

University of Iowa Postdoctoral Association –Council of College Representatives Meeting

Friday, February 21st, 2014, 12:30 pm

4112 MERF

In attendance: Kim Chickering, Mike Crawford, Phil Gander, Gurman Gill, Cara Hamann, Rachel Marek, Scott Small

- Professional Development
 - David Jensen, a columnist with ScienceCareers.org, gives presentations regarding job searching for scientific positions. ISU plans to have him visit in April. The UIPDA has the opportunity to split the cost of his visit, and in turn he can give a presentation at UI.
- Postdoc Symposium
 - Scheduled for May 2nd.
 - Several speakers have RSVP'd, including VP for research Dan Reed.
 - Presentations regarding Patent Law, Entrepreneurship, Media Training, and a New Faculty Panel will be included.
 - Phil and Scott will work on a website for the symposium. Kim suggested using a survey form for registration and abstracts.
- Letter to Deans
 - Minnetta has suggested sending two separate letters; one from us and one from her.
 - There has been some discussion about whether deans should receive the letters, or if we should send letters directly to department heads.
 - We still need a list of deans and appropriate associate deans for each college.
- UIPDA Logo
 - Design UI is expected to present more drafts.
- NPA Meeting
 - Gurman has volunteered to represent the UIPDA at the National Postdoc Association Meeting this April.
- Policy and Advocacy
 - Rachel has been in contact with Richard Saunders from HR about postdoc enrollment in IPERS and University sponsored life insurance. He suggested our concerns be submitted in writing.
 - Employees at Iowa who are permanent residents must pay into the IPERS program; however faculty and staff can opt out of the program for TIAA-Cref. Postdocs are still required to enroll in IPERS. Given the vestment period of seven years, the UIPDA members present think mandatory enrollment of postdocs into IPERS should be changed, if possible.
 - UI sponsorship of life insurance for postdocs will require a raise in fringe benefits to postdocs, which must be approved by researchers who provide funding for postdocs.
 - The daycare Bright Horizons on campus is run independent of the university. They are looking to expand to larger facilities to accommodate more children. This could allow postdocs access to the daycare.
- Transfer of Leadership
 - Rachel and Phil have suggested that the UIPDA take care to transfer all progress made on activities (especially policy issues) at the end of the year.