



**Postdoctoral Association at Western**

**Minutes from July 7th, 2015 (4:00 pm /Meeting Room, Grad Club)**

**Attendance**

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

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

Passed

**2. Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed

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

None



#### **4. Graduate Management Consulting Agency (Andrea)**

The first event “Introduction to Consulting” has been scheduled. To date, there are 90 registrants, 25 of whom are postdocs. There will also be a talk about transferrable skills.

Other events for the future:

- Sept: Cheeky scientist (industry training for academics). This may be done as a webinar due to costs.
- Winter: Mini MBA with Ivey to learn business stuff.
- Resume workshops with toastmasters
- Beginner case competition.

GMCA is looking for sponsorships to pay for things like speakers, guest travel and gifts, food etc. Currently GMCA has some support from SOGS and Schulich and is considering doing a bake sale for fundraising.

Western GMCA is affiliated with, but not sponsored by, other branches.

Some PAW executive members are signed up for the first event. Discussion of PAW involvement in GMCA is tabled for the next PAW meeting, after the first event.

#### **5. PAW AGM (Matthew)**

It was suggested that the AGM be put sometime after PA Week. It was generally agreed upon that it should be in late September.

#### **6. Summer BBQ (Matthew)**

Mihaela needs to know when the BBQ should be. It was suggested that the BBQ be sans AGM and be scheduled on Aug. 6 or 13. Aug. 13 was chosen based on happy hour and holiday timing.

#### **7. Letter to UWO President (Jiro/Kalin)**

Francesco was brought up to date on the letter to President Chakma. Comment was made that time was running out on the window of opportunity on this. A soft deadline was proposed for July 17th, and that the PAW executive would prepare for a meeting once the letter was sent and meeting was accepted. Both Matt and Jiro will sign the letter.

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

- **Postdoc appreciation week.** Andrea and Mihaela are meeting to set the schedule. They have notes from Barat on what worked and what did not. They are trying to get faculty on board for a faculty day. The idea of an on-campus dinner was raised (at the Wave). Pub crawl was mentioned as being popular. A tentative schedule will hopefully be available by next



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meeting. The possibility of having the Interdisciplinary Collaboration Workshop during PA Week was raised.

- Question: Is the mentorship program live?  
Answer: Nobody had a good answer. Matt will follow up with Mihaela. Matt will also request clarification on “grandfathering” current postdocs.
- Question: Matt asked Jiro about CV-building opportunities.  
Answer: After a year or two, the training component of a postdoc is fairly small. For academic tracks, subsequent years are really CV-building years so it would be helpful to have opportunities for formally winning and holding grants, supervising students etc. The big idea is to have mechanisms in place to so that postdocs can take advantage of more opportunities. Especially a mechanism that allows small amounts of money to be redirected into a postdoc-held internal grant would be very helpful.  
Matt will bring this up at URB.
- The topic of having snacks at the exec meeting to encourage more active membership was raised. The idea was favorably received.
- Happy hour this Thursday. Andrea will coordinate with Barat.