



Postdoctoral Association at Western

Minutes from January 12th, 2016 (4:00 pm /Meeting Room, Grad Club)

Attendance

Matthew Fox	President, VP Finance, Senate Observer, University Research Board (URB) Rep., Robarts Research Institute	X
Liliana Alvarez	Vice-President Internal, Outreach Coordinator, School of Occupational Therapy	Regrets
Jiro Inoue	Vice-President External, CAPS Representative, Robarts Research Institute	X
Andrea Di Sebastiano	Vice-President Communications, Social events coordinator, Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences	X
Ming Wu	Secretary, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	Regrets
Tim Burkhart	University Council on Research Ethics (UCRE), Department of Mechanical Engineering	-
Blake Butler	Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	-
Yara Hosein	Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative, Schulich Dentistry	-
Kalin Penev	Tax representative, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	-
Jessica Esseltine	Schulich Anatomy and Cell Biology	X
Emma Holmes	Brain and Mind Institute	-
Lauren Solomon	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Baraa Al-Khazraji	School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	Regrets
S. Amanda Ali	Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences	-
Yan Yan	Department of Computer Science	X

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meetings

Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Passed



Postdoctoral Association at Western

3. Announcements/Introduction of new members/Attendance

None

4. Item 1 (Matt) Tax time is coming

Kalin reminded us that tax season is coming and it's time to look into details for setting up a tax information session. It was suggested that Mihaela usually takes care of this. Follow-up required.

5. New Business/Open Forum

Item 2 (Jiro) CAPS survey

Every three years a national survey about postdocs is conducted. The survey will be issued in March or April. There is usually a pre-survey issued. It is suggested that we participate in the pre-survey so that the main survey can incorporate some useful changes if needed.

Item 3 (Andrea) – Postdoc Orientation

Matt will go to postdoc orientation.

(Jan 25 errata) Matt was unavailable to represent PAW at orientation but Andrea was able to cover. Thanks Andrea.

Item 4 (Andrea) Mentoring committee

Mihaela needs two postdocs to replace the current ones on the committee. Lauren volunteered to fill one position.

Additionally, PAW raises the questions of:

Did this program roll out (i.e., Jan 2016 as presented previously)?

Why is this committee still together if it did?

Follow-up with Mihaela required.

Item 5 (Andrea) – NPA workshop and mentoring program

Mixed information has been circulating resulting in mass confusion regarding the NPA conference, the mentoring workshop and who will represent PAW at NPA.

It was decided that we would collect all information from all parties regarding this issue and then have a discussion.

Furthermore, Will has volunteered to be a representative.

Item 6 (Andrea) Postdoctoral Research Day

Volunteers are sought for facilitating and MCing at the postdoctoral research day.

Jessica and Lauren may be able to help (subject to event date).



Postdoctoral Association at Western

We need to discuss when the event should take place. Previous surveys and anecdotes indicated that May is too late as many postdocs who would otherwise attend are away on field work.

We need to help sort out what kind of workshops postdocs would want to have at this event. Suggestions include: Panel about the new CIHR, Academic vs. Non-Academic panels, Interview skills, something from the GMCA and bringing one or two Western postdocs back to tell us about their real jobs experiences.

The next PAW meeting will be on February 2nd 2016, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room.