



PAW
Postdoctoral Association at Western

PAW Executive Council Meeting

April 7th, 2020

4:00pm / Zoom Meeting – 996 710 303

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/996710303>

MINUTES

Attendance

Kate Parham	President, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Roberta Bgeginski	Vice-President Internal, Department of Kinesiology	X
Stephen Tuffs	Vice-President External, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Harvi Hart	Vice-President Finance, Department of Physical Therapy	X
Cassie Ellis	Secretary, Ivey Business School	X
Mariya Goncheva	Vice-President Communications, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X

❖ **Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting**

- passed

❖ **Ratification of the Agenda**

- passed

❖ **Announcements/ Introduction of new members/ Attendance**

- Adeel Sabir (electrical engineering) in attendance
- Need to add Sabina to PAW emailing list – Kate has addressed.

❖ **PAW during COVID-19 (Kate)**

- Discussed how PAW will function while the University is shut down and what we are able to provide the Western postdoc community.
 - Should we try to put our own content online to distribute to postdocs? Or remain being strictly a supportive group? We are dealing with a fluid timeline of when we will be permitted to come back to campus.

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- Perhaps more virtual cafés biweekly; the first one was a success. Easy to organize.
- Continue to advertise the Alumni events and workshops.
- Centre of Teaching and Learning (CTL) → Future Prof webinars. Could host online workshops once exams are over, workshops that can be used towards certificates. **Revisit** at end of April.
- Consider the impact this has particularly on postdocs with children. What is the proportion of postdocs that are parents – **ask Mihaela?** Don't want to bombard postdocs or add to stress.
- Brainstorm potential workshops/socials we can host through an online platform.
- NPA Annual meeting (Steve and Kate)
 - Meeting in March 26th in San Diego.
 - Status → CANCELLED
 - Poster is done and will be presented at some point. Still unclear. Perhaps will delay abstract until next year in Philadelphia. TBD.
 - Refund not yet received. Credit received from Air Canada.

❖ Elections (Kate)

- June 1st is New Term that you'll be officially in your role. Next meeting (May 5th) will be final meeting for current executive committee.
- **2020 PAW Executive Committee**
 - **President** - Dr. Stephen Tuffs
 - **Secretary** - Dr. Cassie Ellis
 - **Vice- President Internal** - Dr. Roberta Bgeginski
 - **Vice- President External** - Dr. Sabina Rakhimbekova
 - **Vice- President Finance** - Dr. Harvi Hart
 - Redefine role, perhaps assign more responsibility.
 - ◆ Option to generate our own invitations for events and registration pages that Mihaela usually does? **Ask Mihaela.** Reassign to new other position.
 - ◆ Tax Session is currently sole responsibility. Need to revamp this session. Maybe have an actual Tax expert (accountants) run this, like the one offered to Grad Students.
 - Can we get accounting students to run this specifically for postdocs? Suggested contact information? Be explicit with the advertising and who the workshop is for. We are able to book an appointment to go through our Taxes using this link:
<https://calendly.com/taxlogistics/usc-income-tax-appointment?month=2020-03>

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- ◆ Perhaps take on Role of booking the Grad Club monthly and any events (Table, Food, etc...) and receiving Invoices ...
- **Vice- President Communications - Dr Mariya Goncheva**
 - Mariya will take over Twitter responsibility from Stephen
 - Mariya will take on Email account and LinkedIn as well from Kate → **need this transferred**
 - ◆ Blast covid-19 updates via email but keep it to a minimum. Avoid social media.
 - ◆ Will **Pin** the Western COVID-19 webpage onto Twitter and Facebook
- ❖ **Workshops (Kate)**
 - Tax Information Session, Thursday February 6th 12-1:30pm
 - spoke about above ^^ under "Elections".
 - Immigration Express Entry PR Session
 - CANCELLED
 - Writing workshop with Dr. Mark Goldszmidt on March 30th 9:00am-1:00pm (1 hour Q&A)
 - POSTPONED. Will reassess when campus opens. Needs to be an in-person event.
 - Postdoc Research Forum
 - POSTPONED indefinitely. Will reassess once campus opens.
 - Equity and Diversity Inclusion certification
 - POSTPONED
 - Mariya and Roberta a plan. Will contact Nicole Kaniki from EDI (through BMI) once Western reopens and social gatherings are permitted.
- ❖ **Socials (Kate)**
 - All upcoming postdoc Socials
 - ◆ CANCELED
- ❖ **Coffee and Conversations**
 - Coffee and Conversation – Friday April 3rd 12pm
 - Success! We had 7 people.
 - Agreed we should vary the time.
 - Next Coffee and Conversation:
 - **Thursday April 16th at 3pm**
 - **Friday May 1st at 12pm**
 - ◆ Mariya will organize the Zoom meeting and advertising
 - Advertise that people can "drop in" to the meetings or stay for the entire 1-hour.
- ❖ **PAW Representatives (Roberta)**

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- Culture and Arts Officer – remain open

❖ **New business/Open Forum**

- June 1st
 - Introduce new Executive Committee along with their Bios and our PAW website.
 - Use this as an opportunity to notify postdocs that they can request to join the PAW2013 email list to be included in committee communications.

❖ **Next PAW meeting**

- Tuesday **May 5th** 2020 at 4pm through Zoom
 - Cassie will include meeting link and ID in the upcoming meeting's Agenda.