

Meeting 4/16

6 October 2016

For general publication

**Present:** Mr Sri Ram Arunachalam, Miss Talia Enright (in the Chair), Dr Denise Adams (minutes), Assoc Prof Joanne Blanchfield, Mr Joshua Chai, Mr Liam De Villiers, Ms Suchita Gera, Miss Alicia Kirk, Ms Narelle Larney (delegate for Tammie Fair) and Dr Simon Worrall.

**ACTION**

**Apologies:** Miss Zoe Cornwell, Mr Peter Giang, and Miss Shazura Lawrence.

**Absent:** Nil.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held 11 August 2016, having been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

**1. Business Arising out of the minutes:**

**1.1 Molecular Image Design Contest**

Members discussed the Molecular Image Design Contest, would be closing the following day. One good quality image had been submitted.

[Subsequent to the meeting, Jack Clegg and Melinda Ashcroft (Vice President, UQ Molecular Biotechnology Student Club), agreed that the entry was of high quality and that the prize of a \$50 voucher from the School, and a \$20 voucher and certificate from the UQ Molecular Biotechnology Student Club should be awarded. The winner was Mr Nikolaos Papas, a Science student. Jack intended to use the image in various posters and publications within the School.]

Simon Worrall put forward the low level of interest in the design contest may be due to students' high assessment workload and students may prefer to engage in a less time consuming activity. It was suggested that the competition format should be changed.

Jo Blanchfield reported that the front cover of the proceedings for Undergraduate Research Conference had in previous years been printed with original artwork from SCMB students. Jo suggested that a competition for student artwork would be an excellent idea: the artwork could be printed on School publications including the Honours Research book, Conference Proceedings and be displayed on the School's TV screens, banners and posters. Philip Sharpe had suggested that artwork could be used on course Blackboard banners. Jo recommended that the competition should not have specific requirements but the image needed to be related to science and as the image would be published it had to be the student's own work to avoid copyright infringement. Permission from the student would also be required to use the artwork/photo in any manner suitable. Alicia Kirk suggested that the competition be launched early in 2017.

**ACTION**  
**Denise**

**1.2 Student Facebook Pages**

Members agreed (CSAG meeting 13 April.2016) that course or study group pages were valuable to students. Jo Blanchfield had prepared a slide that was sent to Course Coordinators and lecturers inviting students to create course Facebook pages within UQ groups. Liam De Villiers and Joshua Chai reported that they had seen this slide displayed in some lectures. Jo noted that many lecturers had held off displaying this slide until semester 1, 2017, as semester 2, 2016 was well underway by the time the slide was available. Talia Enright thought the establishment of course Facebook pages was most important for first year courses, as new students were still making connections at University of Queensland.

Members noted that UQChem had a new administrator, John Chrisoulakis. Denise Adams had been added as a back up administrator. Bowie Chong, the previous administrator was now a moderator.

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### 1.3 SCMB Newsletter

Joshua Chai (CSAG meeting 13 April.2016) suggested that he would like to start a School newsletter that contained information about events and coursework but reported that he had not had time to do so due to coursework pressures. As he would be absent in semester 1, 2017. Joshua asked if anyone would like to pursue the newsletter, but no offers were made.

### 1.4 CHEM1100 and CHEM1200 Labs and Lectures

Liam De Villiers had reported (CSAG meeting 20 May.2016) that he and his fellow students had experienced difficulties in completing the CHEM1100 practicals. Several changes had been made by Dr Andrew Allsebrook and Dr Philip Sharpe, including adding a question to PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) sheets to help students prepare for the pre-lab quiz and encouraging students to seek assistance with their laboratory preparation by either calling into the Laboratory, PASS classes or Podium sessions. A new experiment to better align labs and lectures in CHEM1100 was also being considered for 2017. Members were informed by Liam that the CHEM1200 students were happy with the labs and the CHEM1100 students had not reported any problems.

**ACTION**  
**Andrew**  
**Allsebrook**  
**& Philip**  
**Sharpe**

Talia Enright had reported (CSAG meeting 11 August.2016) that LabSkills (interactive elearning software for practical science used in first year chemistry) was quite slow. Jo Blanchfield reported that Dr Andrew Allsebrook had since applied for and had been awarded a Teaching and Learning Grant from the Faculty of Science to fund the purchase of the new version of LabSkills. This enhanced version of LabSkills would turn the laboratory manual into an interactive PDF. Additional videos and tutorials would also be available and would more closely relate to the CHEM1XXX experiments and pre-lab questions. LabSkills would ultimately allow students to complete the pre-lab questions, upload experimental data, complete results and answer analysis questions completely *via* Blackboard and LabSkills. Students would receive instant feedback and tutors' marking load would be reduced. Jo noted that the main cause of student stress was the rush at the end of the lab session to finish the lab data sheets and answer the analysis questions. The deadline for submission of the students' lab sheets could be delayed, which would hopefully reduce the stress that students feel in the lab. The new software would be trialled during the CHEM1200 summer semester. Additionally, Dr Allsebrook hoped to commence videoing the laboratory classes over the summer break; this would also help students prepare for lab classes.

Jo Blanchfield had reported (CSAG meeting 11 August 2016) that students who had completed CHEM1200 during the 2015 summer semester had enjoyed the intensive laboratory attendance whereby students completed the lab component of CHEM1200 over five mornings or five afternoons in one week. It was proposed that the completion of some or all of the lab components of CHEM1100/1200 could be completed during the mid-semester break. The rules governing this would have to be carefully considered. The Teaching and Learning Committee had not yet considered the implications of this proposal.

**ACTION**  
**Jo**

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## 2. Other Business:

### 2.1 Concept Maps used in Courses

Liam De Villiers noted one of the lecturers had produced a fantastic concept map (CSAG meeting 11 August 2016). Good examples of concept maps could be found in the Transition Metal section of CHEM1200 delivered by Dr Evan Moore and SCIE1000 content delivered by Prof Peter Adams. Jo Blanchfield noted that as more content moved online, concept maps would become more important and an example of this was "Learning Pathways" which is now used in CHEM1200. Simon Worrall noted that in some instances, lecturers preferred students to develop their own concept maps to aid learning.

### 2.2 CHEM3010: Advanced Inorganic Chemistry

Talia Enright reported (CSAG meeting 11 August 2016) that she had been approached by some concerned inorganic chemistry major 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who were worried about entering Honours next year as they missed important inorganic chemistry content from CHEM3010 in semester 1, 2016 due to Prof Paul Bernhardt's accident. Jo Blanchfield reported that she was aware of this problem and undertook to find out if the lecture material had been recorded the previous year.

[Subsequent to the meeting, Prof Paul Bernhardt reported that the lectures had not been recorded and that material that had not been presented in 2016 would not be essential for any Honours material that he would present in 2017.]

### 2.3 CHEM2056 Tutorial overcrowded venue

Joshua Chai reported (CSAG meeting 11 August 2016) that CHEM2056 tutorials had been extremely overcrowded. Tutorials had been offered at 8am and 9am, and the majority of students had opted for the later time, meaning that approximately 90 students attended the 9am tutorial. The student to tutor ratio had been as high as four or five tutors to assist 90 students. Summative assessment had been held fortnightly in the overcrowded room. Jo Blanchfield discussed this with the Course Coordinator, Assoc Prof Lisbeth Grondahl. Teaching Space was not able to allocate another venue as rooms were heavily booked during the semester. Jo recommended that students should report this problem in their course feedback forms.

### 2.4 Postgraduate Coursework Biotechnology Program Site Visits

Suchita Gera reported (CSAG meeting 11 August 2016) that site visits to three companies were undertaken over two days and unfortunately the visits clashed with biotechnology assignment due dates. Members noted that the director of the Biotechnology program had advised that:

- industry site visits were only for students enrolled in BIOT2002/BIOT7033 and places were limited by our industry hosts. The site visits were run during a week that was kept free of biotechnology lectures;
- students choose one site visit (they were only allowed to choose ONE, although several were available);
- if students were pressed for time regarding the Drug Design and Development assignment completion, they could choose the site visit on the Friday;
- students could complete their assignments very early using their mid-semester break, which immediately preceded the site visits.

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### 2.5 Level 2 and 3 Review Chemistry course offerings

Jo Blanchfield had reported (CSAG meeting 11 August 2016) that a review of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level chemistry courses would be undertaken. The Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held 24 August 2016 noted the review had begun with the collation of data regarding what was currently offered. A one-day retreat was held on the 4 October with chemists from SCMB and the wider UQ campus who employ or enrol chemists in their RHD (Research Higher Degree) programs.

Members noted that retreat attendees had been informed that a major in chemistry must have TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency) accreditation and this aligned with the RACI (Royal Australian Chemical Institute) accreditation requirements.

Jo reported that a chemistry majors student could undertake 13 chemistry courses during his or her three year degree and that CHEM3016 was a compulsory course. Many students had taken as few as seven chemistry courses in order to gain a degree with a chemistry major and this dearth of chemistry courses had concerned the chemists at UQ and from industry.

Jo reported that in light of these findings the UQ rules for a chemistry major would be reviewed with the intent they become tighter, with more courses to be mandated and the requirements to be clarified. Jo would like to see compulsory pre-requisites for courses. Alicia Kirk noted that currently only course recommendations were made and a more defined course list would be better for the student cohort experience. Joshua Chai noted that there was little flexibility in a biotechnology major and members agreed that students preferred to have more direction regarding course choice. Alicia Kirk and Talia Enright noted that some flexibility needed to be available for students completing a dual degree and for students who enrolled part time or commenced in the middle of the year. Liam De Villiers recommended that the Faculty of Science publish a plan for a chemistry major that could be shown to first year students during lectures. Jo would ensure that the plans were available to academic advisors, and students would be reminded that it was best to seek early academic advice.

**ACTION**  
**Jo**

Jo would like the list of courses to include a 2<sup>nd</sup> year analytical chemistry course. SCMB plans to work with the food science chemists to develop this course.

Talia supplied Jo with the responses she had received from the chemistry majors students after requesting feedback via the UQ courses space on Facebook.

### 2.6 SCIE2020 Content overlap with other Chemistry Courses

Alicia Kirk provided feedback that a number of students felt that there was significant overlap of SCIE2020 content with other chemistry courses when the course was taken in second semester of a student's second year. SCIE2020 is listed amongst the courses that can contribute to a chemistry major. Some students felt they were not getting enough chemistry for a second year course.

Jo Blanchfield noted that SCIE2020 was not a chemistry course like CHEM2052 even though it was listed with chemistry courses. Talia Enright noted that a lack of second level chemistry courses, caused students to enrol in SCIE2020. Jo hoped that more second level chemistry courses would be made available after the review. Jo noted that the chemistry majors course list needed to be improved and clarified.

**ACTION**  
**Jo**

### 2.7 Employment Opportunities

Members were keen for information regarding jobs and careers to be made available to students and Suchita Gera had asked about Biotechnology careers events (CSAG meeting 11 August.2016).

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### 2.7 Employment Opportunities (Cont'd)

Jo Blanchfield noted that many careers events were already held at UQ and that it would be wise to better advertise the existing events rather than create new events.

A Royal Australian Chemistry Institute (RACI) event had been held the previous week and Talia Enright had found the event to be very useful. It was noted this event should be advertised to undergraduate students, including those in biotechnology, and that event details needed to be forwarded to coursework staff.

Members noted that Prof Ross Barnard had advised that Ausbiotech organised careers fairs for the biotechnology industry in Australia, but this was not advertised to undergraduate students. Ross recommended that we should not organise these ourselves. Duplication of what was done by Ausbiotech was unwise and inefficient, as industry preferred to minimise attendance at multiple events. Ross also advised that the UQ Careers Fair was an excellent event.

Talia Enright reported that Biotechnology industry placements available via enrolment in BIOT3007 may be of interest to chemistry majors students as well as biotechnology students. BIOT3007 involved an industry placement (as well as coursework) in the summer semester and had recently included placements with Bayer, Research Directions Pty Ltd and QLD Health. Talia recommended that chemistry students should be encouraged to enrol in this course. Students would need to contact the course coordinator, Prof Vito Ferro, as there may be a cap in enrolments. Jo Blanchfield questioned whether an internship could be supported by a Faculty of Science summer scholarship, or by SCMB if funding was not provided by the Faculty.

Members were asked to note that the SCMB Careers Evening for research students on Thursday 27 October would be opened to postgraduate coursework students, who would receive an email invitation.

### 2.8 Undergraduate Discipline Mixer Events

The Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held 24 August 2016 agreed that the undergraduate mixer event would be held as a welcome in week three or four of semester 1, 2017.

CSAG members recommended that a BBQ on a Thursday from weeks 4-6 was the preferred option. Dr Denise Adams agreed to facilitate communications between CSAG and RSAG (Research Student Advisory Group) to decide on a date.

[Subsequent to the meeting, RSAG advised that they did not have the capacity to assist with the event].

### 2.9 Formation of a Chemistry and Molecular Biology Student Society

Liam De Villiers reported two students had asked the Advisory Group if CSAG would be willing to support the potential formation of a new Chemistry and Molecular Biology student society. The aim of the society would be to create a network of people with an interest in Chemistry and Molecular Biology, provide catch ups for various study sessions and organise industry seminars, *etc.* CSAG members liked the idea and supported the initiative, as it would help to make undergraduate students feel part of SCMB. Simon Worrall noted that the group needed to hold social events as well as have study groups in order to be successful.

**ACTION**  
**Jo**

**ACTION**  
**Jo**

**ACTION**  
**Denise**

**ACTION**  
**Liam**

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**2.9 Formation of a Chemistry and Molecular Biology Student Society (cont'd)**

Tacking social events on to SCMB events was discussed. Members noted that PGCW SCMB students could go as mentors to the Stradbroke Island Camp and that the camp and employment opportunities could be advertised on Blackboard (PGCW Community site). Dr Effie Kartsonaki was organising the camp this year. Further advice was sought from the Director of the Biotechnology program.

It was agreed Dr Simon Worrall and Dr Justin Ridge be added to the Blackboard PGCW Community site and that events to be advertised were to be sent to Denise Adams for inclusion on this site. It was agreed that information going to RHD students should also go to the postgraduate coursework students.

**5. Next meeting:**

As this was likely to be the final meeting of the group for 2016, the Chair, Talia Enright, thanked the retiring members for their contributions and asked if other members were happy to continue their membership, provided they remain eligible as they move on in their programs. Retiring members were Zoe Cornwell, Joshua Chai, and Suchita Gera.

Liam De Villiers, Alicia Kirk, Talia Enright, Zoe and Sri Ram Arunachalam all indicated that they would like to continue as representatives in 2017 and Talia Enright agreed to be Chair.

The next meeting will be scheduled for week 5-6, semester 1, 2017.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ACTION  
Suchita**

**ACTION  
Denise**