

Notes of Faculty of Natural Sciences Master's Student Staff Committee Meeting

Date: 13 February 2019, 12.30 – 14.00

Venue: SAF 120

Present

Emma Couves (EC)	Chair & AWO
Guillem August Devin Altes	MSc Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology
Helena Dodd	MRes in Chemical Biology (one-year standalone course)
Evipides Georgiades	MSc Pure Maths
Niki Gounaris (NG)	DPS Life Sciences
Jonathan Greenslade	Taught Postgraduate, Life Sciences
Silvia Mercedes Hernandez-Aragon	MRes Systems and Synthetic Biology
Nazia Hirjee (NH)	Faculty Operations Officer
Laura Lane (LL)	Head of Strategy and Operations, Graduate School
Emma McCoy (EMc)	Vice-Dean (Education) FoNS (co-Chair)
Emily Noone	MSc Ecology, Evolution and Conservation
Bill Proud	DPS Physics
James Raymond	MSc Conservation Science
Samia Said	MRes in Catalysis: Chemistry & Engineering
Julia Schroeder (JSch)	PG Tutor at Silwood
Simmone Siddiqui	MSc Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology
Mary Thi	MRes in Nanomaterials
Patrick Walkden	MRes Ecology, Evolution and Conservation
Lawrence Whittaker	MSc Ecological Applications
James Wilton-Ely (JWE)	Chemistry MRes Director of Studies
Richard Thompson (RT)	Faculty Senior Tutor
Rebecca Middleton (RM)	Faculty Education Manager
Kasia Kmiecowskiak	Administrative Assistant

Apologies:

Ute Thiermann	GSU President - Chair
Ryan Barnett	Mathematics Department Representative, Course Director of the MSc Applied Mathematics
Katie Bickerton	MRes Computational Methods in Ecology and Evolution (CMEE)
Roberto Donini	MRes Molecular and Cellular Biosciences
Liam Harnett	MRes Plastic Electronic Materials
Alejandro Luy	ICU Deputy President (Education)
Luke Vassor	MSc Computational Methods in Ecology and Evolution (CMEE)
Maisie Vollans	MRes Tropical Forest Ecology
Sai Yoganathan	Student Experience Co-ordinator

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and apologies, as above, were noted.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2018 were approved as an accurate record, with a note that JWE had been listed twice on the list of attendees.

3. Review of Actions

All Actions were noted as complete.

Action 1. NH noted the following in relation to this Action:

That the timetable for the College shuttle-bus between SK and WC had been amended to better align with the start and end of teaching sessions.

That the purpose of the bus was to provide transport for students and staff travelling between campuses for work purposes and not as a commuter bus for students living in the GradPad. There was some discussion as to how to make this fact clearer. Some Chemistry students expressed frustration that when the bus is busy, they were not always given priority over GradPad users.

4. Report from Faculty Senior Tutor

RT noted that he would be stepping down as FST as of 01 March and that John Seddon (JS), from the Dept. of Chemistry would be taking on the role.

RT noted that training for personal tutors had been run in Chemistry, Maths, Life Sciences and Physics, with further sessions planned in Maths and for the CEP.

RT noted that JS would continue with the review work that RT had commenced when he took over the role, and would be particularly focussing on pastoral support for PG students.

The committee agreed that there was currently a lot of variation in the pastoral support available to PGT students, but that all students should have the support of a member of staff, other than the Course Director, who knows them well. RT noted that JS would be engaging with staff and student reps to gather views of the support currently available and the potential improvements to be made.

5. Reports from Student Representatives

5.1 CEP

There were no CEP students present.

5.2 Chemistry

Student Rep noted that Chemistry Masters students are not currently allocated a specific Personal Tutor. In response to that, RM said that the new FST would be looking into personal tutor support for PG students, with a view to ensuring that appropriate support is put in place at Department level to ensure that all students have a named individual to approach for pastoral support. JWE added, that meanwhile, PG students can discuss their concerns with other senior staff members such as course directors, and the postgraduate administrative team.

5.3 Life Sciences

The Silwood-based student representatives noted that access to disability support, counselling, and other central services should be improved for students based away from South Kensington.

NG added that the major issues that Silwood-based students seem to experience is the transport between the two sites and consequently reduced access to the College's

services. Whereas, for SK-based students a more significant issues is the struggle to find desk space.

ACTION: RM to contact Hannah Bannister and the Student Hub to enquire about long term plans for provision of central services, such as counselling, disability support, and Student hub-based advice to students as Silwood Park.

5.4 Mathematics

There were no matters to discuss.

5.5 Physics

The Physics Rep, reported that a Wellbeing Committee had been established within the department, to focus on aspects such as students' wealth, health and happiness.

6. Chair's business

There were no matters to discuss.

7. Any other business

LL encouraged students to take part in the following Graduate School events and activities:

- Mental Health Awareness week in May 2019
- A brand new science communication competition (4Cs: Creativity, Content, Clarity and Charisma) on 15th May 2019. The aim is to provide postgraduate students from all disciplines across the College with the chance to develop their writing, as well as presentation and communication skills to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

EC also encouraged students to take part in the GSU Connect event on 20th and 27th February 2019. It aims to connect postgraduate students from the Imperial College Business School to students from the rest of the College. Students with entrepreneurship ideas requiring the expertise of business management, finance or marketing will be introduced to students from the Business School, who can use knowledge from their studies to aid these students to move forward with their ideas. The winning team will be awarded with £500.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

Committee	Date	Time	Room
Masters Student Staff Committee	Weds 26/06/19	12.30-14.00	HXLY 341