challenges that postdocs experienced during COVID19
 - a. Childcare
 - b. The priority of going back to the campus
 - c. Extend the postdoc 5-year limit?
 - d. Online training for teaching?

ACTION ITEMS

1. Extend PSAC to the next academic year and schedule the meeting dates