

Meeting 1/23

29 March 2023

For general publication

**ACTION**

**Present:** Mr Noah Bertam, A/Prof Marloes Dekker, Mr Vishaak Gangasandra, Ms Annalise Kerr, Miss Rebecca Leonard, Ms Raghavi Shankara Guhan, Miss Emma Sheehan, Mr Ben Smith (minutes), Mr Patrick Sutton, Ms Saher Tinwala (chair), Dr Simon Worrall,

**Apologies:** Miss Larissa Chan

**Absent:** Nil.

**1. Welcome and apologies:**

Marloes Dekker welcomed new and returning members to the first CSAG meeting of 2023 and noted the apologies.

Marloes preceded over agenda items 1 to 3 as the acting Chairperson and facilitated the nomination of the new Chairperson for 2023.

**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. Terms of Reference and Membership/Introductions:**

Having reviewed the terms of reference, members were invited to nominate for the position of committee chair. Patrick Sutton, Saher Tinwala and Raghavi Shankara Guhan agreed to share the chair position with each nominee chairing a meeting.

Marloes Dekker receded from the Chair. The remainder of the meeting was presided by Saher.

**4. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held 14 October 2022:**

The minutes of the meeting held 14 October 2022, having been circulated to group members were taken as read and were confirmed by those who had been present.

**5. Art of Science Competition:**

The Committee discussed if the Art of Science competition would be run in 2023. Saher Tinwala queried the level of engagement from previous years. Ben Smith answered that typically 10-15 entries were received each year.

Marloes Dekker raised the idea of a public vote, giving an example of an art competition that had entries displayed on a noticeboard allowing people to vote via QR code scanning.

Ragavi Shankara Guhan queried if other art forms (e.g., dance, poetry, music) could be submitted.

Simon Worrall clarified that the basic idea was for art that could be useable by the School which would preclude some art forms, but three-dimensional artworks or poetry could be suitable.

Patrick Sutton queried if QR codes or survey monkey could be implemented for voting. Simon responded with concerns about the system being used appropriately and suggested a "student vote" category or prize could be introduced in addition to the Committee awards.

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**5. Art of Science Competition: (continued)**

Marloes agreed that public voting was open to manipulation but could help boost engagement.

The group agreed that the Art of Science competition should be run in 2023, and a “people’s choice” award would be introduced with three prizes in total being available for the competition.

Ben

**6. Career Pathways for Molecular Biology students**

Patrick Sutton queried if it was possible for extra information to be shared about career pathways for Molecular Biology students. Patrick stated that he had looked at the website which listed some examples of student career outcomes and fields, but the pathway to finding those careers was not particularly apparent.

Simon Worrall responded that this had previously been investigated but the output of the molecular biology program is so diverse that it was difficult to give meaningful general advice. Simon recommended speaking to the program directors for guidance.

Rebecca Leonard mentioned that University clubs run industry nights which could be useful for meeting professionals and gaining insights into career pathways.

Ragavi Shankara Guhan offered that the UQ Biotechnology Society was hosting an industry night in April that may be of interest.

Marloes Dekker queried if postgraduate molecular biology students were welcome to attend.

Ragavi responded that this was not a problem but there would be a small attendance fee. If you are not studying Biotechnology you are still able to join the club (\$5 fee) and can attend all events.

**7. Course timetabling**

The Group discussed what students ideally want in terms of class timetabling.

Emma Sheehan expressed that a break between sessions was ideal, but back-to-back classes were preferable to spreading classes across multiple days.

Simon Worrall stated that administrative and teaching staff had minimal control over course timetabling outside of practical classes.

Raghavi Shankara Guhan shared that if breaks between classes on the same day were too long it discouraged students from attending classes later in the day. Rebecca Leonard agreed that very long days were inconvenient.

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#### **8. Course mode offerings**

Ben Smith confirmed that the majority of SCMB courses would only be run in person.

Ragavi Shankara Guhan queried if there were plans to offer external courses over Summer semester.

Marloes Dekker responded that the University direction was for undergraduate courses to be run in person. Postgraduate courses could be run in person or externally depending on learning objectives and teaching activities. Summer semester courses are at the discretion of individual Schools.

Ben shared some information about how Summer courses were run. CHEM1200 was given as an example of a Summer course run in person that had one week of intensive on campus classes and an on-campus examination, but apart from this students were not required to attend campus. Looking at individual timetables for Summer courses was recommended for students interested in undertaking studies during Summer semester.

#### **9. Club and Society attendance at CSAG meetings**

Vishaak Gangasandra noted that CSAG was intended to promote student engagement, and having members from Clubs and Societies in attendance was a great way to reach a wider student cohort. Students often provide feedback to Clubs and Societies in lieu of contacting CSAG members.

Rebecca Leonard stated that it may be more appropriate for Clubs and Societies to reach out to CSAG to pass on student feedback.

Marloes Dekker noted that CSAG representatives should speak to the Chemistry Club and Biotechnology Society to identify themselves as contacts in lieu of inviting club/society representatives to CSAG meetings. Keeping CSAG attendance with elected members ensures fairness and equal representation for cohorts that do not have representative groups/societies.

Simon Worrall mentioned that in previous years people from outside of CSAG had asked to present to the group, and this approach could continue.

#### **10. Other business/open discussion**

Saher Tinwala queried if there was any possibility of additional practical contact hours within the Biotechnology program, noting that first semester classes only had theory and workshop sessions.

Simon Worrall stated that passing the feedback to the Program Directors was the most appropriate avenue.

Marloes Dekker added that many courses in the Biotechnology program were offered externally, which was not compatible with a practical component.

#### **11. Next meeting:**

Ben Smith will contact members regarding availability for a meeting later in semester 1.

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