

Meeting 1/21

25 March 2021

For general publication

**Present:** Mr Declan Bolster (Chair), Mr Zakaria Ahmed, Miss Julia Buczynski, Mr Vishaak Gangasandra, Miss Sansadee Haputhanthrige, Mr Luke Ho (minutes), Miss Lucy Holyoak (minutes), Ms Phuong Nguyen, Mr Thomas Quinn (observer), Miss Madeline Thompson, Miss Khristine Valdellon, A/Prof Nick West, Dr Simon Worrall, Mr Jinyang Yang, Ms Xiwen Zhang.

**Apologies:** Prof Joanne Blanchfield, Ms Tammie Fair.

**Absent:** Nil.

**1. Welcome and apologies:**

Nick West welcomed members to the first CSAG meeting of the year and noted the apologies.

Nick preceded over agenda items 1 to 3 as the acting chairperson and facilitated the nomination of the new chairperson for 2021.

**2. Recognition:**

An Acknowledgment of Country was spoken by the chairperson, in recognition of the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was taking place.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held 16 October 2020:**

The minutes of the meeting held 16 October 2020, having been circulated to group members and published on the School website with SCMB constituent students notified via email that the minutes were available, were taken as read and were confirmed by those who had been present.

**4. Membership changes:**

Luke Ho would be replacing Lucy Holyoak as secretary for the advisory group for meeting 1/21.

Lucy welcomed Thomas Quinn as the Chemistry Club representative for 2021.

Declan Bolster and Phuong Nguyen volunteered to chair the 2021 meetings. A motion was passed by the advisory group for Declan and Phuong to chair alternate meetings. Meeting 1/21 would be chaired by Declan.

Nick West receded from the Chair. The remainder of the meeting was presided by Declan.

**5. Art of Science Competition:**

Julia Buczynski confirmed nine entries had been received for 2020. The winning entries were enclosed in the agenda.

Simon Worrall suggested using the winning entries on School-based material. Lucy Holyoak confirmed that the artworks had previously been displayed on the cover page of the SCMB research project booklet.

Vishaak Gangasandra proposed opening the competition early to increase entry numbers and to further promote the integration of art and science among science and art students.

Declan Bolster suggested reaching out to the School of Communication and Arts for advertisement opportunities.

Following discussion it was resolved –  
That the Art of Science competition would be held again in 2021.

**ACTION**

LUKE

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**6. COVID-19 check-in / Student feedback / Student wellbeing:**

Julia Buczynski stated that the general comments among third year chemistry students had been positive. Students had been pleased to be back on campus.

Zakaria Ahmed noted that this had been the first time that second year students had been able to attend classes and activities on campus, which had resulted in positive learning experiences and relationship building amongst the students.

Phuong Nguyen attended the CHEM2050 welcome event, stating that the event had created ease among the students as they had been able to connect with the academic staff and other students in an informal setting. Holding similar events for other courses should be considered in future.

Nick West queried the attendance rate in Chemistry courses. Julia replied that the numbers were good for both in person sessions and Zoom sessions she had attended. Zakaria replied that in her experience however, attendance had been low due to timetable clashes.

Zakaria and Phuong added that the study load of second year chemistry students had been a contributing factor to the low attendance rate, which led to students opting to review the lecture recordings at a later time.

Khristine Valdellon noted that the attendance at Biochemistry classes had been average. The attendance for Zoom sessions had been inconsistent due to the differing teaching styles across courses and teaching staff. Some lecturers would respond to questions raised in Zoom chat instantly and/or at the end of the session, and some lecturers would prefer students to raise their questions at the end of the sessions in a separate email. Khristine observed that lecturers would be quick to respond to students in both scenarios but students would prefer to have the option to raise questions during classes.

Declan Bolster suggested that drafting a standardised guideline for Zoom lectures, in particular question time during Zoom, could be useful.

Lucy Holyoak noted that Zoom sessions had been introduced in 2020 as a quick response to the first lockdown, so such a standardised guideline had not been created. Nick undertook to raise this at the next Teaching and Learning Committee meeting.

Nick

Simon Worrall noted that feedback on how the teaching and learning activities had been conducted should be raised by students in their response to course SECaT surveys at the end of semester.

Vishaak Gangasandra noted delays with scanning QR Codes before entering a lecture theatre, particular for courses that have 300+ students. Madeline Thompson stated other courses had emailed the QR code to students in advance. Julia suggested projecting the QR code inside the lecture theatre before the start of the lecture.

Julia mentioned that she had been participating in a Student/Staff Partnership program and the current aim for the partnership had been to help students who commenced in 2020 to transition into their second year. The partnership would be exploring potential opportunities for future welcome events.

Vishaak noted that the Biotechnology program had hosted a Stradbroke Island trip for first year students. The trip had been very helpful in creating cohort experience and meeting other Biotechnology students.

Thomas Quinn acknowledged that it had been difficult to identify SCMB students within first year Chemistry as first year Biomedical Science students had dominated these courses, noting a welcome event would be helpful.

Phuong commented that the promotion of Chemistry Club events and the Club itself should be more active as the majority of students had not been aware of the planned events. Vishaak agreed, noting students had not been aware of the benefits of joining a society or a student club. Thomas undertook to provide feedback on this to the Chemistry Club.

THOMAS

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**7. Other business/open discussion:**

Julia Buczynski requested feedback from the first year student representatives regarding their experience of university life so far.

Jinyang Yang stated good time management skill had been needed when trying to balance university life and social life.

Declan Bolster noted the differences in assessment items compared to high school.

Vishaak Gangasandra noted that the first two weeks had been confusing as he had been trying to adjust to university study and assessment. Orientation week workshops helping students understand university life would be beneficial.

The first year representatives stated that they had travelled to campus for study or class every day. Some representatives noted travel time between their residence and the campus had been an influencing factor in regards to attendance.

Kristine Valdellon noted that since returning to in-person learning, students had been actively forming study groups outside of classes.

Julia Buczynski then turned to the second year student representatives for observations of their experience of university life so far.

Madeline Thompson stated that the community-like feeling within UQ had been positive and welcoming.

Phuong Nguyen stated that there had been some anxiety in regards to in-person exams. When asked by Nick West to explain further, Phuong noted that the anxiety had come from the feeling of being under-prepared. Phuong noted that despite this, the ability to interact face to face with other students had been a positive experience.

Vishaak noted that discussion platforms similar to Piazza would help students with peer learning. Students had been leaving group chats fearing they could be inadvertently become involved in academic misconduct. Nick West noted that Piazza would no longer be supported by UQ and a suitable replacement would be sought. Julia noted that Blackboard had a discussion board function built into it and that courses with smaller student numbers could benefit from using this function.

Zakaria Ahmed asked fellow second year students to provide comment on their experience as external students.

Madeline Thompson commented that the laboratory skills between the external students had varied and this had been evident during the practical class. The use of Proctor-U had not been well received by the students. Nick West advised that only a few selected SCMB courses would employ Proctor-U in semester one.

**8. Next meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 7 May at 1pm in Building 76, Room 228.

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