

PAW

Postdoctoral Association at Western

PAW Executive Council Meeting

July 7TH, 2020

4:00pm / Zoom Meeting

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/7433285352>

MINUTES

Attendance

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Stephen Tuffs | President, Department of Microbiology and Immunology | X |
| Roberta Bgeginski | Vice-President Internal, Department of Kinesiology | X |
| Sabina Rakhimbekova | Vice-President External, Department of Microbiology and Immunology | X |
| Harvi Hart | Vice-President Finance, Department of Physical Therapy | X |
| Cassie Ellis | Secretary, Ivey Business School | X |
| Mariya Goncheva | Vice-President Communications, Department of Microbiology and Immunology | X |

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting

- Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

- Passed

3. Announcements/ Introduction of new members/ Attendance

- Adeel agreed to be the engineering rep – thank you!
- Kate Parham attended
- Elli Papangelakis attended
- Adeel Sabir attended

4. 2020 PAW Executive Committee (Stephen)

- Adeel Sabir will be joining the PAW council, representing the School of Engineering

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- Exec email updated
- Twitter bios.
 - ◆ Will include Elli and Adeel's bios.
- PAWactive email getting any interest?
 - ◆ Interest on Twitter, nothing yet on PAWactive... will keep pushing this

5. PAW during COVID-19 (Stephen)

- COVID-19 PAW page – no updates
- PAW survey results – a copy will be circulated to members before meeting
 - ◆ Open until Friday 4pm
 - ◆ Steve will send out a reminder email on Thursday
 - ◆ Mihaela and Ruth excited about the information and following up with the data
 - ◆ Data – need for us to highlight mental health services. Mihaela will be doing this. Ruth will also be getting back to us with her insights from the data.
 - Family doctor not a huge concern among postdocs.
 - Most postdocs still interested in career development and professional workshops.
 - CTL already fulfilling this need.
 - Social events not of any interest. Virtual events could be good though.
- Website – One of the PAW Council links is broken. In sub-heading when click on PAW council?
 - ◆ Elli will continue to look through website to try to find the broken link. Hasn't found the broken link (embedded) yet.
 - Resources, Health & Wellness – “account suspended”. Appears to have expired.
 - Elli will investigate and fix.

6. Workshops (Stephen)

- Sci-comm workshops (Douglas Kennedy) – Tuesday July 7th
 - Science communication, translating science to Lay audience. Do's and Don't's of communication of science.
 - ~18 participants
- ◆ Nothing else confirmed to date but some ideas are being explored. Open to new ideas for virtual workshops and postdoc appreciation week.

7. Coffee and Conversations (Mariya)

- About 6 people attending regularly, Kate and Steve, and maybe a couple other postdocs
- Should we continue this through the summer? Not scheduling anything for time being.
- Grad Club is open again, could host on patio with a reservation and pre-registration
 - ◆ Steve will contact Mark (Grad Club manager) and inquire
 - ◆ Book by the table with max persons per table. No food obviously.



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- ◆ Will postdocs want to go to campus though? Since most postdocs aren't working on campus, but rather from home... Could be working shift work.
- ◆ Perhaps UC Hill outdoor get-together ... must abide social distancing protocol
- Next Coffee & Conversation – perhaps next week, depending on what Mark says. TBD.

8. PAW Representatives (Roberta)

- Culture and Arts Officer – remain open. Needs description.
- Create council positions for Representatives of each School (Steve).
 - Every faculty that has a Postdoc. Exec members can represent their department, preference given to people not on PAW Exec to get more active members.
 - Only Engineering Rep position has been filled. All others remain open.
 - Role: Ask them to present issues specific to their faculty. Act as a conduit back to their Postdoc community, advertise events. On the right track for workshop selection, specific workshop needs for disciplines.
 - Future role of Reps – with PAW President raise profile of Postdoc community and PAW with Western Administration. Engage vice-deans. Post-doc advisory committee a good place for President to talk to vice-deans.
 - Add open council rep positions on the website
- Put open positions on the same page under a new heading – any updates? (Elli)
- Transfer CAPS to Sabina – she is now the official rep.
 - ◆ Elli will change on website.

9. Postdoc appreciation week (Stephen)

- September 21st – 26th 2020
- Confirm / appoint this year's organizer.
 - ◆ Sabina volunteered.
 - Will be responsible for sending emails re events and registration. Will organize a private meeting with Steve to confirm responsibilities.
 - Mariya in charge of communication, advertising, and send PowerPoint to Sabina.
- Terry fox run (virtual) – Kate has transferred captaincy to Steve
 - ◆ Set-up and ready to advertise postdoc team (including friends & family)
 - 5-10 people usually participate each year
 - ◆ Roberta will assist Sabina with this. Wants to encourage more participation.
 - ◆ In support of Cancer research. 5km walk/run. Exclusively virtual. Open to anyone.
 - ◆ Steve will forward and share our Team link.
- Determine schedule and organise events. Have resources from previous years.
 - ◆ Workshops usually see 20-30 participants



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- Need professional development workshop
- Need 1-2 social events. Suggesting 1 physical distant and 1 virtual.
 - Virtual Event idea - PAW Trivia Night. Steve will create quiz.
 - Good through Zoom, breakout rooms for different teams. Worked well.
 - Maybe ask Mihaela for prizes (stationary, BookStore and Starbucks gift cards). Steve will inquire.
 - Virtual Event idea – poker night?
 - Potential Picnic – UC Hill, perhaps?
- Plan is to have this penciled out for next meeting – August

10. Socials (Kate)

- All Postdoc Socials postponed until further notice
- Steve will inquire with GradClub and other outdoor social ideas
- Ensuring we reassure postdocs that we are following COVID-19 protocol
- Ideas: guided walk outdoors on campus along the river, badminton, wellness event, cycling, yoga, snow shoeing, skating, ...
 - ◆ Wellness Walk. Suggested Route – on campus along river behind MiddleSex, 45 minutes, Roberta will lead. Well-shaded area.
 - ◆ Perhaps end of July? And plan on doing it end of each month - August, September.
 - ◆ Include September’s walk in PostDoc Appreciation Week. Then end with Yoga (lead by Cassie) on UC Hill. Reconsider future events later in fall with weather.
 - “PAW gets Active”, “Wellness Walk”.
 - Mariya will advertize and create a sign-up.
 - ◆ Suggested route – behind Brescia through trails

11. New business/Open Forum

- Meeting on Monday July 6th with Ruth (assistant dean with SGPS) and Tom Drysdale went well (Steve)
 - ◆ Steve provided brief overview of PAW and the survey
 - ◆ Also discussed how we want to highlight successes from each department with postdocs, and how we will provide support for equity and diversity
 - Steve wants to appoint a representative for an executive role for EDI
 - Anti-Racism Working Group
 - Need to work on creating a description and opening a nomination for this position. Will ask Mihaela for insight and perhaps interested parties.
 - Motion Passed.
 - ◆ Mihaela sent follow-up email to Meeting Minutes and Steve clarified our point
- Postdoc orientation update (Sabina/Steve)



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- ◆ Provided a 5-min slot. Not given much time to speak.
- ◆ Was only an hour in length.
- ◆ ~13 postdocs seemed interested.
- ◆ Virtual orientations will continue for postdocs into this fall at least
- Info for families – update (Elli)
 - ◆ Added to Resources – “Information for Families”
 - Info provided from Mihaela
 - Linked Western Campus Life and City of London info for Families also
 - Everyone agrees that the website is looking amazing. Stock Photos chosen by Elli are wonderful.

12. Next PAW meeting (Cassie)

- Tuesday **August 4th** 2020 at 4pm
- Through Zoom, regardless of whether Phase 3 is underway.
 - ◆ A meeting ID will be provided the week prior.
 - ◆ Cassie will assign Steve as co-host.