

**SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY**  
**STAFF/STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting No. 4/2008**  
**1 pm, Tuesday 14 October 2008**  
**Conference Room, School of Chemistry**

**MINUTES**

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Present: A/Prof. Muthupandian Ashokkumar (*Chair*), Dr. Brendan Abrahams, Dr Colette Boskovic, Christine Callahan (*Minutes*), Penny Commons, Sarah Harvey (*Hons*), Audrey Irish (610-101 – 10 am), Charlie Ma (610-340), Chloe Miller (610-310), Jonathan Tay (610-101-B. *Opt* – 2.15 pm), Ryan Wilson (*Hons*)

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**1. Apologies**

- Meeting commenced at 1.10pm.
- The Chair, A/Prof Ashokkumar, welcomed the staff and students and thanked the School for organising lunch for the Committee.
- There was a miscommunication with 2<sup>nd</sup> year representatives. Both reps were only enrolled in 1<sup>st</sup> semester subjects and therefore were unaware that they had to continue attending the SSLC meetings throughout the year.
- Apologies: Nil

**2. Matters Arising from Last Minutes**

- Honours: Students requested for updated PhD information on the web.  
⇒ Action: Christine has brought this up with Vicki Burley. She advised that this information is almost completely updated on the web.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year: Ashok was going to organise for a Qenos representative to speak at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year lectures about work experience.  
⇒ Action: Rachel Hart (an old MU student) from Qenos talked to the students at one of Professor Ken Ghigginio's lectures.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Information for 2<sup>nd</sup> year has been updated on the Chemistry website.
- The minutes of meeting 3/2008 were agreed as being an accurate record of the proceedings that took place.

**3. Matters Relating to Honours, Third, Second, and First Year teaching program**

**Honours Report:**

- One of the 400 NMR is not working. Only the 500 NMR is available but Hamish Grant is not training students to use the 500 NMR. Colette advised that the Masson building has a 400 NMR that students could use.

- Instructions on “*How to write a Thesis*” were given to students at the start of the year. Students have requested for them again.

Action:

- Christine will get to Vicki email all Honours students the pdf on “How to write a Thesis.” These instructions will be uploaded on the Intranet once it is up and running.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Report:**

- Everything has been positive. Students are generally happy with everything. No complains.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Report**

- Nil

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Report**

- Students are talking in lectures but the lecturers do not seem to be doing much about it.
- ILTs were difficult and students have not found them to be useful. Penny advised that the ILTs were intended to be difficult because they are designed as a replacement for a lab class as well as for students to take more responsibility in learning independently.
- Students would like lectures to be recorded to enhance their learning.
- Students found the section on quantum mechanics very difficult.
- There was positive feedback on Ashok’s lectures. Students like the way he listed the aims and summaries and how he would go through previous material when necessary to ensure that everyone understood everything. Some students though have found this overly time consuming.
- An online forum for students was requested. Brendan advised that there already are lots of resources available to the student i.e: *Textbook, ChemCal, Learning Centre, Tutor bookings etc.* He suggested that it was important for students at University level to engage more in independent learning.
- DRM has had good feedback from both students as well as demonstrators.
- Complaints that Prac marking scheme is inconsistent.

Action:

- Ashok will follow up with having all lectures recorded at the APC.
- Ashok will speak to Prof. Richard O’Hair about changing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Chemistry website.
- Brendan will look into obtaining more consistent marking from demonstrators.

**4. Any Other Business**

- Nil

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Meeting ended at 2.00pm.