



**Minutes from May 5th, 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 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	X
Kalin Penev	Tax representative, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	X
Liliana Alvarez	Outreach Coordinator, School of Occupational Therapy	X
Francesco Sala	Department of Mathematics	X
Mathew Fox	Robarts Research Institute	X
Andrea Di Sebastiano	Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Physiology and Pharmacology	X
Ming Wu	Faculty of Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering	X
Marina Cvetkovska	Biological Sciences	-

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

Passed

**2. Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed

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

None



#### **4. NPA Meeting Updates (Yara)**

The NPA Meeting report was circulated to the exec with last month's meeting minutes. Within the report Yara detailed the sessions that she attended, along with recommendations for implementation of similar programs at Western. Of particular interest were the sessions on teaching focused professional development for postdocs, addressing challenges facing women postdocs, mentoring matters, and salary negotiations. Such programs can be easily run at Western, since we have the resources to assist with planning.

#### **5. 2015/16 PAW Incoming Executive Council (Will & Jiro)**

From the election nominations, all six positions are now filled. The new incoming executive team is as follows:

*President:* Barat Wolf

*Secretary:* Ming Wu

*Vice-President Internal:* Liliana Alvarez (appointed at PAW Exec Meeting)

*Vice-President External:* Jiro Inoue

*Vice-President Finance:* Matthew Fox

*Vice-President Communications and Social Coordinator:* Andrea Di Sebastiano

Additionally, Mihaela would like to have a meeting with Linda Miller, Peter Simpson and the new exec at a time and date TBD.

#### **6. Update on PAW Budget (Jiro)**

The new version got the OK from the budget committee and Mihaela - it'll go to the higher ups at SGPS next. It's worth noting that budget documents notwithstanding, we can still ask Mihaela to directly fund specific things as they come up. Jiro will close the budget.

#### **7. Senate Briefing (Jiro)**

There were 1.5 sessions of the University Senate dedicated to the University-Chakma salary controversy. However, the motion of non-confidence was not passed due to insufficient votes. PAW does not have an official position on this issue, but encourages postdocs to take part in the department discussions during the 100 days of internal engagement.

Additionally, since Dr. Chakma is willing to engage with the university public, this may be a good time for PAW to access him and provide his office with a mission statement document. This document will highlight who we are as an association, and what his office can do to help postdocs at Western. Kalin will organize the document and circulate to other PAW execs for review and additions.



## Postdoctoral Association at Western

### **8. New Business/Open Forum**

Barat—Research Forum is scheduled to take place on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015. Everything is taken care of by Mihaela. However, a significant number of postdocs have dropped out of the 3MR presentations. Although there is a rule that PAW exec members are not permitted to take part in the competition, Kalin and Blake will volunteer to submit presentations to boost the presenter numbers. Because of this drop in presentation numbers, it may best to reconsider Fall term for Research Forum, or have it run every two years (versus annually).