**Minutes from July 8th, 2014 (4:00 pm/Grad Club)**

Attendance:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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**

No new members.

**4. Social event (Brigitte):**

*June Social:* We had a very successful June social event (Pack the Park), watching the London majors play baseball at Labatt Park. 34 people registered and 25 people showed up. Due to success of the event, it may be a good option for next year as well.

*July Social:* Wednesday July 23rd has been scheduled for Paintball at Flagswipe. Thus far, seven attendees confirmed, but more is expected closer to the date.

*Happy Hour Social*: Happy Hour will always be the first Thursday of the month, despite any changes in the date of Exec meetings. It has been noted that the price of the snack plates at the Grad Club has increased ($8 increase/plate). Typically, two plates are bought at each event (20 attendees). It was decided that the increase in food costs are still within the budget allocated for Happy Hour. However, it was discussed that PAW should consider including inflation of prices in future budgets. In addition, it was suggested that money spent on Grad Club Socials should be tracked. Jiro will request expenditure report from Mihaela.

**5. PAW 2013 email list (Brigitte):**

Mihaela was asked for the current list of all postdocs. The list was received and updated in the PAW email list. It was decided that the email list should be updated 3–4 times per year, with a simultaneous record of members who asked to be removed from the list.

**6. PAW Exec Council Meetings 2014-2015 (Yara):**

Grad Club meeting room has been booked for October 2014­–August 2015. Since September 2014 was not available, it was suggested that the meeting room adjacent to Mihaela’s office be booked for September’s Exec meeting.

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

The approved Health and Wellness document has now been added to the PAW website under the “Current Scholars” tab. Yara will prepare an email notifying postdocs of this addition, and will forward to Brigitte for circulating to PAW email list.

**8. PAW Exec New Council (Jiro):**

*Exec transition*: Reminder to outgoing PAW execs to pass on all relevant information to the incoming exec committee. It was suggested that a Google Drive folder be created for sharing of all PAW documents (*i.e.,* secretary, budgets etc.). Presently, Brigitte is the list guardian for 2013 but will need to change for 2014. Brigitte will ask Blake about granting list access to Jiro, Tim, Will and Yara.

*Priorities and programs*: Members are encouraged to think about initiatives for 2014–2015. Jiro and Tim will be meeting with Mihaela on July 24th 2014 to discuss upcoming programs. Some programs proposed at July 8th Exec meeting:

Jiro: Internal Postdoc Granting System-- Postdocs can apply for an internal project grant as the principal investigator. Funds may be used for project costs and hiring an undergrad student/s. This will benefit postdoc’s CV’s and leadership portfolio.

Banting Scholarship—Social Sciences are more successful with getting Banting funding compared to Engineering and Sciences. Since Banting is a department nominated application, postdocs may need to push for better communication from the Faculty of Science and Engineering. Jiro will be discussing with Mihaela.

Kalin: Lobby for SGPS Associate Member positions, such that postdocs are allowed to supervise or examine Graduate Student theses.

Tim: Postdoc Mentorship Programs—Postdocs will be paired with faculty members for guidance and mentorship in teaching and academic duties. Tim will be meeting with members of Teaching Support Center to discuss getting the program started in Fall/Winter.

Postdoc Professional Program—A series of workshops offered to postdocs (eg. recent collaboration workshop), that can qualify for a letter or certificate from SGPS/Mihaela. It can benefit postdoc CV’s, and certify active participation in leadership/professional programs.

**9. Annual General Meeting (AGM) (Jiro):**

The AGM has been moved to August 14th 2014.

**10. Social Events for Families with Kids (Jiro & Tim):**

It was suggested that a Postdoc Family Social could be held every other month (eg. Pack the Park, trip to the Children’s Museum). The invitation would be sent to all postdocs, with title of email specifying that the event was ‘family friendly’. Tim has offered to spearhead this initiative, with the inclusion of a section to the PAW website dedicated to Family Programs/Events.

**11. Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Fellows Executive Council (Kalin):**

A new Executive Council for the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Fellows was presented and required PAW’s approval. Executive candidate statements were distributed to PAW exec members, and no objections were made. Kalin approved the new council on PAW’s behalf. Most exec positions were filled except for the VP Communications, which is still being recruited. CAPS would require an active PAW exec member to fill the position.

**12. New Business/Open Forum (Tim):**

Tim reviewed the feedback forms from the recent Interdisciplinary Collaboration Workshop. Overall, the feedback was good for first time planning and execution of the event. It was suggested that it may be useful to extend the invite to hospital/clinical postdocs and residents. A summary report on participants’ feedback will be prepared and distributed by Tim.