



**Postdoctoral Association at Western**

**Minutes from February 2nd, 2016 (4:00 pm /Meeting Room, Grad Club)**

**Attendance**

Matthew Fox	President, VP Finance, Senate Observer, University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Medical Biophysics, Robarts Research Institute	x
Liliana Alvarez	Vice-President Internal, Outreach Coordinator, School of Occupational Therapy	-
Jiro Inoue	Vice-President External, CAPS Representative, Robarts Research Institute	x
Andrea Di Sebastiano	Vice-President Communications, Webmaster, 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	x
Yara Hosein	Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative, Schulich Dentistry	-
Kalin Penev	Tax representative, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	x
Jessica Esseltine	Schulich Anatomy and Cell Biology	x
Emma Holmes	Brain and Mind Institute	x
Lauren Solomon	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	x
Baraa Al-Khazraji	School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	x
S. Amanda Ali	Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences	x
Yan Yan	Department of Computer Science	-
Kyle Paradis	School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	X

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

Passed

**2. Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed



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

New attendees, Kyle and Luiz. Need to ask for their full names, departments and emails.

### **4. Mentoring program and Competitive Edge (Mihaela)**

Matt has invited Mihaela to our meeting to give us all the facts about the mentoring program/competitive edge, its status of implementation and to answer any questions that we might have.

The story:

5 years ago, Andy Watson pushed for postdocs go through the process of mentoring just like faculty do. Tim Burkhart went to an NPA conference and attended sessions about mentoring coming back enthusiastic to create a mentoring program at Western. A committee was created. The mentoring program is based on the “Pittsburg model”:

The committee needs a new postdoc representative to sit in.

To date, there are 35 interested postdocs, some of whom are piloting the program now.

### **5. Winter Social Events (Andrea)**

Andrea would like to discuss future social events for the winter term (dates, logistics, etc).

Ideas:

Skating

Wave, dinner and a movie ticket

Games night (Cardboard Café)

Sugar bush (This has since been organized to take place on March 5<sup>th</sup>)

### **6. PAW Budget (Matt)**

Matt would like to discuss the current budget and ideas and needs for next years budget.

We will submit a budget similar to last years.

### **7. NPA Conference (Matt)**

Matt would like to discuss the issues and resolutions regarding the upcoming NPA conference.

Matt will be attending the NPA conference in full and will represent PAW.



**8. Tax Session (Matt)**

This will be held this February. Any ideas to enhance this session compared to past years?  
None.

**9. New Business/Open Forum**

The next PAW meeting will be on March 1 2016, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room  
Baraa Al-Khazraji is acting VP-Internal due to Liliana's departure.