

**School of Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences
Research Student Advisory Group**

DATE: 26 April 2022

TIME: 12pm

PLACE: 68-306

Present: Alicia Kirk, Shahla Asgharzadeh Kangchar, Connor Scott, Tom Gen Li, Atiyah Alenzi, Summa Bibby, Dylan Bowman, Samuel Davis, Timothy Muusse, Dean O'Brien, Forhad Saikot, Apoorva Prabhu, Natalee Newton, Khristine Vadellon, Sanjana Tule, Luke Guddat, Pelin Durali

Absent: Shannon Hoe Min Quah

1. Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country was spoken by the Chair, Alicia, in recognition of the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was taking place.

2. Welcome and confirmation of minutes held 29th March 2022

The Chair, Alicia, welcomed members to the meeting, noting that Shannon had given prior apologies to the meeting. Minutes of last meeting were confirmed by Connor Scott.

3. Business arising from previous meeting

In the first meeting Connor offered to make contact with members of the Research Student Social Committee (RSSC). Both Timothy and Connor attempted to contact them via email with no success. Samuel confirmed that he was aware of who was currently running the RSSC. Contact will be made at the next social mixer to begin more collaboration with RSSC and RSAG committee. This will be confirmed for the next meeting.

4. Research Student Social Committee report

As there was no contact able to be made the report from the RSSC will be delayed until the next meeting of the RSAG committee.

5. Reports from the RSAG representatives on the SCMB Research Committee and the SCMB Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (EDIC) and HDR representative for Student Leaders forum

As representative of the RSAG committee Athyah provided an update from the recent meeting of the EDIC committee. Two major points were discussed. First the need to engage more with indigenous staff and students. The idea of creating more scholarships was suggested. Secondly, the need to create measures to cater for individuals with physical disabilities was also discussed.

The RSAG committee then discussed potential measures such as specialised labs to cater for reaching higher objects and shelves, limited wheelchair access around the school, and increased safety within laboratories for individuals with hearing impairments. Alicia enquired about what

committee was involved with lab space and accessibility to which Luke responded that it was the space and facility committee who were in charge of that. Athyah suggested that if we knew anyone who had a physical disability working in science that they should contact Aythya or the RSAG committee to provide more feedback on what they see necessary.

Forhad provided a brief update on the SCMB Research Committee. Due to prior commitments and short notice of the meeting Forhad was only able to attend the meeting briefly and will provide a more extensive update after the next meeting.

6. Seminar opportunity for HDR students associated with the Structural Biology and Biochemistry (SBB) theme and Queensland Annual Chemistry Symposium (QACS) call for volunteers

Both of these agenda points were discussed with updates provided by Alicia

7. Annual SCMB Research Students Symposium

- Access of or requesting assistance to access share drive was confirmed for all members present
- The committee agreed that the share drive would be the best location to provide updates on progress of each assigned jobs.
- Options for the best method of communication outside of meetings were then discussed with three options put forward: 1) Slack 2) Microsoft teams and 3) Whatsapp
- A vote was taken with the majority of members present voting for Slack.
- The date of the symposium was then confirmed to be the 18th of November 2022.
 - No overlaps with SCMB and SBMS honours presentations were confirmed
- A save the date will be sent out in an upcoming "The Week Ahead". Pelin will contact the PA for this.
- **Venue:**
 - Pelin suggested the same venue as last year. This was agreed upon by the committee.
- **Sponsors:**
 - Shahla provided and update on the sponsors. Enquired about who was best to contact at the companies they will be approaching. Natalee Newton confirmed that it was best to contact the Brisbane/QLD representative of the company.
 - Mengxi (member of RSAG in 2021 who organised sponsors) will provide list of sponsors to Shahla/RSAG committee.
 - By the next meeting letters will have been sent to potential sponsors
- **Plenary Speakers:**
 - Potential plenary speakers were discussed:
 - Shahla suggested Dr. Majid Ebrahimi Warkiani from the University of Technology Sydney. He has a diverse experience of work, his research involves translation to industry and he started as an international student. Budgetary concerns were raised by Luke confirmed that they should not be an issue if sponsorship is successful.
 - Timothy suggested Dr Natalee Newton, an ECR from SCMB who gained an NHMRC investigator fellowship less than 1 year post PhD.

- Alicia suggested a new appointment to the school, Professor David Aschcer.
- Natalee suggested Jeremy Tarry
- Speakers will be finalised next meeting. Shahla will approach Dr Warkiani to see if he is available for the proposed date.
- Concern was raised by Connor about lack of female speakers for plenary. Luke suggested that both opening and closing speakers could be female.

8. Other Business

- Luke discussed the need for feedback on the career development framework.
- Most feedback centred around lack of knowledge of framework and lack of advertising.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Tuesday the 24th of May at 12pm.