

Meeting 2/25

29 May 2025

For general publication

ACTION

Present: Luca Donald (Chair), Neyra Ashri, Alice Hawkesby, Luke Ho, Ben Lu, A/Prof Marloes Nitert Dekker, Angrisa Piamrojanaphat, Jacob Stead, Sankuth Vinayrai Menon

Apologies: Annalise Kerr, Catherine Mungkaje, Chloe Nielsen, Dr Simon Worrall

Absent: Nil.

1. Welcome and apologies:

Marloes Nitert Dekker welcomed new and returning members to the second CSAG meeting of 2025 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. Terms of Reference and Membership/Introductions:

As resolved in the first CSAG meeting of 2025, the role of Chair would alternate among members. Luca Donald volunteered to Chair the second meeting.

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

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held 26 March 2025:

The minutes of the meeting held 26 March 2025, having been circulated to group members were taken as read and were confirmed by Jacob Stead who had been present.

5. Business arising out of the minutes:

The members pointed out that the roles of Jacob Stead and Luca Donald were to be corrected. Jacob is the representative of second year Chemistry major and Luca is the representative of second year Molecular Bioscience major. The role of Annalise Kerr as the second representative of the Molecular Bioscience major is to be confirmed.

6. Art of Science Competition:

Members noted that the Competition was lacking exposure and more needed to be done. Luke reported that the posters for the 2025 competition had been placed at various locations in Buildings 68 and 76.

7. CHEM3901 Laboratory Assessment

The group considered comments submitted by the third year Chemistry major representative, Nerya Ashri, regarding the laboratory assessment for CHEM3901.

Students were lagging behind in completing current and previous week's lab experiments. Students managed to catch up but noted the challenge mimics real-world scenarios.

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Experiments on characterisation were not completed during regular sessions; additional lab time was required.

Marloes inquired about extra lab hours needed to complete the laboratory work. Nerya reported spending a few hours weekly.

Approximately 50% of students were estimated to complete experiments on time.

Buffer time was available at semester end but was not communicated early; only experiments characterisation were allowed during this period.

8. Other business/open discussion

Jacob Stead reported that the CHEM2054 Ed Discussion Board was not available. Students in the course were conducting course related discussions in the CHEM2050 Ed Discussion Board. Students had found Blackboard's default discussion board function not user-friendly.

Jacob also noted that the timing for the return of feedback had been inconsistent. Lack of timely feedback affects students' ability to improve future experiment write-ups. Students noted the order of practical activities could have been a contributing factor for the inconsistency.

Luca Donald noted that the pass rate for CHEM2050 was low. The 40% exam weighting and the limited revision material had been contributing factors. Past exam papers were not available to students, and the structure of the final exam was different to previous years.

Luca shared feedback that the CHEM2050 lectures were well structured but some course materials presented at the start of the lecture had not been referred back to and their relevance to the course had not been explained.

Students also found Module 1 lacked logical content flow and the material was hard to follow.

A member of the Committee commented on BIOL2200/2900 stating the course content was dense and no revision material was provided for the final exam.

The member also queried if handwritten notes should be permitted for the final exam given the nicheness of the exam questions.

The BIOL2200/2900 Quiz on Practical 2 required the assistance of AI and students had been unaware they needed AI to complete the quiz. This resulted in the need to sign up for an AI account during the quiz working time. Students also found that the quiz questions were inconsistent with the practical material.

9. Next meeting:

Ben Smith would contact members regarding availability for a meeting in week 4 or 5 of semester 2.

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