



Postdoctoral Association at Western

PAW Executive Council Meeting

August 4th, 2020 @ 4:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 978 4644 3822 Passcode: PAW

MINUTES

Attendance

Stephen Tuffs	President, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Roberta Bgeginski	Vice-President Internal, Department of Kinesiology	X
Sabina Rakhimbekova	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

1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meeting

- Passed

2. Ratification of the Agenda

- Passed

3. Announcements/ Introduction of new members/ Attendance

- Kate Parham attended
- Elli Papangelakis attended

4. 2020 PAW Executive Committee (Stephen)

- Nothing to update
- Will readvertise next month after Postdoc Appreciation Week

5. PAW during COVID-19 (Stephen)

- COVID-19 PAW page

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- ◆ Nothing to update
- PAW survey results – a copy will be circulated to members
 - ◆ Good summary of results, a few concerns that will be looked into further
 - ◆ ~ 70 partipated, ~ 25% of all Western Postdocs
 - ◆ Mental Health – Mihaela is dealing with this. Steve recommends adding these resources to our PAW website, be more explicit
 - Include box/link stating - “postdocs are members of staff” and connect to resources and services and information
 - Elli confirmed website mostly has information pertaining to mental health and includes Western Staff website, but will rename the tab to “*Mental Health and Wellness*” and ensure it is more user friendly and accessible
 - Make “mental health” its own section so it’s more prominent
- Update from meeting with Ruth and Mihaela
 - ◆ In Phase 3 at Western. More coming from Mihaela.

6. Vice President Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- Proposed description of the role:
 - Vice-President Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) - The Vice-President EDI of PAW shall be responsible, in conjunction with the administration of The University of Western Ontario, for promoting EDI within the postdoctoral community. The Vice-President EDI, along with other officers from the PAW executive, will organize professional development and PAW meetings with a focus on EDI. The Vice-President EDI will also act as a liaison between PAW and the postdoc community for any issues or suggestions in the area of EDI.
 - Needs to be advertised for AGM during Postdoc Appreciation Week
 - Cassie agreed to post in email, this week Mariya will advertise on social media pages – 6 week nomination period then elected week of Appreciation

7. Workshops (Stephen)

- Virtual Workshop on lay abstracts (organized by Mariya).
 - August 11th 2pm
 - Caroline Patterson
 - ◆ Topic: PAW Workshop On "How To Write Lay Abstracts"
 - ◆ Time: Aug 11, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 - ◆ <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/96479672104>
 - ~ 80 people attended Friday’s Career panel hosted by Mihaela, well received, panel was diverse

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- ◆ Each (former) postdoc was asked 5 questions and shared their experience with getting a new academic position
- ◆ Something to look into doing again in the future. Perhaps 2x per year.

8. Coffee and Conversations (Mariya)

- Discuss making C&C more themed, as per Ruth's suggestions
 - E.g., advertising to parents to discuss hardships and support groups, remote workers
- August has a lot going on virtually already and with preparation for starting up in September, so revisit next month

9. PAW Representatives (Roberta)

- Culture and Arts Officer – remain open. Needs description.
- Create council positions for Representatives of each School (Steve).
- Every faculty that has a Postdoc. Exec members can represent their department, but preference would be given to people not on PAW Exec to get new active members.
- Role: Ask them to present issues specific to their faculty. Act as a conduit back to their Postdoc community, advertise events, specific workshop needs for disciplines.
- Future role of Reps – with PAW President raise profile of Postdoc community and PAW with Western Administration. Engage vice-deans. Post-doc advisory committee a good place for President to talk to vice-deans.
- Add open council rep positions on the website
 - Put open positions on the same page under a new heading
 - Elli – transferred CAPS to Sabina

10. Postdoc Appreciation Week (Sabina)

- September 20-26, organized by Sabina
- Sabina and Steve need to book an appointment with Mihaela – TBD. Steve will notify.
 - Determine schedule and organise events. Have resources from previous years.
 - Sabina has contacted Western Rec (Jenna Smith) – must book an appointment as a Member to students, so obtaining a Pass will not be possible this year.
- Engaging workshop ideas:
 - PDW
 - Continue to think on and send ideas to Exec email!
 - Social Events:
 - Virtual Trivia Night
 - ◆ Ask Mihaela for prizes
 - Outdoor Picnic

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- ◆ Bring your own food, no alcohol
- Outdoor walk + Yoga on campus – “PAW gets Active”
 - ◆ Maybe Tuesday or Wednesday – Walk @10am, Yoga @11am
 - ◆ Wellness Walk – lead by Roberta, along river, ~45mins
 - Can go towards Terry Fox Run. Promote the two together.
 - ◆ Yoga – lead by Cassie, on UC Hill, ~30mins
 - Encourage Face Masks to be worn at all time, prizes awarded for “best masks”
 - Family friendly, dogs allowed
 - Look into virtual bibs
- Terry fox run (virtual) – (Steve & Roberta & Sabina)
 - AGM will be virtual, combine October’s meeting with this event
 - Mariya will create schedule and build the Infograph and advertise
 - “All in-person events require face masks be worn at all times”

11. Socials (Kate)

- All Postdoc Socials postponed until further notice
- Steve – GradClub
 - Allowing groups of 10 to book on patio
 - Won’t be a problem to organize an event if interested, not busy, avoid Fridays
 - Steve suggests booking Thursday August 20th @3:30pm, Mariya will advertise
 - Must reserve your spot through email RSVP

12. President’s Newsletter

- Newsletter will be sent out in August
- Will highlight the Council and Exec positions
- Highlight success of postdocs in the University – direct good news to Steve to include.
 - Mihaela has provided Mariya and Steve with success stories. Encourages the rest of Exec to share any good news we hear. Share on Twitter and tag Western accounts.
 - Feedback on the survey

13. New business/Open Forum

- No new business

14. Next PAW meeting

- Tuesday September 1st at 4pm through Zoom
- TBD – week of September 2st to September 26th
 - ◆ Combine with AGM. Start meeting, with AGM Exec meeting to conclude.