

UVM Postdoctoral Association Meeting

02.26.2026 | Davis Center 106E, Rosa Parks Room

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. 3:30pm ET
- II. Attendance**
 - a. Jill Stockwell
 - b. Postdocs in attendance: 9
- III. Mode of Meeting**
 - a. Hybrid (in-person + virtual)
- IV. Agenda**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Postdoc professional development activities and collaboration with UVM offices
 - c. Budget proposal for the 2026-2027 academic year
 - d. Research week preparations
 - e. Bylaw review updates and deadline
 - f. Social event ideas
 - g. Possibility of negotiating discounted or free meals for postdocs at the UVM dining
- V. Welcome**
 - a. The Chair welcomed all participants attending both in person and online
- VI. Postdoc professional development/collaboration with UVM offices**
 - a. Mentorship and teaching certificate**
 - i. Dr. Jill is continuously working on this
 - ii. The idea of providing a certificate (in PDF format) stating postdocs' contributions to teaching, mentorship, and other services has been shared with the Office of the Dean, Graduate College, and is nearly approved
 - iii. A complementary system is also under discussion, where future employers can request evidence/records of postdocs upon hire
 - iv. Developing a postdoc profile verification system through HR is also under discussion
 - b. Updates from Graduate Writing Center (GWC)**
 - i. One-on-one appointment with a consultant at the GWC
 - 1. Postdocs can book a one-on-one appointment with a consultant at the GWC
 - 2. Consultations may be online or in person on the ground floor of Howe Library. Whether you have a draft in hand or want to

brainstorm and map out ideas, GWC consultants, experienced graduate student writers, are available to provide guidance and strategies

3. You can read more about the GWC's offerings: [Appointments | Graduate Writing Center | The University of Vermont](#)
4. Sign up directly for an appointment: [UVM Graduate Writing Center](#)

ii. Writing group for postdocs

1. The GWC is seeking postdocs interested in joining a writing group
2. Groups typically meet once a week for a two-hour block with the same cohort each session, and are organized and facilitated by a GWC consultant
3. These groups provide dedicated time to advance your writing in a supportive, peer-based environment while helping you build sustainable writing habits
4. Interested postdocs should email Dr. Jill (Jill.Stockwell@uvm.edu) to express interest. She will share contact information with the GWC Director for scheduling

c. **Career development events**

i. AI in research

1. Workshop series (topics such as ethics in using AI)
2. Tentative timing: End of April

ii. Developing interview and negotiation skills

1. Interview and negotiation workshops
 - a. Model interview demonstration between two postdocs (interviewer and interviewee) using prepared questions
 - b. Faculty members and other experts will be invited to provide feedback and participate in the discussion

VII. Budget proposal for the 2026-2027 academic year

- a. Based on survey results, many postdocs requested more community-building and career development events. Therefore, the tentative budget focuses on these priorities
- b. Proposed community development activities
 - i. Spring BBQ
 - ii. Summer hike
 - iii. Fall BBQ
 - iv. Friendsgiving
 - v. Winter trivia night
- c. Career development activities
 - i. AI panel
 - ii. Events during National Postdoc Appreciation Week

- iii. Monthly PDA meetings
 - iv. Interview and Negotiation Workshops
- d. Tentative budget
 - i. Career development- focused events ~\$2650
 - ii. Community development- focused events ~\$1200

VIII. Research week preparations

- a. Postdoc research showcase 2026
 - i. Date: Thursday, April 16th
 - ii. Time: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM
 - iii. Venue: Davis Center 414
- b. Lightening talk and poster presentation sessions
- c. Lightning talks
 - i. Davis Center 414: Jost Foundation Room
 - ii. 3- to 5-minute oral presentations with no more than five slides
 - iii. The lightning talk winner will receive a \$750 award from the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
- d. Poster presentation session
 - i. Davis Center 414: Livak Fireplace Lounge
 - ii. Posters may be new or previously presented at other conferences or forums
- e. Dr. Jill will organize a “Mentorship Training” session for the postdoc community, to be held during the Research Showcase
- f. A reception will be held during the poster session to provide an opportunity for networking and mingling among postdocs
- g. On Friday, April 17, from 10:00–11:00 AM, there will be a joint session for postdocs and graduate students in collaboration with Cornell Tech. Dr. Jill will share additional information in due course.

IX. Bylaw review updates and deadline

- a. The Executive Committee will continue working on revisions through the end of February
- b. The postdoc community is welcome to submit suggestions for changes. Please contact any Executive Committee member to share input

X. Social event ideas

- a. Spring swap
 - i. During an informal coffee gathering, a swap event may be hosted
- b. Game night
 - i. Like a Trivia night
 - ii. Board gam
 - iii. It was suggested to talk with graduate student associations/representatives, as they may already have materials for hosting a game night

XI. Possibility of negotiating discounted or free meals for postdocs at the UVM dining

- a. Dr. Jill will explore this further and share updates

XII. Adjourn

- a. 4:45pm ET