April 9, 2009

Present: Jeff Lansman, Robert Raffai, John Fecondo, Kim Topp, Laurie Stepanek, Peter Taylor, Alison Cleaver, Heather Alden

Absent: Elizabeth Watkins

Guests: None

Approval of Minutes
The Minutes from March 12, 2009 were approved. The Senate office will post them to the website.

Chair’s Report
None

Vice Chair’s Report
None

Dean’s Report
• No decision was reached about giving graduate students access to the ~$3 million aid.
• The alumni association has given $25,000 matching funds to seed a scholarship campaign for graduate students.
• Scholarship dinner to generate support for graduate student scholarships.

Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) Report – Jeff Lansman and Farid Chehab, Chair, CCGA
• Re-evaluating the 1996 policy on self-supporting programs. CCGA would like to look at how these programs are developed, how they are run and to see which fields should be developed, etc.

Graduate Student Association (GSA) Report – John Fecondo, GSA Chair
• Silk Roads scholarship was awarded to a student in Sharmila Majumdar’s lab.
• 21 nominees and 55 letters for the mentoring award
• Seeking new board members, including president, possibly a co-president team for next years
• GSA-PSA WILS (women in life science) will host a one-day conference.

Postdoctoral Scholars Association (PSA) Report – Laurie Stepanek, PSA Representative
• Practice of Science Seminars – March, April and May
• National Postdoctoral meeting was held in Houston, Texas – a rep from UCSF PSA attended
• Individual development plans discussed recently
• NPA (national postdoctoral association) has a mentoring toolkit online
• Discussion of ethical guidelines and property rights – what can postdocs take with them when they leave their postdocs?
• 80% of postdocs will not go into tenured faculty positions – should this be considered in mentoring?

Discussion of the PSPG Graduate Program Review – Farid Chehab
  • The students do not feel affiliated with a national student group. Solution – the department could contribute to the students’ membership in a national society.
  • FC: Could Graduate Council request a summary two years after the review to document how the recommendations have or have not been implemented?

Update on the Unionization of the Postdoctoral Scholars/UAW – Christine Des Jarlais, Assistant Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs
  • Chris DesJarlais updated the committee on the status of postdoc union discussions.

Request by the Executive Committee of the Bioengineering Graduate Group to change the qualifying exam committee requirements
Request approved by -
N. Stotts
J. Lansman
K. Topp
R. Raffai
P. Calarco