

Minutes from October 7th, 2014 (4:00 pm /Meeting Room, Grad Club)

Attendance

Jiro Inoue	President, PAW's OWL Coordinator, VP Finance Role, Senate Observer, Robarts Research Institute	+
Tim Burkhart	Vice-President Internal, University Council on Research Ethics (UCRE), Department of Mechanical Engineering	Regrets
Blake Butler	Vice-President External, CAPS Representative, University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	+
William Lin	Vice-President Communications, Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering	+
Yara Hosein	Secretary, Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative, Schulich Dentistry	+
Barat Wolfe	Social events coordinator, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing	+
Kalin Penev	Tax representative, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	+
Liliana Jaramillo	School of Occupational Therapy	Regrets

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Passed

3. Announcements. Introduction of new members. Attendance

Francesco Sala is a new member who is interested in assisting with professional development programs within PAW.

4. Update from Exec Retreat & PAW Posts and Positions (Yara/Jiro)

Meeting minutes from the exec retreat was provided with the Agenda. Important updates and discussion points from the retreat were relayed to PAW.

Existing PAW Positions:

- Position of VP Finance will be removed and Jiro will fulfill any related duties as PAW president.
- International Representative should be kept since it is University mandated. Francesco volunteered to be International Rep.

Postdoctoral Association at Western

- GEC Representative will be kept by Kalin, while Liliana will attend as the president designate.
- Suggested that all vacant PAW positions be advertised on the website. William will work on posting these positions.

Proposal of New Outreach Position:

- Liliana was nominated as Outreach Rep (meet up with current/incoming postdocs, welcome them to PAW, gather info on their interests/concerns). She will try piloting with the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- Liliana will let William know if she would like the Outreach Representative position to be posted to the PAW website as she pilots the program.

Proposal of Themed Happy Hour:

Suggestion for a changing 'theme' each month for Happy Hour at Grad Club, with a focus on sharing knowledge that would attract more postdocs. It was proposed that we consider scheduling informal visitors/speakers before the happy hour.

- Decided that Themed Happy Hour should start at 4PM (original time of Happy Hour), and have the informal portion moved back to 5PM.
- Blake suggested having one of themes dedicated to a 'New Faculty Chat', where a new faculty member is invited to discuss their experience applying for and securing a new faculty position and answer any questions.
- Other suggestions included inviting a Mitacs Rep to do a session on Industry Partnerships, Salary Negotiations, and Writing Research Statements.

5. Mental Health and Wellness (Yara)

The Facebook page is an effective mode of communication for Health and Wellness updates on workshops, news, articles etc. Presently, only Will has access to the facebook posts. Access will be given to Yara to post updates on MH&W updates, programs and events on campus.

Abstract on PAW's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative was submitted to NPA Annual Meeting (Baltimore, March 2015). Yara, Tim, Barat and Liliana were included on the abstract, based on proposed programs and priorities previously discussed which fell within the scope of the Health and Wellness portfolio. Yara will send the final abstract to all PAW execs.

Also, Yara will apply for a travel award. Application date not yet posted but usually about 2-months before the conference.

6. Update from Senate Meeting (Jiro)

Senate meeting from September: Nothing of interest to postdocs.

7. SOGS Insurance (Jiro)

This program is very much in flux. The cost dropped to about \$700 earlier and is now down to about \$670. There is talk about raising it next year, but that is yet to be determined.

Postdoctoral Association at Western

There is still uncertainty about the details of postdoctoral application to the Health Plan. It was suggested that postdocs try applying and see if they can get it past the 2 month period. PAW 2013 will send an email letting people know that they can apply.

8. Centralized Email and Email Storage (Jiro)

Consider moving email in/out of paw to be centralized at postdocs@uwo.ca. Will, Barat and and Jiro are working on this.

It was suggested that all documents forwarded to/from the account be in pdf. format to reduce file sizes. Jiro will work on clearing the mailbox.

9. PAW Merchandise (Jiro)

T-shirts/swag: We can get t-shirts made for about \$8 each, and mugs \$1-\$16. Minimum box of 72 is required for that price. We need to get permission from Western Communications to give us access to branding of the PAW logo for merchandise use.

- Jiro will talk to the Communications about the PAW logo and branding
- Suggestion to check out Vista Print for cheaper rates
- Expected to get merchandise in time for January Orientation.

10. Feedback from Postdoc Appreciation Week (Barat)

Barat met with Mihaela about PA week feedback. It is hoped that suggestions are incorporated into future planning of PA week. Barat will send the feedback summary to Yara for PAW filing.

A major discussion point was that PA week should not be about postdocs celebrating themselves, but rather about the departments celebrating their postdocs. Department of Health Sciences was on board to help plan next year's appreciation week events.

11. New business/Open forum

New PAW Workshops (Francesco)

Francesco proposed workshops on applying for faculty positions, which he would like to see run by PAW. He has agreed to spearhead the organizing committee for such events, and determine if they can be joined with other PAW programs (eg. Teaching Mentorship Program and Postdoctoral Professional Development Program; contact Tim).

Francesco will prepare a formal proposal and send to PAW.

CAPS Update (Kalin)

Jiro has agreed to attend the CAPS meeting October 26th-27th. Kalin will attend via Skype.

New Faculty Events Email (Jiro)

Postdoctoral Association at Western

Jiro has asked that New Faculty Events emails be forwarded to postdocs. Those will be sent to all members on the PAW list.