

Meeting 2/17

22 May 2017

For general publication

Present: Dr Denise Adams (minutes), Mr Sri Ram Arunachalam, Dr Joanne Blanchfield, Mr Liam De Villiers, Miss Alexandria Harris, Miss Talia Enright (in the Chair), Mr Ian Gooi, Miss Alicia Kirk, Ms Sandra Lupusoru, Mr Nicholas See, Ms Elipsha Sharma, Mr Wilson Tait, and Mr Kaiyin Wu.

ACTION

Apologies: Ms Tammie Fair, Miss Shazura Lawrence and Dr Simon Worrall.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held 20 March 2017, having been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

1. Business Arising out of the minutes:

1.1 Molecular Image Design Contest

The Molecular Image Design Contest, to be run jointly by the CSAG (Coursework Students Advisory Group) and the Molecular Biotechnology Students would be launched in early June. Talia Enright had prepared a flyer inviting undergraduates to submit creative student work which could be anything from a molecular image, artwork, graphic design, photography, or an image that captured an aspect of the School. The flyer would be emailed to course coordinators and displayed in buildings 68 and 76.

ACTION
Talia &
Denise

1.2 Undergraduate Discipline Mixer Events

The undergraduate discipline mixer event had been held on 20 May from 4-6 pm on the Chemistry Podium. CSAG members had enjoyed the event that had been attended by approximately 80-90 students and 20 academics.

Jo Blanchfield, Talia Enright, Nicholas See, Kaiyin Wu, Sandra Lupusoru and Denise Adams had assisted with hosting the event. Invitations had been sent to students enrolled in a SCMB major and acceptances had been collected with a Google form. The event had been promoted by the UQ Chemistry Club and the UQ Molecular Biosciences Student club. Soft drinks and snacks had been purchased from Coles and pizzas had been ordered from the Pizza café on campus.

Marketing materials had been made available at the meeting and included the Biotechnology Project book, SCMB project books, Stradbroke Camp flyers, Careers flyers and Honours Scholarship flyers. The majors posters, research posters and coursework banners had also been displayed. The table tennis table had been set up during the event.

Talia thought that the event had been a good cohort-building experience. Jo noted that a number of students had been interested to hear about the third-year summer projects on offer to students. Many students had thanked Jo on the night for hosting the mixer. Members agreed that the event had been a success and should be held again next year.

ACTION
Denise

Talia asked if laboratory coordinators and tutors could facilitate lab-based mixers? Talia would like to see students introduce themselves to each other during the first lab session. In addition, Talia asked if students could write their names on sticky labels so that they could get to know each other more quickly. Jo undertook to let staff and tutors know that students are keen to spend some time getting to know their peers in their initial laboratory sessions.

ACTION
Jo

1.3 Textbooks

Used textbooks had been placed on the podium and in room 68-401 as Liam De Villiers had asked if assistance could be provided with students' access to textbooks. Members reported that they had liked the initiative and Liam noted that it was useful to have texts available when students had study groups on the podium. Members asked if a copy of the BIOC2000 text, "Principles of Biochemistry" by Lehninger could also be made available? Jo undertook to see if any colleagues had spare copies.

ACTION
Jo

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1. Business Arising out of the minutes: (continued)

1.4 Undergraduate UQ Chemistry Club

The undergraduate chemistry club would like to hold a networking event in late July-early August to coincide with the release of SCMB summer projects and scholarships.

Jo Blanchfield asked Nicholas See and Kaiyin Wu to send her the details of when the Chemistry Club would like to hold the event and she would approach her colleagues and invite them to attend.

1.5 Exam Papers with Worked Examples

Kaiyin Wu advised that a student had asked whether lecturers were able to release worked examples or answers to past exams to aid students' revision. Members noted that the PASS sheet questions and answers used in first year chemistry had been a useful study aid.

Jo Blanchfield advised members that many academics had been embracing the Podium sessions, where lecturers let students know when they would be available for consultation on the Chemistry Podium. Jo recommended that students should attempt questions and then take their completed exam to their lecturer for marking. Jo noted that students benefitted most when they sought assistance after a genuine problem solving attempt.

Talia Enright reported that many students had used Facebook pages to collate notes and share worked examples. Sandra Lupusoru had used shared Google docs for the same purpose.

ACTION
Jo,
Kaiyin,
Nicholas

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2. Lecture Attendance

Sandra Lupusoru noted that only 15-20 students attended the 8.00 am lecture for CHEM1200, but 40 students attended at 9.00 am.

Jo Blanchfield noted that CHEM1200 had very good online resources available which could make attendance lower. This was because CHEM1200 runs online over the summer semester.

Wilson Tait reported that during Physics lectures, clicker questions were asked and these attracted bonus marks and this ensured student attendance.

Jo reported that she has had many discussions with her colleagues regarding lecture attendance and lecturers generally agreed that if the online recordings were better for students, then academics were reluctant to force students to attend. However, students often missed valuable demonstrations that lecturers delivered via the visualiser. These demonstrations involved molecular models being used to show students 3D structures. Kaiyin Wu noted that ChemBioOffice was a useful tool to assist with 3D visualisation of molecules. Members noted that the School had a site license so that all students could access the software. Jo recommended that biochemistry and biology students would also benefit from using ChemBioOffice.

3. Excel Assistance for Students

Talia Enright asked if students could be given additional assistance with using Excel to prepare graphs and analyse data. Jo Blanchfield reported that Andrew Allsebrook had submitted a Teaching and Learning Grant that would provide an online "how-to" resource for students (outside of Blackboard). This website would contain videos detailing laboratory skills, guides and training modules detailing chemistry concepts and processes.

Denise Adams noted that students are able to log on to <https://www.lynda.com/> and this site is available to UQ students and offers video tutorials covering software, creative and business skills. Further details were available via the UQ Library website (<https://web.library.uq.edu.au/library-services/training/lyndacom-online-courses>).

4. SCIE2100 – Introduction to Bioinformatics

Ian Gooi reported that SCIE2100 was problematic for many students as the biology content of the course was very basic, but the programming aspects were extremely advanced. Students struggled to master the programming techniques if they had not completed previous programming courses.

Jo Blanchfield reported that Bioinformatics courses were being reviewed and that she would let the reviewers know about this issue.

ACTION
Jo

5. Release of Final exam results

Members asked if the final exam results could automatically be released. Denise Adams noted that students could email the course coordinator and ask for their end of semester exam result. Students could also attend an exam viewing. Jo Blanchfield undertook to ask the Manager of Coursework Student Administration if final exam results could be released automatically.

ACTION
Jo

6. Next meeting and membership changes:

Members agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled for Week 3 in Semester 2, 2017.

Jo Blanchfield thanked retiring members, Talia Enright (graduating) and Liam De Villiers (commencing a student exchange program), for their contributions.

A call for nominations for a new chairperson was made. Sandra Lupusoru nominated herself to be the chairperson. All members seconded this nomination, so Sandra was elected unopposed.

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