

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

Office of Sr VP and Provost <provost@ou.edu>

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Sent on behalf of Liz Karr, Associate Dean, Graduate College, and Rodney Bates, Director of Graduate Student and Postdoc Retention and Support, Graduate College

Dear OU Faculty,

As we celebrate [National Postdoc Appreciation Week](#) (September 21-25, 2020), we are pleased to announce the formation of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA). The OPA is housed within the Graduate College in order to take advantage of the synergies possible by leveraging the professional development, community, and support resources provided for graduate students, and it will involve close lines of communication with the Provost's Office and Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships.

Postdoctoral researchers make significant contributions to our university research mission and add vibrancy to our scholarly community. As vital members of the university community, they deserve institutional support and representation beyond their primary research environments. With the establishment of the OPA, we are working to establish a robust set of resources that will be under our direction. In doing so, we affirm our institutional commitment to the training and development of early-career scholars beyond the doctoral degree. The OPA will help support postdoc onboarding and professional development, as well as provide community and support for postdoctoral researchers and their mentors.

As the vision for the OPA continues to take shape, we are assembling a Postdoctoral Advisory Committee to provide insight and feedback on needs, policy, and direction. The Postdoctoral Advisory Committee will include the Graduate College leadership team, and we will also seek a Faculty Senate Executive Committee nominee, a representative from the Provost's Office, and a representative from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships. OU's Postdoctoral Association, a postdoc spearheaded university-wide group, will have a delegate on the committee, and additional faculty and postdoc representatives will be nominated by Academic College Deans. Representatives from OU Legal Counsel and Human Resources will consult with and guide the committee when necessary.

As we continue to define the mission and mandate of the OPA, we are available to consult with faculty on challenging situations and provide support to postdocs who are experiencing obstacles to their success. Please contact us if you need consultation on a situation.

We are excited to embark on this endeavor to create and support a university-wide community and culture that enriches the postdoc experience at OU.

Sincerely,

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