



Postdoctoral Association at Western

Minutes from June 6th, 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	-
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	-
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	X
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	X
Jahirul Mazumder	Department of Chemical Engineering	-
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 Pierina Cheung and Caroline Dias da Costa!

4. Feedback from the 2017 Postdoctoral Research Forum

Lauren received the survey results from the 2017 Postdoctoral Research Forum. There were 17 responses, and the general impression was that the forum was a positive experience. Surprisingly, the academic job search panel did not come up as very useful. We may want to brainstorm ways to improve this for the future, or replace this forum with something different. We should set up a Google document ASAP to brainstorm ideas for PAW events etc. Jessica agreed to take the lead on this.

5. BBQ Survey Results

We received ~40 answered surveys at the PAW BBQ. The results revealed that most postdocs are interested in career development events. As well, the majority of postdocs indicated that free food is a large motivating factor for attending PAW events.

Based on the results, we also believe that we should facilitate more networking events with structure for postdocs. Networking is an extremely important means by which postdocs land jobs, so we should set up events that facilitate networking in a structured way so that postdocs can gain experience with this.

Another idea that came from the BBQ survey results is to potentially add a stress management session to PAW events for next year. This may be implemented by the wellness representative.

6. Social Media Platform Promotion

We are managing our social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, PAW website) very well. However, the amount of traffic we are receiving is quite low. We should have the communications rep send out an email to the postdocs reminding them of the social media platforms we have. This will allow us to better promote events and resources available to postdocs.

7. PAW Swag

John Kelly has volunteered to take the lead on organizing PAW swag since Andrea is leaving PAW. We are waiting to receive the invoice from the PAW BBQ to determine how much money we have left over to purchase swag.



8. University Research Board Update

The University research board is being restructured. The new format will allow for two postdocs to sit on the board rather than just one. Elections for board members will likely take place in the summer so stay tuned.

The university has updated its policy on intellectual property (IP). The policy now contains specific language about postdocs. Information regarding the new IP policy at Western will be linked to on the SGPS website. We should also provide a link on the PAW website. Kaitlin will be asked to do this when the link is available.

9. Summer Round-Table Sessions

We are planning to continue round-table sessions throughout the summer. An idea for an upcoming session was discussed: A session to advise postdocs on what would be considered IP and what would be appropriate for postdocs to protect. John Kelly is going to contact someone from World Discoveries to see if they would be willing to run a roundtable discussion on this topic some time this summer.

10. Next PAW Meeting

The next PAW meeting will be on July 4th 2017, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room.

Goodbye and good luck to Andrea with her new position! We will miss you at PAW!