**POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION AT WESTERN
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes from May 6th, 2014 (4:00 pm/Grad Club)**

Attendance:

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| Blake Butler | President, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology | + |
| Jiro Inoue | Vice-President Internal, PAW's OWL Coordinator, Robarts Research Institute | + |
| Onur Ozturk | Vice-President Finance, Ivey Business School | + |
| Brigitte Cadieux | Social events coordinator, Department of Microbiology and Immunology | + |
| Sophie Lalande | Secretary, Tax representative, Department of Kinesiology | + |
| Kalin Penev | CAPS Vice-Chair Communications | - |
| William Lin | Department of Engineering | - |
| Yara Hosein | Schulich, Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative | + |
| Tim Burkhart | University Research Board (URB) Rep., Dept of Mechanical Engineering | - |
| Melkaye Melka | Department of Biology | + |
| Anh Tran | Ivey Business School | - |
| Katrina Laurent | Webmaster, Department of Biology | - |

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

Passed

1. **Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed

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

Melkaye Melka (Biology), Yara Hosein (Schulich)

**4. Social event (Brigitte)**
Thirteen people registered for the April’s social event at the Orchestra London, which was held on Saturday April 26th.  Most of the people who have registered are different from those who attended previous events.  This is a nice indication that we are successfully catering to the different social preferences of postdocs.  It is therefore important to continue organizing diversified types of social activities.  Thanks to Kalin for the idea and for his help with the organization.  As per previous discussions, the proposed social event for May is a pub crawl, which will take place on Friday May 23rd. Brigitte will create a doodle so that each member of pawactive can indicate their preferences of locations for the pub crawl.

**5. paw2013 email list (Brigitte)**
After receiving the list of postdocs from Mihaela, multiple modifications were made to the email list by Blake.  Many addresses of postdocs were removed from the email list in the process, some of which were of active postdocs at Western and some were addresses that Brigitte had just recently added to our mailing list.  Brigitte will add back the deleted email addresses while keeping track of people who previously requested to be deleted from the list. Onur will create a macro so that comparison of mailing lists is easy. From now on, Brigitte will be the sole person in charge of making changes to the list (Brigitte was already the sole editor of the paw2013 list, but this was not respected (see minutes from January)). Email addresses will be removed from the list if we are directly asked by the postdoc or if messages are bouncing back because the account is no longer active. Brigitte will wait until the second bounce back before removing addresses that may be over their quota limit, given that our quota limit is relatively low.

**6. Postdoc appreciation week (Jiro)**

PAWeek is from September 15 to 19th. A PAWeek committee will be created at the June meeting.

**7. PAW Annual General Meeting (AGM) (Jiro)**

The AGM will take place on July 9th. Blake will let Mihaela know that we chose that date. The new council will be introduced during the AGM, and the first exec meeting with the new council will be in August.

**8. PAW council turnover (Jiro)**

The terms of the current executive council of the PAW will expire at the end of July, with the new council meeting in August. The exception is the senate roles that change at the end of June. Blake Butler is the URB rep for next year. A new executive council will be formed for August to last 11 months (August 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) (the change in the term was made to reflect other bodies on campus, such as the Senate, where postdocs maintain their representation). We will be accepting nominations from all postdocs for the executive positions on the PAW council (President, Secretary, VP-Internal, VP-External, VP-Finance and VP-Communications/Social Coordinator) until Tuesday May 27th. Nominees will be announced on Wednesday June 4th, followed by a voting period of one week. Nominations will be sent to Jiro.

**9. Interdisciplinary Collaboration Workshop (Jiro)**

We now have 19 participants (4 long, 5 short talks). We have 2 discussion panel members (Mark Daley, Greg Vilk) and Aaron Ward is in discussion to be the third panelist. Onur will be responsible for handling the technology, Tim and Jiro will chair the presentation sessions and Blake will chair the discussion panel. Brigitte and Tim will handle any handouts and various printing tasks.  Scheduling roughly laid out - 1 hr for discussion panel and intro, 3 sessions of 40 min including a break. Will not be having breakout cubes, but looking into an after party. It turns out the Spoke is closed, but the Wave will be open.  The workshop committee will meet on May 8th in the afternoon to finalize these details.

**10. Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative (Yara)**

Yara has been to 2 mental health and wellness initiative meetings (one with Mihaela). Meetings focused mainly on the resources available on campus to improve health and wellness of undergraduate students. It would be great to add links to available resources directly on our PAW website, and package an idea for mental wellness for postdocs (massage, therapy dogs, yoga, etc) or to organise an event specifically for postdocs. Yara will first confirm whether postdocs are eligible for mental health resources offered on campus. If so, the links to these resources will be added to our website.

**11. NPA summary (Tim)**

Tim attended the NPA meeting in St Louis. He did not attend the May meeting but wrote a report that was sent to pawactive members.

**12. Budget report update (Blake)**

The budget report should include information and participation numbers of our activities ranging from September to April. Brigitte will provide these numbers for the Halloween party and for 2014 while Sophie will email Catherine Martel to get the numbers for the activities from September to December 2013. Numbers will be sent to Blake to be included in the budget report before submitting it to SOGS.

**13. Payment for the grad club meeting room (Blake)**

In the future, we will have to pay to book the grad club meeting room. Blake met with Kevin (President of SOGS) about this. Blake will write a letter of support in order for the room to remain free. More to follow next month.

**14. Follow-up PAW logo (Blake)**

Our logo still causes problems. The University does not allow any manipulation or tweaking of the existing Western logo. Blake will tell Mihaela to pay the winner of our logo contest, even if the logo is likely to never be used.

**15. Western Excellence Award (Blake)**

Blake and Katrina nominated Mihaela Harmos for this award, and used the feedback that we received from last year’s nomination. This time, the nomination included more personal stories in the letters of support.

**16. Health care plan. Meeting follow-up (Blake)**

Blake met with the president of SOGS. The objective would be that postdocs should not be auto-enrolled into the health plan but it should be easier for them to opt-in. Postdocs should be able to opt-in the health care plan not only during the first month of their contract but also during the first month of each term. Blake drafted a PAW statement on the matter and submitted it to SOGS without showing it to other members of pawactive.