

Postdoctoral Association at Western

PAW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes from March 3rd, 2015 4:00-4:50 pm at Grad Club Meeting Room

Attendance

Jiro I – Present (chaired meeting on behalf of Yara H)

Tim B– Absent

Blake B– Present

Will L– Present (took minutes on behalf of Yara H)

Yara H– Regrets

Barat W– Present

Kalin P– Present

Liliana J– Regrets

Francesco S– Absent

Mathew F– Regrets

Marina C– Present

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Passed

3. Announcements/Introduction of new members/Attendance

Introductions between MC and WL

4. Mental Health and Wellness (MH&W) Update (WL on behalf of YH)

To inform and refresh current postdocs about the resources available, council agreed on sending an email notification 3 times a year to the PAW mailing list. YH and WL added new content to the PAW website:

- 🕒 New brochure now online on Wellness page
- 🕒 New links to resources added on Wellness page
- 🕒 First page of brochure added to the slideshow on the main welcome page

Brochure will be added as a slideshow on the Wellness page in early April.

5. PAW Elections (JI)

PAW elections need to happen before end date for current committee (June 30, 2015). The new committee will be incoming one month earlier than last year. KP was the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for last elections. WL volunteered as CRO; BB motioned; Jiro seconded; passed. WL will consult KP about CRO duties, call for elections to PAW mailing list in mid-March and collect nominations. MC suggested adding descriptions of duties/responsibilities to Council positions on PAW website.

6. Postdoctoral Program (JI)

JI and MC volunteered to lead an initiative to consolidate all postdoc-related info into a survival guide and development of a comprehensive postdoc programme. WL volunteered to help with integrating online info from PAW website. Starting now with info retrieval. Target date is mid-summer.

7. New Business/Open Forum

A) KP and JI attended the tax presentation by Famme in Feb. Overall impression was that there was too much text on slides. BB suggested they tweak the event format to include time for one-on-one discussion after the presentation to better address specific individual concerns such as taxation issues for individuals with complicated citizenship status. KP will collect and send feedback to Famme on behalf of PAW. WL added the latest version of the presentation and helpful CRA links to the PAW website.

B) JI circulated the interim budget (May 2014 to Apr 2015) and a draft of the proposed budget for May 2015 to Apr 2016. Spending is on target with sixty-two percent of the current year's funds spent and the remaining 'big ticket item' being the National Postdoctoral Association Meeting. Major proposed changes for next year's budget include allocating more money for the summer BBQ (last one was woefully under-budgeted), increased funding for on-campus socials based on discussion at a previous PAW Council meeting and a new subsidy for PAW intramural sports at Western. BW confirmed that a Western Rec Centre membership is required in order to participate in Western's intramural leagues.

C) JI reported about some participant survey results for the Interdisciplinary Collaboration Workshop. 3/9 felt they had useful conversations but no one reported having any tangible outcomes (e.g. papers co-authored) as a result of ICW. Next ICW will be in Fall 2015.

D) JI attended the Junior Faculty Club social organized by B Hong from Ivey. Party of ten; mostly attended by Ivey young faculty and visiting scholars. Informal conversation was had.

E) FS and JI had meeting with Mihaela Harnos about a proposed Academic Jobs workshop. They decided it was better to focus towards a workshop on foreign academic opportunities/culture.