



Postdoctoral Association at Western

Minutes from December 6th, 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
Kyle Paradis	Vice-President Finance, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	Regrets
Ming Wu	Secretary, Acting Vice-President Communications, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	X
Kaitlin Laidlaw	Webmaster, Brain and Mind Institute	Regrets
Blake Butler	University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	-
Kate Parham	Tax representative, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	-
S. Amanda Ali	Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences	-
Matthew Fox	Department of Medical Biophysics, Robarts Research Institute	-
Jiro Inoue	Robarts Research Institute	X
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
Mariano Avino	Department of Pathology	X
Jean Macklaim	Department of Biochemistry	X
Kalin Penev	Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	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 Jean and Mariano.

4. New VP-communications (Andrea)

Nicole Novielli has applied for the VP-communications role. Here is her candidature statement:

Over the past three years, I have been a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University Health Network in Toronto and the University of Guelph. Although both are very different academic institutions, there is a common absence of interaction, communication and support available to PDFs. PAWs presence at UWO represents PDFs as a unified community, providing PDFs with resources, a support network, events and most importantly a voice across the University and externally. I completed both my undergraduate and doctoral degrees at UWO, as well as participated in SOGS, thus I am familiar the university and the needs/concerns of students/trainees. In transitioning to a Post-Doctoral position at UWO, I look forward to having the opportunity to contribute to the executive committee of PAW in the role of Vice President of Communications. In this role, I will ensure that PDFs across campus are informed of the resources offered by PAW, news/information relevant to PDFs, and events. E-mail and social media (Facebook and Twitter) will provide PDFs with various information resources that are easily accessible.

Jean Macklaim also expressed an interest in the role at the meeting and requested more information about being VP-comms (Ming to talk to her). We will hold off on taking a vote on the position until the next meeting in January.

The VP-social and VP-communications roles were combined for 2016-2017. Given the increased time needed for social media, we may need to consider splitting the roles for 2017-2018.

Ming is acting VP-communications until a replacement is found.

5. PAW Workshop at LHRD (Andrea)

At the meeting of the Postdoctoral Advisory Committee, Andy Watson invited PAW to run a workshop at the London Health Research Day on March 28, 2017. Andrea will meet with him and Doug Jones on December 7 to discuss the logistics of this. This is a 1 hour workshop, and as the LHRD will also have graduate students, some sort of postdoc outreach may be suitable.

It was agreed that we could discuss initial questions you should ask when deciding to do a postdoc. This could include questions you could ask a potential supervisor (eg asking their students or former postdocs), how to transition to a postdoc and setting career goals.



6. PAW Event Successes (Andrea)

Congratulations to everyone involved in organising PAW events – we have had very successful events.

- Great Turnout at the first TSC Postdoc workshop this year - 30 registered + a waitlist, next workshop will be preparing a teaching dossier in January/Feb.

- 2nd Postdoc Round Table (with Dr. Cheryle Seguin) on transition from postdoc to PI, turning fellowship into grant etc. had such high demand, a wait list was started the day we sent out the invite! We had good feedback about this event. It's been more successful than a general workshop, as participants get a more catered response. Participants also liked hearing about the experiences of other postdocs.

We aim to have 2 more round tables next semester. Andrea will book the Grad Club meeting room for them (this is a quieter venue than in the Grad Club).

7. Holiday Breakfast (Andrea)

The Holiday Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 9:30-11:30am, at the Wave (catered by the Spoke Bagel Bar). We have 35 people RSVP'ed already. We will continue to advertise the event.

8. Postdoc use of Western library space (Andrea)

Andrea received an email from Peter Simpson and Lorraine Davies in regards to postdoc use of library space at Western. They posed the following questions:

1. Do postdocs have any use/need for Western library space? (i.e. use of study space like grad/undergrads, or use of meetings rooms/various equipment).
2. Is there a way that the Library could better serve post docs in terms of how its space is organized? etc.

This is a positive sign that postdocs are being considered at the university. Andrea will request more information from the library about resources, workshops and acquisitions that postdocs can use.

9. University Research Board (Blake)

This month's URB meeting has been cancelled so there will be no updates to speak of.

10. New Business / Open Forum

The next PAW meeting will be on January 10th 2016, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room.



Canada 150 year celebrations (Andrea) – Our funding proposal to the faculty/staff competition was unsuccessful. Andrea has entered it in with SOGS.

NPA abstract (Jessica) – Our NPA abstract was rejected. Jess will send a reply email asking for clarification about the rejection.

CAPS survey (Jiro) – The CAPS survey has been released and is available on the CAPS website. We will place a link to it on the PAW website.

Ugly Sweater Christmas Party (Ian) – Postdoc Brenda N. is holding a Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on Dec 15. Details on the PAW Facebook group.

VP-research meeting (Baraa/ Jess) – The VP-research is charged with promoting postdocs and developing the research strategic plan. PAW has had little interaction with the VP-research office so far and made that clear at the VP-research meeting. PAW agreed to develop an action plan for how PAW can get involved in the strategic plan.

Mental Health and Wellness meeting (Andrea) – Andrea was unable to attend the Dec 6 meeting, and Valentina will try to attend it.

11. Postdocs ratification meeting (Jahirul)

The postdocs ratification meeting and vote happening on Thursday December 8. Discussion was had from meeting attendees about the alternate views about the unionisation. PAW agreed to post links to information from the Mobilization Committee, in the interest of providing as much information to postdocs before the vote.