PDFA Executive Council Meeting
February 19, 2026
Teleconference Meeting

Present:

Javad Bolboli, VP Operations
Alsayed Mostafa, VP External
Furkan Altincicek, VP Internal
Oluwafemi Adu, Member at Large
Yuhan Yi, Member at Large
Mathew Labbe, Member at large
Britney Firth, Member at Large
Reshmi Ramakrishnan, VP Communications

Michael Baggaley, President (Absent)
Rashaduz Zaman, VP Finance (Absent)

Staff:

Terry Sway, Labour Relations Officer
Tamara Phiri, Administrative Assistant
Scott Harris, Communications Strategist
Joy Correia, Director of Operations (Absent)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:06am.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Furkan Altincicek, VP Internal (Chair)acknowledged that the PDFA is in Treaty 6 territory.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION:	To approve the agenda for February 19, 2026	Javad /Reshmi	**CARRIED**

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION:	To approve the minutes for January 22, 2026	Mathew/ Javad	**CARRIED**

5. Director of Operations/Labour Relations Officer Report (Terry Sway & Joy Correia)

The Labour Relations Officer reviewed Article 8.04 of the current collective agreement, which provides for a 10-week working notice period, and advised the meeting that there has been a recurrence of postdoctoral fellows receiving such notices. He informed the meeting that he would prepare a piece for the newsletter about reference letters.

6. Communications Strategist Report (Scott Harris)

Scott informed the meeting that the monthly update reminder will be sent out on March 4th. Scott suggested a finalized document submission.

7. President's report (Michael Baggaley)

7.1 Social event success - The President reported that the social event held was successful and thanked the exec for their participation. The next event is planned for week of March 23-27, the exec agreed to do a poll on the frequency of the events.

7.2 The president reported that he established a monthly meeting with Cagri Ayranci - director of postdoc affairs.

7.3 Investment strategy – the President suggested that the PDFA makes an initial investment of $80k with $2500 each month thereafter.

7.4 Travel awards - Awardees have submitted their proof of attendance and mailing addresses with Tamara.

7.5 Addressing gaps in AHCIP - Some Exec members discussed gaps in access to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). Some individuals who are legally working in Canada are currently not eligible for AHCIP because they are waiting for their Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) or Work Permit (WP) to be processed. Javad shared that he is personally experiencing this issue while his work permit application is still in process, and Yuhan contributed additional comments during the discussion. Furkan suggested that this matter be raised with the local MLA to explore possible solutions or advocacy options.

7.6 Immigration support – Alsayed informed the meeting that the University has an immigration office and that they are very supportive.

8. VP Internal Report (Furkan Altincicek)

Furkan informed the meeting that he attended the University Research Advisory Committee (URAC) meeting on January 30. He reported updates regarding the university's privacy policies. The University has repealed the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and replaced it with two new Acts: the Access to Information Act and the Protection of Privacy Act. Furkan noted that fines and penalties for releasing private, identifiable information have increased under the new legislation.
The second item discussed was the Indigenous data sovereignty.

9. VP External Report (Alsayed Mostafa)

Alsayed did not attend the Post secondary meeting as it was on the same date with the PDFA social gathering.

He also informed the meeting that he did not attend the CAPS meeting due to a booking mix up.

10. VP Finance Report (Rashaduz Zaman**)**

The VP had excused absence.

11. VP Communications (Reshmi Ramakrishnan)

The VP Communications spoke about the need for improved planning of social events. She also informed the meeting that she attended the Lab2Market event.

12. VP Operations (Javad Bolboli)

Javad informed the meeting about the new Land acknowledgement. Javad attended the EDI and Indigenous Initiatives Multi-Institute Committee/ meeting on February 2.

13. Member at Large Reports (Oluwafemi Adu, Furkan Altincicek, Britney Firth, Yuhan Yi)

Yuhan
- Shared some social events suggestions i.e. the frequency of 6-8 weeks and the date of the middle of week would be preferred, and lunch is a good idea
- new category of immigration through express entry related to postdoc is open now (category 9, NOC code 41200, Express Entry: Category-based selection - Canada.ca);
- Investment strategy and suggestions to form a sub committee that will discuss the investment options

Femi
- No items to add

Mathew
- Following a query from a member Mathew put some Info re: tax forms for PDS – for the March newsletter.
- Mathew explained various rooms available for booking possibilities for in-person meetings
- Mathew queried when the Travel Award Survey would go out.

Britney
- Social Survey on member needs
- Attended in-person meeting, Social Coffee Hour, and monthly meeting
- Britney suggested Travel Awards assessment based on feedback from the various awards throughout the year.

14. Other Business

There was no other business

15. In Camera

There was an in-camera session.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm

Michael Baggaley, President & Chair	Tamara Phiri, Administrative Assistant