

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

**Date:** 21 November 2018, 14.30 – 15.30

**Venue:** Dining Hall, Beit Quad

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### Present

Emma McCoy (EMc)	Vice-Dean (Education) FoNS - Co-Chair
Sammi Ai (SA)	MRes Ecosystems and Environmental Changes
Federica Albertini (FA)	MSc QFFF
Katie Bickerton (KB)	MRes Computational Methods in Ecology and Evolution (CMEE)
Guillem August Devin Altes (GADA)	MSc Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology
Helena Dodd (HD)	MRes in Chemical Biology
Roberto Donini (RD)	MRes Molecular and Cellular Biosciences
Laura Jane Ecclestone (LE)	MRes Molecular Plant and Microbial Sciences
Adam Efrat (AE)	MRes Molecular and Cellular Biosciences
Georgiades Evripides (GE)	MSc Pure Maths
Mengjun Gong (MG)	MRes in Green Chemistry: Energy and the Environment
Silvia Mercedes Inchaustegui Huerta (SH)	MRes Systems and Synthetic Biology
Jan Katalinic (JK)	MRes Systems and Synthetic Biology
Sarah Milligan (SM)	MSc Conservation Science
Joe Palmer (JP)	MSc Computational Methods in Ecology and Evolution (CMEE)
James Raymond (JR)	MSc Conservation Science
Wasim Rehman (WR)	MSc Applied Maths
Samia Said (SS)	MRes in Catalysis: Chemistry & Engineering
Bogosi Shashane (BS)	MSc Statistics
Simmone Siddiqui (SS)	MSc Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology
Milo Smith (MS)	MRes in Advanced Molecular Synthesis
Eric South (ES)	MRes Systems and Synthetic Biology
Mary Thi (MTh)	MRes in Nanomaterials
Luke Vassor (LV)	MSc Computational Methods in Ecology and Evolution (CMEE)
James Wilton-Ely (JWE)	MRes Director of Studies, Chemistry
Sai Yoghnanathan (SY)	Student Experience Coordinator, Maths
Alejandro Luy (AL)	ICU Deputy President (Education)
Laura Lane (LL)	Head of Strategy and Operations, Graduate School
Richard Thompson (RT)	Faculty Senior Tutor
Niki Gounaris (NG)	Director of PG Studies, Life Sciences
James Wilton-Ely (JWE)	MRes Director of Studies, Chemistry
Rebecca Middleton (RM)	Faculty Education Manager

### Apologies:

Ute Thiermann	GSU President - Chair
Mira Davidson	MSc Bioinformatics and Theoretical Systems Biology

Maisie Vollans	MRes Tropical Forest Ecology
Cassy Flint	MSc Conservation Science
Emily Noone	MSc Ecology, Evolution and Conservation
Liam Harnett-Caulfield	MSc Physics with Ext Research
Bill Proud (BP)	Director of Post Graduate Studies, Physics
Mike Tennant (MT)	Director of the MSc in Environmental Technology, CEP

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

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

**2. Terms of Reference and Membership 2018/19**

The above were noted.

**3. Staff Student Committee Guidelines**

The above were noted.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

**5. Review of Actions**

**Action 18 (and Actions 13/14):** EMc introduced the new Faculty Senior tutor, Richard Thompson, who took over the role from Anita Hall in August 2018.

RT confirmed that he had thus far been focusing on personal tutor support for UG students, but noted that PG support was next on his list.

He outlined the UG student and staff personal tutoring surveys that had recently been undertaken and confirmed that he would like to complete similar surveys for PG support at the start of the spring term.

He confirmed that all UG personal tutors would be undergoing compulsory refresher training this academic year and noted that this would likely reach all staff involved in supporting PG students too. He noted that the refresher training would also be offered to CEP staff- the CEP have no UG cohort.

**Action 19:** Was confirmed as complete. LL confirmed that the Graduate School, would be happy to offer courses at Silwood and asked students to liaise with her direct about this. RM confirmed that the Faculty would pay transport costs for Silwood-based students to attend Faculty SSC meetings at SK.

**6. Reports from Student Representatives**

**6.1 CEP**

There were no CEP students present.

**6.2 Chemistry**

The Chemistry student representatives felt that the move to White City had been positive and that there had been no adverse effects associated with the move to date, they did not expect any ongoing issues.

The one matter raised was the shuttle bus between SK and WC. Students felt the service was not frequent enough and at times the capacity of the bus was not sufficient. RM agreed to raise this with the Faculty Operating Officer.

***ACTION: RM agreed to raise concerns that the shuttle bus service between SK and WC is not frequent enough and at times the capacity of the bus is not sufficient with the Faculty Operating Officer.***

### **6.3 Life Sciences**

The Silwood-based student representatives stated that they had had a positive experience this year to date. They mentioned that there had been issues with using the campus minibus because the MOT had expired, but that this had been resolved.

LL encouraged Silwood students to let her know if they wished the Graduate School to deliver any courses at Silwood. RM asked the Reps to encourage their peers to attend such sessions, as attendance in previous years had been very poor.

The South Kensington based student reps stated that they were content with how things were going thus far and noted that there would be a Life Sciences SSC on Friday 23 November.

### **6.4 Mathematics**

The Maths representatives noted that any issues raised via the department student staff committee had been addressed.

The MSc Applied Maths (PT) rep, WR, noted that it could be difficult for students on this programme to develop a sense of community within their cohort because they were taught alongside UG students. It was often not possible to identify who in a class was an MSc student. AL noted that it was important for departments to ensure that induction processes and events allowed for community/ cohort building and suggested that Student reps provide feedback to their departments on their own experiences. He also encouraged students to consider using social media, WhatsApp groups etc. to communicate with each other.

SY, the new Maths Student Experience Coordinator, was present at the meeting. She noted the comments on cohort building and induction and reassured students that these were priorities for the department.

LL noted that the Graduate School were able to offer team-building events and encouraged students/ departments to get in touch if this were of interest.

WR also noted a specific issue that had occurred of a student being able to email all students within his cohort. RT noted that he was aware of this issue and that the department had taken action to resolve the situation.

The MSc Statistics rep noted that his was a small cohort and that they had not experienced the issues described above. He noted that the group used Facebook and WhatsApp groups to communicate with each other.

### **6.5 Physics**

The Physics representative present, FA, noted that he cohort used a WhatsApp group to communicate. She also raised issues with cohort building and noted that room H503 in Physics was used by both UG and Masters students and asked whether it might be reserved for the sole use of postgraduates. RT responded by stating that space was at a premium and that this room was heavily used for timetabled teaching activities.

**7. Chair's business**

There were no matters to discuss.

**8. Any other business**

There were no matters to discuss.

**9. Dates of Future Meetings**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
Masters Student Staff Committee	Weds 13/02/19	12.30-14.00	
Masters Student Staff Committee	Weds 26/06/19	12.30-14.00	