



**Minutes from June 16th, 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
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
Mathew Fox	Robarts Research Institute	X
Ming Wu	Faculty of Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering	X

Two topics were up for discussion: the unionization drive and the PAW presidency.

**1. Discussion on unionization**

The objectives were to bring PAW execs up-to-date on potential unionisation for postdocs and to develop an official position on the matter.

Relevant documents include the finalized PDA collective bargaining agreement between the university and PSAC union (available at <http://www.psic610.ca/documents/Postdoc%20CA%202016.pdf>) and the PSAC union's postdoc associates handbook (available at <http://www.psic610.ca/index.php/documents-forms>).

The unionization process was discussed, as well as possible outcomes and implications of unionization. Broader trends including unionization at other universities were discussed. Concerns were raised regarding:

- knowledge of PSAC about postdoc affairs and how they expect to address additional financial burdens on PIs in future contract negotiations.
- PAW's role if unionization were to pass and the relationship of PAW with the university administration.
- obligation to strike and support other unions in the event of strikes.



## Postdoctoral Association at Western

- employment contract status, including pre-existing contracts in the event that a new collective bargaining agreement were signed.

Discussions were had on PAW's official position on unionisation, the positions of PAW executives in their roles and as individual postdocs. The general consensus was that PAW would take a neutral position consistent with its past position on unionization, and that PAW executives would refrain from making public statements for, or against, unionization, but would be free to sign union cards or vote as they choose. PAW would provide impartial and balanced information to assist postdocs in making their decisions. In the event that interested parties want to provide information to postdocs via PAW, PAW would ask for direct releases to disseminate, and make an effort to obtain contradicting views to disseminate as well.

The following motions were made:

Blake moved the following, seconded by Barat:

*To vote now on (in the special session) on PAW's position on unionization.*

Carried unanimously.

Blake moved the following, seconded by Tim:

*Be it resolved that PAW adopts an official neutral position on unionization, as it does not fall under PAW's general purview of postdoctoral training and social events.*

Carried unanimously.

Blake moved the following, seconded by Kalin:

*Be it resolved that PAW will inform postdocs on the unionization drive at Western University in an impartial and balanced manner.*

Carried unanimously.

## 2. PAW presidency

Due to upcoming employment, Barat resigned as PAW president-elect. Default acting president would normally fall to VP-Internal (Liliana), but she declined. Matt Fox was nominated for, and accepted, the nomination for 2015-2016 PAW President and this was carried unanimously. Matt will occupy both the PAW President and VP-finance roles for 2015-2016.