

**SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY
STAFF/STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**Meeting No. 2/2007
1 pm, Wednesday 18 April 2007
Conference Room, School of Chemistry**

MINUTES

Present: Dr. Uta Wille (Chair), Dr. Brendan Abrahams, A/Prof. Muthupandian Ashokkumar, Penny Commons, Christine Callahan (Minutes), Stephen Danczak (Honours), Pauline Mihaylova (Honours), Ai Ling Tan (3rd Year), Pui Keun Lee Ivy (3rd Year), Di Wu (2nd Year), Hannah O'Riley (2nd Year), Subramaniam Chockalingam (121), Janet Choi (141am), Colin Lai (141pm)

Apologies: Jonathan Jia Cheng Chee (3rd Year), Amy Smith (3rd Year)

1. Welcome

- Meeting commenced at 1.00pm.
- The Chair, Dr Wille, welcomed all members of the SSLC. There was an apology from Jonathan Chee and Amy Smith from 3rd Year.

2. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

- The 121 student representative reported at the last meeting that students have requested for a list of alternative texts so as to gain a broader perspective of the concepts they are learning. No one has yet to approach Dr Craig Hutton about this but the student representative will do so.

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

Honours

- The student representative reported that the incident of having to stay late has been resolved.
- The Honours exams are in a week's time but exam timetable has yet to be finalised and no timetable has been released to the students. Dr Wille explained that this is due to unforeseen circumstances and that she will speak to the Postgraduate Coordinator (Vicki Burley) about this.
- Textbooks that are recommended for reading before the exam by the lecturers have not been placed on reserve. Dr Wille will speak to Prof. Richard O'Hair to organise a procedure to be put in place for this.
- Seminars: Students are concerned about being penalised/evaluated for not attending seminars that are beyond their discipline. Dr Abrahams & A/Prof. Ashokkumar advised that students would not be evaluated for this. However, they emphasised that it is important for students to attend seminars within their discipline as well as attend MUCCS meetings. Dr Wille will speak to Prof. Richard O'Hair about making an announcement about this.

Third Year

- Students are requesting for more frequent tutorials for 332. At the moment, they have 1 tutorial every 3 to 4 weeks. Only tutorial questions are provided and students are hoping to get some additional training questions.
Dr Abrahams said that additional tutorials cannot be added to the current schedule as all classes have already been allocated.
A/Prof Ashokkumar suggested that a lecture be substituted for a tutorial.
Penny Commons suggested that additional training questions be provided to students for this semester
Dr Wille will speak to A/Prof Jonathan White/Dr Spencer Williams to see what they can do about this.
- Students gave feedback that Dr Stephen Best is an excellent lecturer who has put in a lot of effort into teaching his material, however, his lectures have been very difficult to follow. Students suspect that it may be because they lack to right prerequisites to do the subject (It seems like students with a background in Physics are able to cope better.)
Dr Abrahams will speak to Dr Best about this and recommend that additional text be given to students so as to provide a little more background in his topic.
A/Prof Ashokkumar suggested that we could maybe change the prerequisites for this subject next year.
- Dr Wille will discuss the Third Year dinner at the next meeting.
Dr Abrahams has suggested that the 2nd or 3rd Friday in August will be suitable.

Second Year

- Students have yet to receive an outcome about a second feedback test. Dr Wille will confirm this with A/Prof Jonathan White about this.
- Students are finding that doing the extended version of 221 is inconvenient as it means that they will have to do another subject to make up the points. This results in overloading. They have suggested that the lab component of this subject be made optional or that the subject is ran over summer.
A/Prof Ashokkumar says that this is a problem without an immediate solution, however it will be considered during the development of new classes/courses.
- Students would like more information to be uploaded n LMS.
Dr Abrahams says that the tabs on LMS are only a template and it is up to the coordinators to use if they wish. He suggested that students contact the coordinators directly if they need any information.
- Lab books are different for different subjects. Students are hoping that there could be standardisation. This will be looked into next year.
- Students have requested for A/Prof Jonathan White to place his slides ahead of the lectures so that students can do some preparation before the lectures.
Dr Wille will speak to him about this.
- Students would like to have tutorial solutions. It has been advised that this cannot be done.
- Additional practice questions have been requested. Dr Abrahams suggested that students approach their lecturers on this.

121

- There was a change over from Dr Craig Hutton to A/Prof Michelle Gee. A/Prof Gee was not there for the first week and Dr Damian Bird was the replacement lecturer. Students gave feedback that he was difficult to understand.
- The overheads are placed on LMS and students have brought up the resolution is not clear and that they take up a lot of memory space. The student representative will speak to A/Prof Michelle Gee about this.
- The molecular model component is difficult to do with lab coats and glasses in a lab environment.
Dr Abrahams says that this component is done as a practical so that students can get individual attention from demonstrators but he will consider this feedback for the future.

141

- Students have requested for slides to be in PowerPoint format instead of PDF so that they can add to the lecture notes.
Dr Abrahams suggested that we could use a plain background for the slides but we would not be able to change it to PowerPoint due to copyright issues.
A/Prof Ashokkumar will speak to Prof Franz Grieser about this.
- Students feel that they are not able to interact with the lecturer.
Dr Abrahams says that it is difficult to present information for physical chemistry and that students will need to adapt to different styles of teaching.

5. Any Other Business

Nil

Meeting ended at 2.05 pm. (Next Meeting: 18 May 2007, Wednesday, 1pm, Conference Room)