**Minutes from Aug, 5th, 2014 (4:00 pm/Grad Club)**

Attendance:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Jiro Inoue | President, Robarts Research Institute | + |
| Tim Burkhart  | Vice-President Internal, Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering  | regrets |
| Blake Butler | Vice-President External, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology  | + |
| William Lin  | Vice-President Communications, Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering | + |
| Yara Hosein | Secretary, Western's Mental Health and Wellness Initiative representative, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry | regrets |
| Barat Wolfe | Social events coordinator, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing | + |
| Kalin Penev | CAPS Vice-Chair Communications, Tax representative, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering | - |
| Brigitte Cadieux | Department of Microbiology and Immunology | - |
| Onur Ozturk | 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**

 Barat Wolfe is a new postdoc joining the committee. She will be taking the Social Coordinator role.

**4. PAW Sept. 2nd Meeting (Yara):**

Mihaela has booked the International and Graduate Affairs Building (old Ivey building) meeting room for our September 2nd meeting. Please meet in the reception area, and we will be escorted to the meeting room

**5. Social event (Yara on behalf of Brigitte):**

*a) July social*: Eleven people participated in the paintball event at Flagswipe on Wednesday July 23rd. We got a fantastic rate thanks to a pre-purchased groupon.  It was a 2 hour event and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.
*b) August social (Barat):* Beach day was proposed. Options include Ipperwash, Grand Bend, Port Stanley – Barat will look into options.

*c) August happy hour (Barat):* Barat will email postdoc happy hour messages. Postdoc happy hours happen every first Thursday of the month at 4:30 at the grad club.

*d) Postdoc appreciation week (Barat):* Barat is taking over from Kalin for organizing this.

- Bookings must be made for the grad club (for the free lunch). Contact is Marc Lalande.

- The soccer field must be booked. Blake noted that if we could get the field in evening it would be better.

- Barat mentioned the idea of a family game. Nobody had a good idea of if this would be popular or not.

- Barat will contact Mihaela to see if the September MITACS step would be during PAWeek.

- Western film should be open by then. Sophie had the extra tickets – now with Yara? Brigitte?

- Discussion on WIL. WIL would be mostly geared towards postdoc spouses. It would be good if we could have some sort of joint session with MITACS regarding non-academic jobs.

- Terry Fox run the weekend before to be incorporated into the week.

- Storybook gardens on the Sunday before would be a good family-friendly social event.

**6. VP-Communications and Social Coordinator Role (Jiro/Will/Tim):**

Move that the role of social coordinator be split off from VP-communications. Barat Wolfe (new member) is interested in taking the social coordinator role. Will is interested in the Webmaster role. This came up in an ad hoc manner post-last-week's grad club social and seems like a good fit. Both Barat and Will are on board, and there was no prior interest in the social coordinator role. *Passed*

Blake will pass on the Facebook admin to Will. Will will look into who runs the PAW twitter.

**7. PAW New Initiatives Meeting with Mihaela (Jiro):**

1) Budget – Mihaela has given us a list of postdoc expenditures at the grad club. We still have no response from SGPS.

2) SGPS associate membership to allow for graduate supervision – Kalin is doublechecking this. Mihaela did not like this idea, but getting adjunct positions seems to be a useful thing that opens many doors, especially for supervision and for grant-holding.

3) Information dissemination – Hot tips idea for mass emails. We need to collect little bits of knowledge and disseminate them better.

4) Mentoring discussion went poorly. Mihaela said that the TSC already does teaching mentoring, but Tim will follow up with discussions with TSC. According to Mihaela, mentoring in general got a poor reception from graduate students and faculty. But Pittsburgh model proposed as a postdoc mentoring model. Jiro will set up a doodle for a half day presentation of this by Mihaela.

5) Benefits – proposed and immediately shot down. According to Blake, this is a non-starter from higher up. SOGS health plan is fairly fragile – postdocs could be excluded at any time. Unknown if the SOGS council voted to allow or disallow postdocs in their health plan in latest vote. In any case the cost is going to go up.

6) Internal postdoc grants – problematic as postdocs cannot hold internal grants. Jiro and Will both checked the Pivot for possible grants but did not see any reasonable external options. A lot of the grants are very targeted to specific things. Adjuncting may be an option here for getting names on grants.

7) Mihaela has collected some data on post-postdoc jobs. Apparently there is a high number of academic postings here. Mihaela wants to publish; we’ll have to wait…

8) Mihaela wants our 3 priorities. Exec asked to contact Jiro with priorities. We will also poll the postdocs at the PAWeek lunch, rather than at the summer BBQ/AGM. Jiro and Barat will work on the survey.

**8. New Business/Open Forum:**

N/A.