

Meeting 3/21

3 September 2021

For general publication

Present: Miss Julia Buczynski (Chair), Mr Zakaria Ahmed, Prof Joanne Blanchfield, Mr Marley Chia, Ms Tammie Fair, Mr Vishaak Gangasandra, Miss Phuong Nguyen (from Item 1. Covid 19 check in / student feedback / student wellbeing), Dr Simon Worrall, Miss Khristine Valdellon (via Zoom), Ms Hayley Wilson (minutes), Ms Xiwen Zhang

Apologies: Mr Declan Bolster

Absent: Miss Sansadee Haputhanthrige, Miss Cassandra Koumouris, Miss Madeline Thompson, Mr Jinyang Yang

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.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 7 May 2021, 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.

Welcome and apologies:

Members agreed that Julia Buczynski would chair the meeting with Declan Bolster and Phuong Nguyen unable to attend.

Julia welcomed members to the third CSAG meeting and noted the apologies.

Members welcomed Marley Chia, Student Representative, SCMB Teaching and Learning Committee.

Business arising out of the minutes and matters for noting:

Art of Science Competition

Tammie Fair reported that no competition entries had been received at this stage. Tammie undertook to issue a reminder towards the end of the year.

Joanne Blanchfield asked all representatives to rally interest in the Art of Science Competition.

Vishaak Gangasandra undertook to talk to the Biotechnology Society.

Sapling Quizzes

Joanne Blanchfield advised that the School would not be using Sapling in the future. The University had introduced a new option called Inspira which the School would be using. Joanne noted that academics would be receiving training on how to use this program.

Joanne briefly explained how the new program works and highlighted its versatility. She explained it could also be used for the end of semester exams. Joanne noted that the VET School had recently trialled the new software.

Vishaak Gangasandra noted that having a mandatory weekly Sapling quiz in courses such as CHEM1200 made students keep up with the content. He proposed to extend these quizzes to later year subjects.

Joanne explained that weekly quizzes in first year were to help students form good study habits and it was hoped that by 3rd year students had developed these habits.

Joanne suggested that a weighting could be attached to these quizzes for later year subjects if students felt they could help.

ACTION

TAMMIE

ALL

VISHAAK

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Vishaak agreed this was a good suggestion.

ACTION

Assessment due dates

Joanne Blanchfield reported that she had discussed having a number of items due at the same time across courses in Chemistry with the Course Coordinators. While no changes could be made for 2021 it would be considered in 2022 if viable.

1. COVID 19 check-in / Student feedback / Student wellbeing:

Vishaak Gangasandra reported that 1st year students liked being back on campus as the social aspect was an important experience for 1st years.

Joanne Blanchfield noted that attendance numbers had been good. Joanne confirmed both in-person and Zoom options had attracted good attendance. She commented that moving forward we may continue to have dual delivery options.

Julia Buczynski asked members how 2nd year students were going with in-person courses.

Zakaria Ahmed provided feedback on BIOL2202 and CHEM2060. The BIOL2202 online delivery had worked well and pracs had been great. CHEM2060 had run smoothly even though he had some clashes.

Members noted that some students prefer online lectures as it allows them to take notes easily.

Khristine Valdellon reported that face to face tutorials for BIOC3006 had been very helpful, and there had been lots of opportunities to ask questions.

Julia reported that there had been a moment of panic about whether CHEM3016 would go ahead in 2nd week due to it being an internal prac based course. Attendance at the live lectures had been good. CHEM3020 attendance had been poor with only 3-4 people on Zoom.

Julia reported that some students in CHEM3020 had had additional time to complete lab reports after practicals due to the day their lab was scheduled. Tammie Fair reviewed the ECP and noted that this could be addressed for future semester. As there were no reports left for this semester, it was recommended that Julia make note on the course SECaT to ensure this is flagged for future offerings.

Khristine reported that there had been some technical issues for BIOL3006 and MICR3001, with students talking over each other making it hard to understand and slow internet disadvantaging some students. Due to time limitations tutors needed to move on quickly. This presented a challenge as students are graded on their contribution.

Tammie acknowledged that some students have technical issues. Tammie undertook to talk to the Course Coordinators about this matter.

TAMMIE

Members noted that in BINF6000 there had been issues with sound due to a number of groups being held in the same room.

Joanne Blanchfield recommended we find small rooms for this type of class.

Tammie confirmed that separate rooms would be best and asked if computers were required for this class. It was confirmed that computers were required. Tammie undertook to speak to the Course Coordinator.

TAMMIE

Members reported an issue with the level 4 SCMB printer. Joanne Blanchfield undertook to look into this.

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2. Other business/open discussion:

ACTION

Vishaak Gangasandra noted that automatic transcripts are very helpful and that a lot of 1st and 2nd year students find them useful. Vishaak noted that some courses like CHEM1200 do not have transcripts and asked if Course Coordinators could be asked to implement them.

Simon Worrall reported that Zoom transcripts do not translate well.

Joanne reported that chemistry and biochemistry higher level courses had decided they would not use these as the technical terms had not been translating correctly.

Khristine reported that she had tried the program Word transcript however it had come out in one paragraph with no grammar and took over two hours to fix a 20 minute meeting.

Tammie Fair raised concerns over students reading the transcripts and perhaps getting stuck on some of the incorrect translation and suggested students could use the transcripts but they need to be aware of possible errors with translations.

Joanne undertook to speak with Course Coordinators to see if they want to make the transcripts available with a disclaimer and to discuss other available options with ITS.

JOANNE

Vishaak commented on ECPs and wanted to note STAT1201 has the best format for ECP as it has a progress page. It shows from day 1 to the end of semester. Tammie undertook to review this information.

TAMMIE

Joanne reported that the School Review is scheduled for next week.

Julia Buczynski confirmed that most of the members have been invited to the group interview.

3. Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 15th October at 12pm in Building 68, Room 306.

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