



Postdoctoral Association at Western

Minutes from October 4th, 2016 (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	X
Jessica Esseltine	Vice-President External, CAPS Representative, Schulich Anatomy and Cell Biology	X
S. Amanda Ali	Vice-President Communications, Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences	-
Kyle Paradis	Vice-President Finance, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	X
Ming Wu	Secretary, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	X
Kaitlin Laidlaw	Webmaster, Brain and Mind Institute	-
Blake Butler	University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	X
Kate Parham	Tax representative, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Matthew Fox	Department of Medical Biophysics, Robarts Research Institute	-
Jiro Inoue	Robarts Research Institute	-
Emma Holmes	Brain and Mind Institute	-
Lauren Solomon	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Katherine Kasper	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Valentina Taiakina	Department of Biochemistry	X
Jahirul Mazumder	Department of Chemical Engineering	X
Ian Kalman	Department of Political Science	X
Pavlo Sukhachov	Department of Applied Mathematics	X
Tadilo Bogale		X

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meetings

Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Passed

3. Announcements/Introduction of new members/Attendance

Welcome to new attendees Ian, Pavlo, Jahirul, and Tadilo.

4. PAW Mental Health and Wellness Representative (Yara)

Baraa volunteered to be the PAW Mental Health and Wellness Representative, and PAW exec will help with duties if needed.

5. Postdoc Appreciation Week Follow-up (Andrea/Amanda)

The Appreciation Week events went well. The peer review was poorly attended but they had a good discussion. We should run this again, and is a good potential topic for the next workshops.

The AGM was held at lunch. Feedback reflected the type of workshops we were running already (e.g. industry panel), and also that postdocs would like non-academic training. We should continue to improve the Sworkshops we already run. Feedback indicates some people using PAW website, Facebook and Twitter, but most people receiving information from PAW by emails.

6. PAW workshops (Andrea)

The next likely topic is applying for limited duties teaching. Other future topics may include academic interviews, an industry panel, and teaching workshops.

Steps to get tenure-track fellowship would be a good workshop(s) for maybe the next Research Forum.

7. Halloween & Christmas (Andrea)

All postdocs and their families (and kids) are invited to the Halloween party on October 27. There will be pumpkin carving and food.

For a Christmas activity, Kyle will look into curling as a family activity. The December holiday party will be in the first or second week of December.

8. PAW website (Andrea)

Kaitlin and Andrea will update the PAW website (especially the bylaws and constitution/mission statement) so that it refers to 'postdoctoral scholars' instead of only 'postdoctoral associates'. Other parts of the website should also be checked for old/outdated links or information about unionisation.

9. Unionisation (Andrea)

PAW will continue to represent all postdoctoral fellows who are and are not unionised and postdoctoral associates. All events organised by PAW will be open to all postdoc fellows (unionised or not) and postdoc associates.

PSAC representatives involved in the postdoc bargaining attended the meeting and provided information. Initial negotiations were positive with the university and will continue. Which postdocs will be unionised depends on their type of funding (if externally funded, unlikely to be unionised). PSAC invites postdocs to their meetings about the unionisation process.

10. New Business / Open Forum

The next PAW meeting will be on November 1st 2016, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room.

A lunch meeting is planned between the SGPS and the PAW exec on October 17, to catch-up and discuss any issues.

Canada 150 year celebrations – We should investigate further the opportunity to apply for potential postdoc-related activities using the funding that Western University has for 150 year celebrations. Ming will circulate the email about this.

University Research Board (Blake) – Blake reported on the recent URB meeting. This committee advises on research matters to the senate. There are challenges in administering the CRF grant due to multiple funding sources. Nominations are being called for a new research position whose mandate is CHIRC research. An endowment has been created for CHIRC research, and is now being passed onto faculty.

Postdoc round table (Andrea) – Amanda will reach out to a potential speaker. The likely topic is taking the next step from a fellowship to a grant.

Association meetings (Jessica/Andrea) – We don't have an attendee for the CAPS general meeting (October 31). If you are keen to attend, please email Andrea. (Update: Amanda will now attend).

Andrea will attend the CAPA meeting, and Jessica the NPA meeting.



VP-research appointment (Andrea) – Baraa and Jessica will prepare a submission regarding PAW’s feedback. We will have a meeting, likely in late November. If anyone is interested in adding to the letter or attending the meeting, please contact them.

Senate meeting (Andrea) – Andrea reported there was not much news to report back on from the recent senate meeting. Regular business and the Fundamental Science Review was discussed.