



**Minutes from September 8th, 2015 (4:00 pm /5<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room, Robarts Institute)**

**Attendance**

Matthew Fox	President, VP Finance, Senate Observer, 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, Social events coordinator, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Physiology and Pharmacology	X
Ming Wu	Secretary, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	X
Tim Burkhart	University Council on Research Ethics (UCRE), Department of Mechanical Engineering	-
Blake Butler	University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	Regrets
Yara Hosein	Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative, Schulich Dentistry	-
Kalin Penev	Tax representative, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	Regrets
Jessica Esseltine	Schulich Anatomy and Cell Biology	X

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

Passed

**2. Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed

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

Jessica Esseltine was welcomed to the meeting. She is interested in policy with respect to postdocs and university and government level lobbying.

**4. Results of the BBQ survey (Matt)**

Matt collated the results of the BBQ survey and circulated it to the exec committee. Some of the suggestions indicated that PAW is not communicating well what we can and cannot do. We should



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increase our communications through email, twitter and Facebook feeds. The survey showed postdocs are interested in both academic and non-academic events (e.g. faculty events), and general events (e.g. a networking coffee break). An interview skills workshop was suggested. A series of training workshops, on one day each month, may also be useful.

Andrea and Jiro will update the email list of postdocs and contact Mihaela about providing a monthly list of new postdocs. Ming will email the survey respondents to see if they want to join the PAW active email list. It was suggested that we should have representatives from each faculty, and this would be something for the October meeting. Mihaela will be contacted about the interview workshop.

### 5. Postdoc Appreciation Week (Andrea)

Tuesday is faculty day, with events organised by each faculty. The list of pubs for the pub crawl was finalised. All postdocs are strongly recommended to attend PA week events.

### 6. Postdoc appreciation week op-ed from CAPS (Jiro)

Jiro will write an op-ed article on redefining the role of postdocs, and circulate it for exec approval.

### 7. CAPS AGM (Jiro)

Jiro discussed the planned CAPS AGM.

### 8. Senate ad hoc committee on renewal (Jiro)

Send any feedback on the governance at Western University to Jiro to pass on to the Senate.

### 9. New Business/Open Forum

- **October meeting:** All postdocs will be invited to the next meeting, and food will be provided.
- **Other committees:** It was suggested that exec on other committees should communicate at the PAW meetings on what's happening in the other committees. Liliana as VP Internal has a list of who is on each committee. Note that except for the Senate, it is not the right of PAW to put people on a particular committee.

Andrea will follow up with the GMCA representative talking to SOGS (about chasing funding), and get back to Matt. A Super G (graduate) program review committee will be created, and it was suggested to talk to Linda Miller about creating a postdoc seat.



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- **Teaching Support Centre:** TSC training on university teaching is also open to postdocs. Some courses may not be relevant to postdocs. Andrea was chosen as the PAW representative to coordinate with the TSC about a workshop for postdocs. Emails reminding postdocs about the TSC services may be needed.
- **Postdoc fall research event:** Ideas were brainstormed for this event (probably in the first week of November, tentative time of 10am to 2pm), with general agreement for a workshop on ‘designing a research program.’ Suggestions were being sought for junior and senior faculty who could run the workshop. Funding for snacks has been allocated.