

Meeting 1/25

26 March 2025

For general publication

ACTION

Present: A/Prof Marloes Nitert Dekker, Luca Donald, Alice Hawkesby, Ms Annalise Kerr (Chair), Mr Benjamin Lu, Chloe Nielsen, Miss Angrisa Piamrojanaphat, Mr Benjamin Smith (minutes), Jacob Stead, Ms Sankutha Vinayraj Menon, Dr Simon Worrall

Apologies: Mr Nerya Ashri, Ms Catherine Mungkaje, Mr Daniel Valles

Absent: Nil

1. Welcome and apologies:

Marloes Nitert Dekker welcomed new and returning members to the first CSAG meeting of 2025 and noted the apologies.

Marloes presided over agenda items 1 to 3 as the acting Chairperson and facilitated the nomination of the new Chairperson for 2025.

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 Advisory Group Chair. Members agreed to alternate the Advisory Group Chair each meeting. Annalise Kerr volunteered to Chair the first meeting.

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

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held 11 October 2024:

The minutes of the meeting held 11 October 2024, having been circulated to group members were taken as read and were confirmed by those who had been present.

5. Business arising out of the minutes:

Marloes reported that the possibility of adding an Honours representative to CSAG had been discussed by the Teaching and Learning Committee. The Committee determined that it was not appropriate to include an Honours representative in CSAG because the Teaching and Learning Committee had an Honours student representative to represent this cohort.

6. Art of Science Competition:

Ben Smith shared the winning entries for the 2024 Art of Science competition.

Ben reported that for 2025 the Art of Science competition had been merged with the SCMB SciArt competition leading to an increased prize pool. 2025 Art of Science advertising materials and competition terms and conditions were shared with the group.

Angrisa Piamrojanaphat was nominated at the CSAG representative for the 2025 Art of Science Competition judging panel.

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7. Biotechnology Research Supervisors

The group considered comments submitted by the Postgraduate Biotechnology student representative regarding difficulties identifying available research supervisors.

Simon Worrall commented that updating websites and resources with availability was manual and time consuming, so this was not viable.

Jacob Stead suggested that emails could be sent when labs are at full capacity.

The group reviewed comments from the Postgraduate Biotechnology student representative requesting a showcase of available projects including the Institute of Molecular Biosciences (IMB) and Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN).

Marloes proposed relabelling the current Honours information sessions to reflect a boarder focus on research opportunities for all SCMB students. Institutes such as IMB and AIBN were already invited to these sessions making this an ideal avenue for students interested in pursuing research opportunities.

8. Other business/open discussion

Benjamin Lu shared feedback that the CHEM1100 cohort had found the teaching activity adjustments caused by the tropical cyclone disruptive and confusing.

Chloe Nielsen added that cancelled activities were not reflected in student's timetables.

Marloes responded that adjustments to student personal timetables were difficult to action and not something that would automatically display.

Ben Smith noted that changes resulting from the weather event were communicated to students as quickly as possible, but the advice from the university regarding teaching and learning activities was adjusted over several days while the situation unfolded. As a result of this confusion around teaching activities was unfortunately unavoidable.

Jacob reported that cancelling all classes on Monday 10 March and Tuesday 11 March was well received by students.

Annalise Kerr reported that the transition from first year to second year Chemistry courses had been relatively smooth.

Luca Donald added that some aspects of CHEM2050 Module 1 were quite difficult, and additional focus on these concepts could assist with the transition from CHEM1200 to CHEM2050.

Simon recommended submitting this feedback via SECAT evaluations when they were accessible in week 12 of semester.

9. Next meeting:

Ben Smith undertook to contact members regarding availability for a meeting in week 11 of semester.

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