

Minutes from January 13th, 2015 (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 Burkhardt	Vice-President Internal, University Council on Research Ethics (UCRE), Department of Mechanical Engineering	Regrets
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	Regrets
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	X
Liliana Jaramillo	Outreach Coordinator, School of Occupational Therapy	-
Francesco Sala	Department of Mathematics	X
Mathew Fox	Robarts Research Institute	X
Marina Cvetkovska	Biological Sciences	X

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Passed

3. Announcements/Introduction of new members/Attendance

Mathew Fox (Robarts Research) and Marina Cvetkovska (Biological Sciences)

4. Research Forum (Yara)

Liliana, Barat and Yara met with Mihaela to start planning the 2015 research forum. At that meeting we came up with a tentative agenda that was circulated to PAW for approval. All members agreed with the agenda.

Mihaela has already contacted Gerard Seijts and Adrian Owen and awaiting their responses. She is also working on the list for the panel of successful alumni. We will be meeting again next week to discuss expectations of the grant writing session. Based on the feedback from members in attendance at the meeting, some ideas for inclusion in the grant writing session were:

- 1) Writing grants for US-funding applications eg. Rules and guides for applying to NIH, NFS etc.
- 2) Details on the difference in proposal when applying for long-term versus short-term funding

- 3) How to differentiate between a good and okay proposal? Is it possible to have some blinded examples from different research fields for comparison? Maybe we can ask faculty to submit examples of SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR applications.
- 4) What are suggestions for applying to seed grants? How do you get from seed grant applications to bigger grants? Eg. Is it best to expect preliminary data from seed grants with the expectation of applications to bigger grants?
- 5) It was suggested that we have a good chair for this session. We may want to have some prepared questions on hand to begin the discussion?

5. NPA Conference (Baltimore, March 2015) (Yara)

PAW was successful at obtaining one of the \$500 travel awards for the NPA conference, where Yara will be presenting a poster on PAW's Mental Health Initiatives. This will cover registration fees (\$285) and one night at the conference hotel (\$155), with \$60 balance for remaining costs (after receipts and expense report is submitted). \$1500 was budgeted for the trip, so \$1000 will have to be covered by PAW/SGPS

6. Faculty Participation in National Postdoc Week (Liliana)

Liliana met with Dr. Martin and we discussed her take on how to get other faculties to support the national postdoc week activities for their postdocs. She suggested two strategies:

- 1) That we ask Mihaela to bring it up in their meeting (where all Associate Deans for SGPS participate) and ask that each faculty consider one activity through which postdocs can be supported. Dr. Martin will support the initiative and she also feels like there has been an increasing interest on the part of Associate deans to develop more postdoc initiatives. This strategy would be also a more "official" request.
- 2) That a postdoc of each faculty and a rep from from PAW request to meet with the associate dean for that faculty and propose a strategy that they would like support for, that suits the culture and needs of that faculty. These should all have an academic impact. For example, instead of suggesting a snack or lunch, it could be something like a lunch poster session where postdocs display their work and grad students are invited to come and discuss the postdoctoral research. Something that would celebrate postdocs but also encourage other students to consider a postdoc in their career plans. Alternatively, something like proposing something that is within the areas of expertise of some faculty members (like Dr. Classen proving the fitness class for postdocs). She thinks the postdocs of each faculty reaching out to their associate deans would really help. She would be happy to support initiatives if we need them and to further discuss these points.

At the meeting it was discussed that we should start finalizing post-doc week events in May, since these initiatives would take some time to plan. This will be discussed with Liliana at the next PAW meeting.

7. PAW Merchandise (Jiro)

The PAW mugs have arrived. Jiro distributed some at the meeting and the rest will be distributed at orientation. In total we ordered 100, so there will be lots for distribution.

8. PAW's 2015 Budget (Jiro)

Jiro began working on the budget and it is still in progress, pending some more information. He thinks that we may be under budget. The next big expenses will be the NPA conference and Spring Party. Jiro asked for assistance with re-evaluating expenses. Mathew Fox and Marina Cvetkovska have volunteered to assist.

9. New Business/Open Forum

It was discussed that a Winter social should be planned. Ideas suggested were tubing, skating and curling. It was decided that since skating would be the cheapest and most accessible option, it may be most popular. Barat will have to look into venues, and take care of planning.

Kalin relayed information about a TSC workshop (Nanda Dimitrov) on February 9th, Post-PDF careers in academic and non-academic positions. He will forward the email to members, should they be interested.

Kalin announced that the PAW Tax Session is being planned for the end of February. The details will be announced soon.

PAW was contacted by Engineers without Borders (EWB) at Western with an invitation to support a panel session being planned, where EWB will be hosting local MP's to get an idea of international aid expected in the local election. However, since PAW does not have a particular position/association with the government, Blake will respond kindly declining the invitation.

Francesco is planning a workshop on Academic Jobs/Tenure Track. He hopes to run the workshop a week or two before the Research Forum so that it will complimentary and useful for discussion at the Grant Writing session.