

Minutes from December 2nd, 2014 (4:00 pm /Meeting Room, Grad Club)

Attendance

Jiro Inoue	President, PAW's OWL Coordinator, VP Finance Role, Senate Observer, Robarts Research Institute	X
Tim Burkhart	Vice-President Internal, University Council on Research Ethics (UCRE), Department of Mechanical Engineering	X
Blake Butler	Vice-President External, CAPS Representative, University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	X
William Lin	Vice-President Communications, Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering	X
Yara Hosein	Secretary, Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative, Schulich Dentistry	X
Barat Wolfe	Social events coordinator, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing	-
Kalin Penev	Tax representative, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	-
Liliana Jaramillo	Outreach Coordinator, School of Occupational Therapy	-
Francesco Sala	Department of Mathematics	-

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Passed.

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Passed.

3. Announcements. Introduction of new members. Attendance

No new members.

4. Senate meeting Information (Jiro)

There was nothing of major importance to report. One of the main points in research excellence was the announcement of the MSK cluster funding. However, since this was the only cluster that was funded there may still research funds floating around that can be used for other purposes.

5. Tax Classification for Postdocs (Jiro)

Jiro had a brief meeting with Mihaela on postdoc classification for taxes. On a national level, PDOs, CAPS will have to talk to CRA and figure this out. Locally, the recommendation is for postdoc fellows who believe that they should be taxed as employees to get reclassified as PDAs. With regards to the information that will be provided to postdoc scholars by PAW, it should be made clear that there is a difference between PDF's and PDA's in terms if income and benefits, and scholars can meet with Mihaela to get more details.

6. PAW Merchandise (Jiro)

PAW contracted a person on Fiverr, and they did a satisfactory job on the logo. However, the logo provided by Blake was preferred by exec members present at the meeting. It was agreed that Blake's logo will be combined with the Fiverr text to create PAW's official logo, which will be incorporated onto coffee mugs (available in January). Blake will make the modifications and forward the final logo file to all exec members.

7. Update on Mental Health and Wellness Initiatives (Yara)

SGPS Working Group on Mental Health and Wellness

The working group on MH&W had their first meeting for the Fall term on November 24th. Multiple health and wellness initiatives were discussed, with various action plans set. Yara was given the opportunity to show PAW's website to the group, and demonstrate how PAW has incorporated a Health and Wellness portfolio. SGPS is considering including a similar portfolio on their website. As an extension to this, printed material on MH&W will also be included in the SGPS welcome packages. Yara will be working with Dr. Lorraine Davies to create a handout specific to postdoctoral fellows and associates. This will also be posted to the SGPS website.

Mental Health and Wellness Abstract- NPA Annual Meeting (Baltimore; March 13-14th 2014)

An NPA abstract on PAW's MH&W initiatives was submitted by Yara and accepted for a poster presentation. Yara has submitted an application for a travel award, and will hear back in January about the outcome. In the meantime, Yara will join the NPA as a member to get the early bird membership rate for meeting registration.

8. Update on the Postdoc Mentorship Program (Tim)

Tim met with Mihaela to discuss the program, which will be based off the University of Pittsburgh model. It was decided that the format would involve the creation of an initial document with the PI, based on the NPA core competencies. In this document, the PI and scholar will set goals for the duration of the contract. The document will be signed and agreed upon by the PI, scholar, and two other advisors/mentors. The postdoc will be unable to start work before completion and submission of the document.

Once the details are finalized by Tim and Mihaela, the formal proposal will be sent to PAW exec for review. Once approved by PAW, it will be presented to the Postdoc Action Committee in January.

9. Committees/Organizers for Events and Initiatives (Jiro)

No social event was done in November, so December social is necessary. Since the holiday breakfast was a success last year, it was suggested that it be done again this year. Jiro will pass on the info to Barat so she can start the planning. Ideally, this should happen before the week of the December 21st, since many scholars may be leaving for holidays around that time.

The date for research forum was changed to May 7th 2015, and the postdoc gala will most likely happen that evening following the forum. Liliana will have to get started on the planning of the gala. Yara will discuss with Liliana.

Tax info session will be planned for a lunchtime period in February. It will not be part of the Happy Hour info sessions. However, Francesco's proposed academic job info session can be done at February's Happy Hour. Jiro will talk with Francesco about the session.

10. New Business/Open Forum

January PAW meeting will be moved to January 13th (second Tuesday). Yara will contact the grad club to get the meeting room booking moved. If the room is unavailable, she will send an email the week prior the meeting informing of the change in meeting location.

The Happy Hour can also be moved to the second Thursday in January. Yara will ask Barat to take care of making those changes in reservations.

Budget season is coming up in the new year. We will have to look at previous budgets in January or February, to determine what to ask for in the upcoming budget proposal.