

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

**DATE:** 8 Nov 22

**TIME:** 12 pm

**PLACE:** 68-306

**Present:** Pelin Durali, Alicia Kirk, Shahla Asgharzadeh Kangchar, Summa Bibby, Khristine Vadellon, Tom Li, Connor Scott, Luke Guddat, Dylan Bowman, Natalee Newton, Timothy Muusse, Forhad Karim Saikot, Athyah Alenzi

**Absent:** Sanjana Tule, Samuel Davis, Dean O'Brien, Apoorva Prabhu, Shannon Hoe Min Qua

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

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

Alicia provided information about the lack of native title that is currently in Brisbane due to debates over custodianship in 2017.

**2. Welcome and confirmation of minutes held 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

The Chair, Alicia, welcomed members to the meeting, noting the apologies given prior to the meeting. Minutes of last meeting were confirmed by Athyah.

**3. Business arising from previous meeting (not elsewhere listed):**

- i. Update on Joint initiative with EDIC and student leader's forum- SCMB mentor initiative:
  1. Overall, the initial meeting was well received with five students that want to join the mentoring program.
  2. Feedback:
    - a. More time to make it a networking event would be ideal.
    - b. Having smaller group activities rather than one large group.
    - c. Bring the food closer to the tables.
    - d. Could be more focused on where the new students are from and about their background.
- ii. Posters for RSAG
  1. Summa has been in contact with SCMB admin to print and laminate posters. Good advertisement for people to join committee next year.

**4. 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**

- a. SLF:

- i. The SLF is not optimistic about any changes to the COVID extensions for HDR students. Their major focus is on increasing the stipend.
  - ii. SCMB is giving out covid extensions to students who don't receive it from the graduate school. Four have already been given out, two more available in the budget.
- b. Research Committee.
  - i. Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November was cancelled. Forhad will bring up the low number of chemistry students attending the symposium and the concerning news that some chemistry academics discouraged student participation in the symposium as they believed it to be an MBS event.
- c. EDIC:
  - i. Next EDIC meeting scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

## 5. Annual SCMB Research Students Symposium

- **Registrations:**
  - 125 students + 27 judges + guests
- Treasurers update:
  - All the money that was promised is now received with \$810 excess.
  - Tables from P&F have been sorted for sponsors however we may need table clothes. Can be purchased.
- Catering:
  - Dylan will be in contact with caterers for morning tea /coffee on the afternoon after the meeting.
- Goodie bags and prizes.
  - Summa has organised the prizes with the school.
  - Will also purchase 2 x \$50 prizes to incentivise feedback.
  - Goodie bags:
    - a. From sponsors we have notebooks from illumine and post grad student association.
    - b. We will purchase 200 bags and include either a ruler or lanyard and maybe some UQ USBs as well.

c. Mentos will be included as well

- Booklet:
  - Feedback code to be sent to Alicia and Tim who are aiming to print the booklet as soon as possible after the meeting.
  - It will have 3 QR codes: 1. Abstracts, 2 feedback, 3 people's choice for poster
  - Everyone is to view the booklet to make sure of the acknowledgment section
  - Artwork from the school art competition features on the cover.
- Judges:
  - Will be finalised by Shahla and Apoorva with confirmation of judges to be sent out on Thursday or Friday at the latest.
- Speed Networking:
  - EDIC is going to send out and advertising/registration email this week for the event.
- Timetable:
  - Will be sent out to the entire school and put in the week ahead so people who are not registered can find information about the symposium.
- Closing speaker:
  - Avril Robertson to be asked.
- Session chairing:
  - MC for the day: Connor
  - Chairs for talk sessions:
    - a. Athyah
    - b. Tim
    - c. Sam
    - d. Forhad
- Printing:
  - Judge marking sheets and envelopes for the prizes

**6. Other business**

**Goodie bags to be prepared by everyone Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November at 2:30 pm on chemistry podium**

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November from 12-1 at a lunch venue which is TBC.