

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

**Meeting No. 3/2007  
1 pm, Wednesday 16 May 2007  
Conference Room, School of Chemistry**

**MINUTES**

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Present: Dr. Uta Wille (Chair), Dr. Brendan Abrahams, A/Prof. Muthupandian Ashokkumar, Penny Commons, Christine Callahan (Minutes), Pauline Mihaylova (Honours), Jonathan Jia Cheng Chee (3<sup>rd</sup> Year), Di Wu (2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Hannah O'Riley (2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Subramaniam Chockalingam (121),

Apologies: Janet Choi (141am), Colin Lai (141pm), Ai Ling Tan (3<sup>rd</sup> Year), Pui Keun Lee Ivy (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)

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**1. Welcome**

- Meeting commenced at 1.00pm.
- The Chair, Dr Wille, welcomed all members of the SSLC to the last meeting for this semester. There was an apology from Janet Choi (141am), Colin Lai (141pm), Ai Ling Tan (3<sup>rd</sup> Year), Pui Keun Lee Ivy (3<sup>rd</sup> Year).

**2. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes**

- Dr Wille has spoken to Vicki about the Honours exam timetable. The delay was due to unforeseen circumstances. Vicki was also waiting for Prof Andrew Holmes to finalise when he would be running his exams.
- The honours students have received an email from Vicki advising them of the seminars that they need to attend.
- 332 had previously requested more tutorials. Dr Spencer Williams and A/Prof Jonathan White have been unable to run additional tutorial but they have provided students with extra practice questions instead.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year representative reported that the second feedback test has been organised.

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

- The student representative reported that students are unhappy about the imbalance of organic and inorganic subjects that are offered. Students feel that they are doing subjects that are unrelated to their area of interest because of the imbalance of subject availability.  
Dr Wille advised that students in their Honours year should not try to be too specialised. Students are graduating as a chemist, not an organic or an inorganic chemist.

- Students reported that they find the exam questions to be steered more towards organic chemistry and it is better managed by the students that are specialising in organic chemistry but not inorganic chemistry.
- Dr Abrahams advised that exam questions will be managed a little better in future.

### **First Year**

- Students would like to find out if they will be getting their test papers back. Dr Abrahams said that this is possible as there is a chance that students might try to change their answers upon getting their papers back. Penny Commons advised that students who would like to look at their mistakes can come to her office view their test papers.
- Students are requesting to have the Structural Solids Practical relocated to a more conducive environment rather than in the lab. Dr Abrahams said that this is a resource problem but with the restructuring of the building, we may be able to organise something next year.
- Students have expressed that some lecturers are not thorough enough in their lectures. Dr Abrahams advised that lectures are meant to discuss the scope of work that needs to be covered but students should be encouraged to be more independent in their learning process.
- Students that have approached a tutorial assistant, with questions at tutes have been told that he will get back to them but he never does. Penny Commons suggested that due to the large number of students, it would be best for students email the tute assistant with their queries.
- Students would like pracs to be organised in sync with lectures. Penny Commons advise that students should try to be flexible and be open to different angles of learning. Dr Abrahams encouraged students who are having trouble to make use of the Learning Centre.

### **Second Year**

- There was some confusion on the extra exam section for 220. Dr Wille pointed out that this extra section will be a multiple choice test, based on the prac manual. The 221 class will be having a second take home test.

### **Third Year**

- Nothing to report/ No complains
- No concerns from representatives who have sent apologies either.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year dinner will be held on 24 August (4<sup>th</sup> week into semester 2) at University House. Dr Wille passed the menu for University House to Jonathan Jia Cheng Chee, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year representative.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

- Nil
- Dr Wille thanked everyone for their input.

Meeting ended at 1.30 pm. (Next Meeting: 1 Aug 2007, Wednesday, 1pm, Conference Room)