

Meeting 1/26

23 March 2026

For general publication

ACTION

Present: Rotam Hadad, Eleanor Hanna, Alice Hawkesby, Mr Luke Ho (minutes), Yashika Kad, Zehui Li, Associate Professor Marloes Nitert Dekker, Dr Louis Phillips-Rose, Jacob Stead and Dr Simon Worrall.

Apologies: Ananya Desai, Ben Lu, Lily Thatcher, and Daniel Valles

Absent: Nil.

1. Welcome and apologies:

Alice volunteered to chair the meeting and welcomed members to the first CSAG meeting of 2026 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 23 October 2025:

The minutes of the meeting held 23 October 2025, having been circulated to group members were taken as read and were confirmed by Jacob Stead who had been present.

4. Membership changes:

Members noted that Luke Ho and Louis Phillips-Rose would share the role of acting secretary for the Committee while Ben Smith had been assigned to other projects within the School.

The Committee thanked the outgoing representatives, Chloe Nielsen, Luca Donald, Annalise Kerr, Colby Marinic, Nerya Ashri, Catherine Mugaje and Sanjuktha Vinayray Menon, for their contribution in 2025, and welcomed the return of the continuing representatives, Benjamin Liu, Jacob Stead, Alice Hawkesby and Daniel Valles, who all advanced to new roles as they progressed in their academic career.

The Committee also welcomed the incoming representatives, Lily Thatcher, Rotem Hadad, Eleanor Hanna, Zehui Li, Yashika Kad and Ananya Desai.

5. Art of Science Competition:

Luke Ho reported the School's Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee (EDIC) were seeking to make the newly established the multipurpose room (Molecular Biosciences Building, Room 204) more welcoming and inviting. The EDIC had asked to use the entries from the Art of Science Competition to decorate the room door.

The Committee had approved the request put forward by EDIC and would update the competition terms and conditions to inform entrants that their submission would be on public display.

Art of Science judging panel is inclusive of a representative from CSAG. Rotem Hadad volunteered to be on the 2026 judging panel.

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6. Other business/open discussion

Jacob Stead shared feedback from students enrolled in CHEM3001/3901. Students in the two courses found the workload for the laboratory practical sessions intense. Although make up sessions were available to students, due to timetabling issues, the majority of students were unable to participate. Students also found they had been assigned to a different experiment compared to the published schedule. Deviating from the published schedule had caused confusion among students as they were unable to track their progression in the experiments.

Jacob reported that the issues predominantly lie with the structure of the course rather than students unable to cope due to their academic progression and/or growth.

Dr Simon Worrall summarised the students' concerns stating that the students want more milestone for self guidance.

A/Prof Marloes Nitert Dekker undertook to pass on student feedback to the CHEM3001/3901 course coordinator.

Yashika Kad identified possible gaps in the communication with the Postgraduate cohort. These gaps were mainly focused on research projects and industry placement opportunities.

Luke Ho advised that the Postgraduate Community Blackboard site had been created for the purpose of relaying information regarding research projects and industry placement opportunities, however, there had been evidence of a decline in students' engagement with the site. The Administration team are currently reviewing the format of the information published on the Postgraduate Community Blackboard site in the hope of improving engagement.

7. Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 22 May 2026.

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