



Student Services at Mission Bay

The SSMB office is open again after a short closure for remodeling. Student and postdoc-run campus organizations can now reserve this attractive space for their meetings.

Open House

Thursday, Sept 20, 12 – 2 p.m.
Mission Hall 1300 (just off the lobby)

Dear Colleagues,

UC President Napolitano's latest newsletter began "How is it already September?" I think we are all equally baffled.

You're Invited!

With the fall comes the excitement of meeting our new students. To welcome them — and to wish our continuing graduate students and postdocs a successful start to a new school year — please plan to join us for the annual [Graduate Division Fall Celebration](#) this Thursday, September 6. Now an established tradition, this event features a full BBQ dinner, ice cream, and raffle prizes for students. See you for the fun at 4 p.m., on the quad at Mission Bay.

September is also when the campus celebrates National Postdoc Appreciation Week (Sept 17-21). Our Office for Postdoctoral Scholars has a [full week of events](#) planned for postdocs, culminating in [Postdoc Slam](#)'s live finals in Byers Auditorium, Genentech Hall (and streamed live to HSW 301 at Parnassus) on Wednesday, September 26. Please come — and encourage your students and postdocs to come — and root for your favorite 3-minute talk to win the people's choice award. There will be a catered reception after the talks, a trivia contest, and palpable enthusiasm for science in the atmosphere. The talks start at 4 p.m., and EVCP Dan Lowenstein will announce the winners at the reception around 5:15. [Do you have a finalist in your lab?](#)

New Online Approval Process

Until recently, when students have needed approval for various academic actions, they have had to carry paper petitions to faculty and staff to obtain the required signatures. Many petitions have already been converted to an online process, including adding, dropping, or changing courses, withdrawals, leaves of absence, and the application for qualifying exam. *All*

commonly used petitions will eventually shift online.

- When you are a required approver for a petition, you will receive an email message from registrar@ucsf.edu, advising you that you need to review a petition.
- The message will include a link to a new petition portal, where you can review the details of the petition and record your decision.
- In the portal, you can review all petitions that are pending your review or those you have reviewed in the past.

Please initiate a conversation with the student when you have concerns about a petition and continue to reach out to other faculty or staff with questions. The online system is not meant to replace direct engagement with students, only to ease the administrative burden.

If you have questions or concerns about this new process, please contact your graduate program administrator. There are handy references for faculty on the [Graduate Division website](#).

Wishing you all the best in the new school year,

Elizabeth Watkins, PhD
Dean, Graduate Division
Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Affairs
Professor, History of Health Sciences



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