

SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY
STAFF/STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE
1 pm, Wednesday March 15, 2006
Conference Room, School of Chemistry

MINUTES

Present: Uta Wille, David McFadyen, Brendan Abrahams, Sharni Stevens (171), Stephen Sath (051), Gerard Prokop (141 pm), Travis Turner (101), Grace Liu (220), Steve Danczak (322 & 340), Jo Cockerell (Honours), Charlotte White (Honours), Mubing Duan (220), Chloe Miller (121), Joanne Tymms (Minutes)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all members of the SSLC for 2006 and asked participants to introduce themselves. Dr Wille advised that the purpose of the committee is for general enquiries, questions and suggestions from the students and was the link between the Academic staff and students.

Dr Wille also advised that attention would be paid to first year subjects since the transition from High School to University was the most difficult.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received for the meeting

3. Matters relating to First, Second and Third Year Teaching Program

Representatives from each subject were asked to outline any issues/queries they had encountered so far during the semester. Comments are outlined below:

051

It was noted that the temperature conditions in the Laby Theatre (School of Physics) were not ideal. It was hot in summer and cold in winter. Dr Wille advised she would write to Property and Buildings requesting the air conditioning be investigated. Lectures so far had been well received and engaging.

141 (morning class)

No student representative was present to report.

141 (afternoon class)

No complaints had been received regarding the lectures so far. It was noted that Mark Rizzacasa was doing an excellent job. Pracs had started well and Tutorials began this week. Students noted the online resources were helpful. A student queried whether solutions for previous years exam papers were available before the mid semester break.

A/Prof McFadyen suggested that students go to the online feedback test which was available in week 4 as exam solutions were not available online until week 6. A/Prof McFadyen questioned the capacity of the afternoon 141 class. The student rep. advised that it was quite full, however all students were seated during the lecture.

171

The student rep. advised no complaints had been received to date regarding the pace of the lectures, however some students had trouble receiving the pre-lab receipt number when registering online. A/Prof McFadyen suggested students were not completing the online form correctly and should check all screens before completing.

101

It was noted that the subject was going well, no complaints had been received. The student rep. advised they had trouble accessing ChemCAL from the ILFR computers, eg. some of the pages didn't load properly. Dr Abrahams suggested that the computers may not have Shockwave. He would contact Robert Edis to query whether the computers had the correct software to load ChemCAL. He would also query the tutorial program as it has been reported that no-one was present at the Thursday 9am tutorial.

121

It was reported that the lectures were great so far. Dr Hutton uses demonstrations which were extremely useful and his tutorials were beneficial. However, it was advised that Dr Williams' tutorials were more like lectures with not much interaction with students. Dr Wille advised that the lecturer is reliant on feedback from the students in tutorial classes, however she would contact Dr Williams advising that the students were enquiring whether more feedback could be obtained in future tutorials.

220/221

The student rep. advised no complaints had been received so far, however it was requested that Dr Wille use overheads rather than the whiteboard as it is hard to see from the back of the lecture theatre. There was a query whether there was a mid semester test scheduled and if so, what weight it carried. Dr Wille advised she would ascertain that information and inform the students accordingly. Reports from students regarding the practicals were positive to date.

3rd Year Inorganic

There was a request for lecturers to post their entire lecture series on the web prior to the lectures. Dr Abrahams explained this was difficult as interruptions to the lecture series could not be predicted. It was requested that lecturers be aware of finishing five minutes prior to the end to allow for travel between lectures. The student rep. queried the length of lectures on Symmetry. It was noted that it was a large subject that was covered in only six lectures and it was felt not enough information was provided. He also queried the design of the practicals, eg. one practical per type of instrument/method, and suggested it was too streamlined. Dr Abrahams advised that this design was to let the students decide which techniques interested them and to choose a practical that focussed on that area.

Honours

No problems reported so far, except for comments on Frank Caruso's lectures. It was noted that Prof Caruso skims over his lectures and will not provide questions to students. Dr Wille will contact Prof Caruso and talk about this matter. Dr Abrahams queried whether the short period of lectures had been well received by students. The student rep. advised that most students felt it was better to have the lectures completed quickly so they could move in to the lab as soon as possible. The student rep. also requested that supervisors advise their students how much time they should be spending in the lab.

4. Any other business

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 12 April (week before mid semester break)

Following meeting scheduled for Wednesday 17 May

Dr Uta Wille
(Chair of the SSLC)
School of Chemistry/Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute
30 Flemington Rd, Parkville, VIC 3010
Ph: 8344 2425
F: 9347 8189