

Meeting 2/23

3 May 2023

For general publication

**ACTION**

**Present:** Mr Noah Bertam, Miss Larissa Chan, A/Prof Marloes Dekker, Ms Raghavi Shankara Guhan, Miss Sarah Khor, Miss Rebecca Leonard, Miss Emma Sheehan, Mr Ben Smith (minutes), Mr Patrick Sutton (Chair), Ms Saher Tinwala, Dr Simon Worrall,

**Apologies:** Mr Vishaak Gangasandra, Ms Annalise Kerr

**Absent:** Nil.

**1. Welcome and apologies:**

Patrick Sutton welcomed members to the second CSAG meeting of the year and noted the apologies.

**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 29 March 2023:**

The minutes of the meeting held 29 March 2023, 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:**

Patrick Sutton welcomed Sarah Khor as the third-year molecular biosciences student representative.

**5. Art of Science Competition:**

Ben Smith confirmed that the Art of Science competition would be run in 2023, and that marketing materials were being prepared.

**6. Open Discussion**

Marloes Dekker shared that the SCMB Honours and Postgraduate Information Session was being held on 19 May 2023. This event is open to anyone interested in Honours and Postgraduate studies, and may also be useful for postgraduate coursework students looking to undertake research projects. Representatives from different research groups and institutes will be present at the event.

Ben Smith asked group members how their semester was progressing, and if students had received assessment results.

Larissa Chan (double check) shared that mid-semester examination results had been released, with the exception of examinations held in the late April.

Ben queried the group members experience with a break of several weeks between early window and late window mid-semester examinations.

Larissa responded that she had examinations scheduled almost 1 month apart, but this allowed for more time to prepare for each of the examinations. Emma Sheehan agreed that it's easier to manage workload with examinations spread across a larger time period.

Marloes added that School staff have little control over examination timetabling.

Emma asked for information on the format of the Honours and Postgraduate Information Session being held on 19 May.

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Marloes responded that students are free to approach representatives from different research groups and institutions. The event is intended to provide an informal avenue for students to gauge interest and potentially make connections for future studies.

Sarah Khor added that SCIE3260 Introduction to Research in Chemistry, Biochemistry & Microbiology is a great segue way into Honours. Marloes agreed that this is an ideal course for students who are looking to determine if they would like to pursue a further research focus.

Patrick queried if there were any other issues members would like to discuss.

Larissa shared that second year Chemistry students were frustrated with the delays in receiving lab report results. Raghavi Shankara Guhan expressed a similar sentiment that weekly quiz results had not been released for her courses that could have been used to help prepare for mid-semester examinations.

Sarah agreed that it was a common sentiment amongst students that the time taken for assessment results and feedback to be released wasn't ideal, and asked if anything could be done about this.

Marloes responded that coordinators strive to release feedback within 3 weeks of the assessment due date, but marking can be very time consuming and involved.

Sarah asked how effective SECAT evaluations are at facilitating change.

Marloes responded that if feedback is specific, it's more likely to result in actual changes. If feedback is not detailed it's difficult to incorporate it in a meaningful way.

Ben added that SETutor and SECAT surveys would be released in week 12, and urged group members to respond to their surveys.

Sarah queried how students could track if their feedback had resulted in changes.

Simon Worrall stated that there is a section of course ECP's that mention changes resulting from feedback.

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

Ben Smith will contact members regarding availability for meeting 3 once the semester 2 timetable had been released.

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