



**Postdoctoral Association at Western**

**Minutes from May 9th, 2017 (4:00 pm / Meeting Room, Grad Club)**

**Attendance**

Andrea Di Sebastiano	President, Senate Observer, Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences	X
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
Kyle Paradis	Vice-President Finance, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	X
Nicole Novielli	Vice-President Communications, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology	X
Brittany Balint	Secretary, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	X
Kaitlin Laidlaw	Webmaster, Brain and Mind Institute	-
Natalie Kozyrev	Mental health and wellness representative, Robarts Research Institute	X
Kate Parham	Tax representative, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	-
Blake Butler	University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	Regrets
Ian Kalman	Department of Political Science	-
Emma Holmes	Brain and Mind Institute	-
Lauren Solomon	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Katherine Kasper	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	Regrets
Jahirul Mazumder	Department of Chemical Engineering	X
Mariano Avino	Department of Pathology	-

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

Passed

**2. Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed



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

Welcome John Kelly, Ali Attaran and Brittany Balint!

### **4. Discussion of the Naylor Report published by Canada's Fundamental Science Review (Jessica)**

Members of PAW contributed to a letter sent to Canada's Fundamental Science Review, and we were pleased to see that a number of our points were discussed in the Naylor Report. Some important points addressed include:

1. Fair pay for post-doctoral scholars. Similar to the system employed at the NIH, it was proposed that post-doctoral scholars should be compensated based on experience. This would entail pay-grade levels, with increasing salary with each year of experience.
2. There is a need for more academic jobs for PhD holders. Most PhD holders work outside of academia.
3. Canada is very far behind other developed countries in terms of research productivity. Much effort is required to resolve this issue. This ties in with creating more academic jobs for PhD holders.

### **5. PAW elections (Nicole/Andrea)**

Ali Attaran was elected as the VP of finance.

John Kelly was elected as the VP of communications. John put his name forward to be considered for the VP of communications position. Baraa Al-Khazraji and Jessica Esseltine were his two supporting members of the PAW executive committee. Since the PAW executive committee nominations are now closed, the PAW executive committee voted on this subject at the PAW meeting.

### **6. Year-end BBQ Wednesday May17th at the Grad Club (Andrea)**

If you haven't already, please register for the year-end BBQ taking place at the Grad Club on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>. Andrea and Baraa are putting together some swag for this event with money leftover from the budget. Andrea will send out a survey to all post-docs to gain feedback regarding which events were the most favourable this year. This will help us with planning events for next year.

### **7. Roundtable Workshop (Andrea)**

The next roundtable workshop will be on Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup>. The topic of this roundtable is "persuasive grant writing". The event will take place in the Grad Club meeting room so we will likely have to cap enrolment at 15 people. We will need to discuss whether or not we should be continuing the roundtable sessions through the summer.



## **8. Discussion of Post-Doctoral Forum**

There were about 100 registrants for this year's post-doctoral research forum. Approximately 65 people attending the event, which is similar to last year's forum attendance. We discussed a few ideas for potentially increasing attendance for next year:

1. Make the forum a half-day event. Most people don't stay all day.
2. Have a few roundtable sessions. We have had great success with roundtable sessions, so maybe this would increase attendance.

We should start thinking about keynote speakers for next year's forum ASAP. We are going to create a PAW Google document for brainstorming ideas related to the research forum, and any other PAW events.

## **9. Next PAW Meeting**

The next PAW meeting will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2017, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room.