

SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY
STAFF/STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE
1 pm, Wednesday 13 September, 2006
Conference Room, School of Chemistry

MINUTES

Present: Dr. Uta Wille, A/Prof David McFadyen, Dr. Brendan Abrahams, Steve Danczak, Pauline Mihaylova, Benjamin Harris, Shalitha Lokuliyana, Sorabh Tomar, Tony Luong, Christine Callahan (Minutes)

Apologies: Gerard Prokop (142 afternoon class), Michelle Kovacevic (142 morning class)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Dr Wille welcomed all members of the SSLC.

There was an apology from Gerard Prokop (142 afternoon class), Michelle Kovacevic (142 am).

2. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

Dr Wille has spoken to Prof. Richard O'Hair about students having to photocopy lecture notes. He explained that this has to do with scanning the pictures onto the web and it affecting the quality of the pictures.

She also spoke to Dr Spas Kolev about the inconsistency in marking Analytical pracs. Dr Kolev has addressed his students about this.

Dr Abrahams spoke to Dr Charles Young about the overcrowding of lectures. Dr Young have requested students to get off the stairs and the seat on the seats.

The minutes from the last meeting (4/2006) were accepted.

3. Matters relating to First, Second, Third and Fourth 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:

Third Year

The student representative reported that students were quite upset with the 399 arrangements this year. 399 firstly did not go up on time. Some students who did not clear their pracs were logged out of the system and students were not able to use their passwords.

Dr Abrahams will speak to the IT guys and Vicki about this to prevent a reoccurrence next year.

3rd Year Organic Pracs

The student representative reported that students are suggesting an extra week of pracs or to start the sequential earlier to solve the problem of insufficient laboratory equipment.

They are also requesting a week's grace in terms of handing up pracs.

Another student representative said that he has received feedback that the reaction for Sequential B and W do not work and students were rushing to submit their pracs the next day.

Dr Wille will speak to Dr Mark Rizzacasa about this.

Students are also unhappy about getting only 1 of their pracs back. They feel that they do not learn from their mistakes if they do not get their pracs back.

Second Year

The student representative gave feedback that the tutorials for 260 were not run weekly but only when the lecturer wants it. He also advised that not all the tutorial questions are covered in depth. Students are requesting that the lecturer announces the tutorial times instead of putting them in the lecture notes.

Physical Chemistry

Students are requesting solutions to additional questions to be published on the web.

A/Prof Michelle Gee has responded that she is not able to do this due to copyright issues.

Dr Wille will speak to Michelle about this.

Students are also complaining about the squeaky door in the Lyle Theatre.

142 (morning class & afternoon class)

No student representative was present to report but an email was sent to Dr Wille to give some feedback from the students. The student representative from the afternoon class gave his feedback to Dr Abrahams for reporting.

Both representatives reported on the issue of talking during lectures. The Committee discussed that this is a difficult problem to solve. A/Prof David McFadyen suggested eyeballing the students that are making too much noise.

There was also feedback that tutorials are very rushed and discussions are too brief.

Solutions are projected on the wall and students are finding that this is an ineffective way of teaching. A/Prof McFadyen said that solutions have to be written somewhere, whether its on the board or on projection sheets.

Students have requested that the Learning Centre be opened during lunch hours once or twice a week. It was discussed that this is fairly difficult due to resource problems. Dr Wille suggested that if students have real issues with work, they should ask their lecturers or tutors directly.

Dr Wille has roughly the same type of feedback from the morning class.

Biomedical Science (First Year)

The student representative reported that ChemCAL does not work 4 days before the actual experiments; therefore, students are having trouble doing their prelabs. This problem started 3 weeks ago, whereby students are unable to log on from home, but are able to do so on campus. It was reported that the occurrence is most common over weekends and only the prelab component had problems.

Dr Wille will speak to Ben Kirk about this. She requested that the student rep try the system out again tonight to see if it works and then get back to her with regards to the outcome. She also encouraged the student rep to email her as soon as there are problems like this in the future.

A/Prof McFadyen suggested that students will have to do their prelabs from campus.

Students are requesting more in depth answers for organic mid semester test. Answers seem to vary from year to year. Dr Wille will speak to Prof. Carl Schiesser about this.

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The student representative reported that in the Physical Chemistry section, students are given many examples in classes but are unsure what exactly they need to know or learn. Dr Wille will speak to A/Prof Evan Bieske about this.

4. Any other business

Dr Wille thanked the Third Year Representative for organising the 3rd year dinner.

Meeting ended at 2.00 pm.

Date of next meeting – 25 October 2006, 1pm at the Conference Room. (Last Meeting)

Dr Uta Wille

(Chair of the SSLC)

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