

**SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY**  
**STAFF/STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE**  
**1 pm, Wednesday 18 May 2005**  
**Conference Room, School of Chemistry**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Stephen Best (Chair), A/Prof. David McFadyen, Dr. Colette Boskovic, Dr. Spas Kolev, Ms. Vanessa Wadhawadi, Ms Philippa Williams, Mr. Ben Jacka, Mr Gerard Prokop, Ms. Charlotte White, Ms. Shantelle Vergunst, Ms Joanne Cockerell, Ms. Anthea Ellison (mins.)

**1. APOLOGIES**

None received.

The Chair welcomed Ms Philippa Williams, student rep. for 610-121.

**2. MATTERS RELATING TO MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- DMcF had raised the issue of lectures running over time with the coordinator of Biology. Students agreed the situation had improved.
- SPB passed on request for additional problems on the Organic lectures in 610 051.

It was moved from the chair that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved.  
Passed

SPB informed the Committee that the provisional minutes from the previous SSLC meeting were already posted on the web.

**3. MATTERS RELATING TO: FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD YEAR HONOURS PROGRAM**

**610-051** Several issues were raised about one of the physical chemistry lecturers:

- Students thought the lecturer seemed inadequately prepared for the topic and appeared unhelpful when responding to questions.  
*SPB to contact the lecturer and pass on the comments*
- A request was made for more problems (and solutions) to be set for both physical and inorganic chemistry.  
*DMcF referred the students to the text, Zumdahl, and said that this comment would be passed on to the lecturer.*
- The last couple of ChemCal modules for 051 and 171 weren't available on the Web.  
*DMc assured the students this would be rectified ASAP.*
- Students wanted to know whether there would be the same demonstrators working in the labs next semester.  
*DMcF said that this was unlikely.*
- There is some annoyance over the behaviour of noisy students in the 610-051 lectures. While the lecturer had tried to respond to this situation it was suggested that the

offending parties be ejected.  
*SPB to bring this to the lecturer's attention.*

- Students requested answers to past exam papers.  
*DMcF stated it was not the School's policy to release written answers for past exam papers. This approach is intended to reinforce a different style of revision and learning by the students.*
- Students requested Prof. Wedd wear a microphone.  
*The request to be passed on by SPB*
- More calculations were requested for inorganic chemistry lectures.  
*DMc informed the students that answers to the 610-051 tutorial questions can be found in the 'Solutions manual for Zumdahl 4<sup>th</sup> edition' which appears as the second link down on the right hand nav. bar on the 051course web page.*

#### **610-171**

- Ben reported the tute questions were not yet up on the web – *DMc to rectify*
- Lecturer Jonathan White was highly praised for his 'chalk and talk' style. It was agreed that organic lectures are more suited to this style of lecturing.
- There had been no feedback in relation to the iLecture discussion from the previous SSLC meeting. It was suggested that SPB raise the issue of iLectures at the next Faculty SSLC meeting.

#### **610-200**

- Spencer Williams was also commended for his lecture style in analytical and bio-organic chemistry, being easy to follow, logical and presented with enthusiasm.
- There was some criticism of one of the other lecturers in the course.

#### **610-300**

- Students were pleased with the physical chemistry practical course.
- Most students in the 610-340 course were still attending the inorganic lectures even though the first 24 lectures had finished. The option of being able to choose the four 6-lecture topics that will be examined is regarded very positively by the students.
- Prof. Wedd and Assoc. Prof. Tregloan were praised for their lecturing style and enthusiasm in 610-340/1.
- The dilapidated state of the Cuming theatre was discussed at some length. Students reported an increase in the number of broken desks. In some cases 2-3 adjacent seats do not have any desks at all. In the case of the remaining desks there is an unpleasant buildup of old chewing gum. It was felt that all the lecture theatres within the Chemistry building are below par and that this matter requires serious attention prior to the planned refurbishment in 2008. The current situation was felt to be unacceptable.  
*SPB to email Mr Daines (Properties and Buildings) and Brett Lord (Building supervisor).*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year dinner. Third years requested that post graduate demonstrators be invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> year dinner. SPB explained that this has not been possible in previous years partly due to restricted numbers imposed by the size of the venue (University House) and cost considerations. Since the research students and staff have a separate dinner, an expansion of the third year dinner might impact adversely on the other function. The

current formula of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year dinner allows students to have informal discussions with academic staff.

- It was agreed to hold the dinner during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the second semester or an adjacent week. *SPB to book Uni House and to provide assistance with the printing of advertising material and tickets*

#### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

SPB noted that the Faculty SSLC meeting would be held the following Friday and that an important agenda item for that meeting is the formulation of a framework for Faculty SSLC meetings that elicit effective feedback. It was reported that student attendance at the last few Faculty SSLC meetings had been very poor. SPB asked the student representatives to email any matters they would like raised at the meeting (Friday 20 May).

The chair thanked the student representatives for their participation through the semester and wished them luck in their forthcoming exams.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 1:50 pm. The next meeting of the SSLC is scheduled for 1 pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

#### Distribution list:

Stephen Best (chair)	Ben Lee (171)
David McFadyen	Gerard Prokop (171)
Colette Boskovic	Ben Jacka (171)
Spas Kolev	Sarah Morsi (202-101)
Vanessa Wadhvani (051)	Zubeyda Bulut (202-101)
Christine Cha (051)	XXX (200)
Philippa Williams(121)	Charlotte White (300)
Rebecca Wood (141 am)	Shantelle Vergunst (300)
Frank Yu (141 pm)	Joanne Cockerell (300)
Tess Lancashire (141 am)	XXXXX (Honours)
	Anthea Ellison (mins)