**Minutes from June 3rd, 2014 (4:00 pm/Grad Club)**

Attendance:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Blake Butler | President, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology | + |
| Jiro Inoue | Vice-President Internal, PAW's OWL Coordinator, Robarts Research Institute | + |
| Onur Ozturk | Vice-President Finance, Ivey Business School | - |
| Brigitte Cadieux | Social events coordinator, Department of Microbiology and Immunology | + |
| Sophie Lalande | Secretary, Tax representative, Department of Kinesiology | + |
| Kalin Penev | CAPS Vice-Chair Communications | + |
| William Lin | Department of Engineering | - |
| Yara Hosein | Schulich, Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative | + |
| Tim Burkhart | University Research Board (URB) Rep., Dept of Mechanical Engineering | + |
| Melkaye Melka | Department of Biology | - |
| Anh Tran | Ivey Business School | - |
| Katrina Laurent | Webmaster, Department of Biology | - |

1. **Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting**

Passed

1. **Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed

**3. Announcements. Introduction of new members. Attendance**

It is Sophie’s last meeting as Secretary.

**4. Social event (Brigitte):**

We had a very successful postdoc pub crawl which was held on May 23rd.  A total of 21 people participated.  The June event will be the Pack the Park event at the London Majors baseball game on Sunday June 15th. The July event will be a game of indoor paintball, for which Brigitte purchased a Groupon for 10 people, which will come down to approximately 15$/people. Brigitte will create a Doodle survey for pawactive members to fill in order to determine the best date for this event.

**5. paw2013 email list (Brigitte):**

The paw2013 email list has been updated.  Onur has created a macro to facilitate comparison of the mailing lists. The paw2013 email list will be updated before our Annual General Meeting in early July. Brigitte will ask Mihaela an update of the list in 2 weeks so that Mihaela has enough time to put a new list together before the meeting.

**6. Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative (Yara):**

Yara prepared a document including all Mental Health and Wellness resources that are accessible to postdocs on campus and in London. The document was approved at the meeting and Yara will now work with Katrina to add it to our website.

**7. Interdisciplinary Collaboration Workshop (Jiro):**

Report on Interdisciplinary Collaboration Workshop for Western Postdocs (written by Jiro):

Overall, the ICW was a success. Discussion panel was well received. 11/12 presenters showed up. Attendance was 30-40. Anecdotally, there were lots of good conversations between sessions. There was a high level of enthusiasm from admin and postdocs. Remaining tasks for this iteration include analyzing the survey/feedback data and sending a thank-you email to panellists and attendees, follow-up email much later for collaboration outcomes. Budget was proposed as $600. The catering came to $377. There was some expenditure at the grad club, $100 of gift cards for the discussion panel. Mihaela gave out gift cards to the volunteers as well – unclear what budget this is coming from. Many thanks to the organizing committee/volunteers: Tim Burkhart, and Blake Butler, Brigitte Cadieux and Onur Ozturk, as well as Mihaela Harmos.

*Discussion Panel*

Panellists were Drs. Mark Daley, Kathryn Hibbert, Greg Vilk, and Aaron Ward. They had obviously thought about the questions beforehand and were prepared. We did not get though all the questions. The ones covered were:

Where do you find collaborations and how do you initiate one? What are some things to avoid?

What level of understanding of the other side/discipline do you need to have to collaborate successfully?

What kind of training is effective for learning to communicate effectively between disciplines?

What are some difficulties encountered, specifically when collaborating with industry?

What are some blind spots that are commonly missed when communicating between engineers and clinicians?

*Follow-up and Feedback:*

We had a survey focused on just this event. Results TBA. Many of the outcomes can be expected to be qualitative, however, it may be the case that we can look into actual collaborations and papers resulting from this workshop in the future. We already have some idea on where to improve:

1. Timing: Discussion panel went much longer than expected
2. Need to keep panel and presentations on schedule
3. More guidance on presentations
4. Suggestion for longer breaks to allow networking and overall longer workshop
5. More fruit, less cookies
6. No discussion time after last set of presentations
7. Scheduling: some disciplines have field work after term ends
8. Create database people/expertise for presenters, can be combined with similar at postdoc intake (see Mihaela about this..)
9. We completely forgot inclusion of clinical fellows and residents
10. Including of faculty seems complicated
    1. Faculty seem to have more problems to work with
    2. Concerned about how to manage such collaborations (talks sounded more like trying to attract grad students – my impression)

Here are other comments/suggestions that were discussed at the meeting:

* We need to close registration 48 hours before the event to facilitate planning and coordination.
* A member of PAW should be able to manage the registrations.
* A video of the presentations would be helpful and could be use an example on how to prepare your presentation.

**8. PAW Exec election nominations (Jiro).**

Kalin acted as Chief Elective Officer. We received 5 nominations for positions on the PAW executive committee. Two were for the president position, 2 for the secretary position. Since we have 6 positions to fill (President, VP Internal, Secretary, VP External, VP Communications/Social and VP Finances), it was suggested that the 4 candidates present at the meeting discuss an equitable distribution of positions. We still had 2 candidates who were interested in the position of president. The two candidates left the room and the 5 remaining members of PAW present at the meeting voted for the new president. The new PAW executive committee is: President: Jiro Inoue, VP Internal: Tim Burkhart, VP External: Blake Butler, Secretary: Yara Hosein, and VP Social: William Lin. There was no nomination for the VP Finances position, therefore Jiro will fulfill the function of VP Finances when needed. Someone will be elected for the position of VP Finances if and when the responsibilities increase. All members of the executive will need to write a statement about their new position and send it to Kalin, and these statements will be added to our website. The new PAW executive committee will take office in August. PAW members filling other positions on the committee are: Kalin Penev as tax representative, Blake as University Research Board (URB) representative, Tim as University Council on Research Ethics (UCRE) representative, and Jiro as Senate observer.

**9. Science postdoc tea (Jiro):**

Jiro attended Science postdoc tea. Interesting discussion with Bryan Neff (biology) about research clusters and getting postdocs involved in their design. This seems to be a lot of work for someone, but also a plausible avenue for current postdocs to get their name on internal grants in some manner. It would be interesting to see if we can leverage the "Western's Research Profile" thing to get a piece of the pie for postdocs.

**10. Annual General Meeting (AGM) (Blake):**

It was agreed that the AGM will take place on July 3rd.

**11. Health care plan (Blake):**

It seems that the PAW statement that Blake submitted to SOGS had an impact. New recommendations to council state that postdocs would still have access to the health care plan, and that postdocs would benefit from an extended period of enrolment.

**12. PAWeek (Kalin):**

PAWeek is from September 15 to 19th. PAW members acting on the PAWeek committee are: Kalin (Chair), Jiro, Yara and Tim. Mihaela should be present when the PAWeek committee meets. Kalin will book the soccer field now. Sophie will send last year’s schedule of activities to Kalin.