



Minutes from September 6th, 2016 (4:00 pm / Medical Sciences Building Room 212B)

Attendance

Andrea Di Sebastiano	President, Senate Observer, Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences	Regrets
Baraa Al-Khazraji	Vice-President Internal, Outreach Coordinator, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	X
Jessica Esseltine	Vice-President External, CAPS Representative, Schulich Anatomy and Cell Biology	X
S. Amanda Ali	Vice-President Communications, Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences	X
Kyle Paradis	Vice-President Finance, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	X
Ming Wu	Secretary, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	X
Kaitlin Laidlaw	Webmaster, Brain and Mind Institute	-
Blake Butler	University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	X
Kate Parham	Tax representative, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Matthew Fox	Department of Medical Biophysics, Robarts Research Institute	-
Jiro Inoue	Robarts Research Institute	X
Emma Holmes	Brain and Mind Institute	-
Lauren Solomon	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Katherine Kasper	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meetings

Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Passed

3. Announcements/Introduction of new members/Attendance

Welcome to Katherine Kasper.

1. Postdoc Appreciation Week (Andrea/Amanda)

The events were chosen so that there are less events but will be better advertised to have more attendance. Karyn Olsen from TSC was unable to provide a workshop. The current schedule is Monday September 19 – Orientation; Tuesday September 20 - Walking tour of campus; Wednesday September 21 - Peer-review of fellowship applications; Thursday September 22 - Happy hour at the Grad Club; Friday September 23 - Networking workshop with lunch included. Registration details will be advertised to postdocs by the end of the week through social media and the website.

2. Postdoc Round Table (Amanda/Blake)

Amanda and Blake reported that the feedback on the first Postdoc Round Table was positive. Having 10 attendees gave enough 1-on-1 discussion time and the discussions were useful. For the next event, it was suggested to book the back room or have it outside at the Grad Club as inside was too noisy. It was recommended to have faculty as presenters, or people from Research Services and similar groups on campus. Amanda will follow-up with a thank you to the presenter Dr Hegele.

The next postdoc round table will be in late October or early November, focusing on the differences between fellowships and grants. Amanda will contact the suggested presenter. Other suggestions for future topics include a drop-in peer review of grant applications by Research Western or Mitacs, developing good (interdisciplinary) collaborations, and writing ethics proposals.

3. The science review letter (Jessica)

Jessica emailed a draft of PAW's letter to be submitted to the review. Please send any feedback to Jessica by September 7, then Jessica will make the necessary edits and submit the letter. The letter will also be shared on social media and the website. All postdocs are encouraged to submit a response to the review online (link is on the PAW website).

4. Abstract for NPA conference (Jessica)

Andrea and Jessica met with Karyn Olsen at the TSC to discuss the idea for the abstract. Jessica will try to put together a rough draft of the abstract for the next meeting. There is no deadline for the abstract yet.

5. Unionisation (Andrea)

Andrea contacted PSAC for more info with no response at the time of the meeting. Mihaela has indicated that not all postdocs are unionized - only those that have an employment relationship with the university (i.e. are not externally funded). Katherine described the steps for the unionisation, but the timeline for this is not clear. It was agreed that PAW not communicate about the unionisation with postdocs as PAW is not directly involved in the process.



6. New Business / Open Forum

It was discussed that it'd be good to have a half-day workshop next year, comprising of 3 consecutive workshops that we'd like to organise. 2-3 people will be needed to organise it.

The next PAW meeting will be on October 4th 2016, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room.