

## University of Iowa Postdoctoral Association –Council of College Representatives Meeting

Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 12:30 pm

3181E MERF

In attendance: Celine Baguenard, Mike Crawford, Carol Fischer, Phil Gander, Minnetta Gardinier, Gurman Gill, Cara Hamann, Grazi Kalil, Tianyu Liu, Rachel Marek, Scott Small

- New Attendees
  - Rachel Marek, a postdoc from Civil Engineering, is interested in policy issues regarding postdocs.
  - Gurman Gill, a postdoc from Electrical and Computer Engineering, is interested to learn what the UIPDA does.
- Postdoc Research Day
  - The Postdoc Research Day committee is considering changing the name of this event to something like “Postdoc Symposium”, or “Midwest Postdoc Symposium”, given that the event will be about more than just postdocs’ research.
  - The date for the conference is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The location is the Public Health Building.
  - Two speakers are confirmed. These will include a presentation on Patent Law, and a presentation on entrepreneurship.
  - Minnetta suggests checking with Dan Reed, the VP for Research and Economic Development, to give a presentation. He previously worked with Microsoft.
  - Minnetta also suggested holding an event similar to the Postdoc Research Day for Iowa postdocs during years when the conference is not at Iowa.
  - Currently, the Postdoc Research Day committee does not plan to require a registration fee.
- Postdoc Potluck and Job Search Perspectives
  - A potluck for postdocs will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. In conjunction, Becky Fagan will give a brief talk about her job search process. Both events will take place in 3189 ML.
  - Currently, 9 postdocs from outside the UIPDA are registered.
  - Scott will send more reminder emails next week.
- National Postdoc Association
  - The yearly meeting will take place on April 6<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis.
  - Kim Chickering will attend. The UIPDA should send a representative. Ideally, the representative will be involved in the UIPDA next year.
  - Minnetta mentioned that last year, the graduate college paid the expenses for this trip.
- UIPDA Logo
  - Design UI has submitted another logo draft. More designs should be submitted soon.
  - Overall, this latest draft has been well received.
  - Minnetta has brought up that Jennifer Masada from the graduate college can provide guidance for the logo design.
- Policy and Advocacy
  - Postdocs at Iowa do not qualify for parking lot waitlists because of their temporary status. Getting the postdoc status changed to student for parking purposes may be the easiest way to address this.

- Postdocs similarly do not qualify for waitlists for daycare services through the university.
- Postdocs do not qualify for life insurance plans through the university.
- These issues will be investigated by the Policy and Advocacy committee.
- Postdoc Survey
  - The survey is closed. The response rate was very low. This is most likely not enough to represent Iowa postdocs accurately. However, the usefulness of the data should be further investigated.
  - Mike, Phil, and Minnetta are looking into getting the survey converted to an exit survey. This may improve the response rate.
  - The data has been presented for the Graduate College. The data could also be presented to the Research Council.
- Letter to College Deans
  - College representatives should draft a letter for the college deans. This is in regards to getting departments to put postdoc information on their webages.
  - Representatives should also find appropriate associate deans to whom to address the letters. Minnetta has some ideas for this.
  - Phil will send an email to representatives with more details.