

Faculty of Natural Sciences Research Student Staff Committee Meeting

Date: 20 February 2019, 12.30-14.00

Venue: Meetings Room SAF 121

MINUTES

Present:

Andrew Williamson	Postgraduate Development Officer - Physics
Laura Lane	Head of Strategy and Operations, Graduate School
Matthew Fuchter	Director of Postgraduate Studies - Chemistry
Nazia Hirjee	Faculty Operations Officer, FoNS
Paul French	Vice Dean (Research)
Rebecca Middleton	FoNS Education Manager
Sue Gibson	Director of the Graduate School
Lene Hyltoft	Postgraduate Administrator - Maths
Emma McCoy	Vice-Dean (Education) FoNS (co-Chair)
Lorenzo Palmieri	Maths PG Dep Rep
Anne Neumann	Crick's Institute Rep
Claudio Bellani	Maths Student Rep
Emma Couves	LS Y1 PhD Rep/ FoNS AWO
Florence Drury	LS Y1 PhD Rep
Katia Hougaard	LS Y2 PhD Rep
Michael Thomson	LS Y3 PhD Rep
Kasia Kmieckowiak	Administrative Assistant

Apologies:

Bill Proud	Director of Postgraduate Studies - Physics
Henrik Jensen	Prof. of Math. Physics, Research in Complex Sys., Mathematics
Jem Woods	Director of Postgraduate Studies (or equivalent)- CEP
Niki Gounaris	Director of Postgraduate Studies – Life Sciences
Daniel Russell	Physics Student Rep
Deniz Pirrincci Ercan	Crick's Institute Rep
Hannah Jones	LS Y2 PhD Rep
Louis Sharrock	Maths Student Rep
Sabrina Slater	LS Y3 PhD Rep

1. Welcome and Apologies

EC welcomed members to the committee and apologies, as above, were noted.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2018 (Paper 1a)

The Minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Review of Actions (Paper 1b)

All actions were noted as complete.

Action 1 - NH reported that she had discussed the issue of desk space with the Maths Department and confirmed that the Maths students should not encounter the problem anymore.

Action 2 - RM had sent the Maths key contacts sheet to the committee.

Action 3 - RM had set up a webpage on the Faculty site with departments' key contact information. She will send the link to the Students Reps once she links that page with departments' contacts webpages.

4. Reports from Research Student Representatives:

4.1 CEP

There were no representatives from the CEP present.

4.2 Chemistry

There were no Student Representatives from the Department of Chemistry present.

MF, the Chemistry DPS, noted that only one Chemistry Student Rep had been invited to this committee. He requested to invite other Chemistry Student Reps to future meetings. RM will contact the department and identify the names of other Student Reps.

ACTION: RM to contact the department and identify the names of other Student Reps.

NH raised the matter of the shuttle-bus which operates between South Kensington and White City. There had been a number of complaints received from both students and lecturers who were not able to board the bus due to it being full, potentially causing them to miss their lectures or labs. This is due to GradPad students who are using the bus extensively as a commuter service. There was some discussion on how to make it clear 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 the GradPad residents. Student Reps present at the meeting agreed that those using the shuttle-bus service for work purposes should be given the priority over GradPad residents. They suggested creating some sort of 'bus pass' or badge for those who use it for work purposes. They also agreed that the action should be taken as soon as possible to make students aware of the priority users.

4.3 Life Sciences

KH, LS Student Rep, reported that a meeting had been organised in the Department of Life Sciences which included Q&A session on Late Stage Review.

She informed the committee that the department also organises Science Fridays which are informal lunchtime meetings where PhD students give talks to UG students.

ACTION: RM to contact Hannah Jones and Colin McClure to find out more details about the Science Fridays and circulate the info to the Student Reps.

MT, LS Student Rep, raised an issue of heating regulation across various buildings. In response, NH said that such problems should be logged with the Estates Team. This will then show the volume of the building temperature queries and an action plan will be created to resolve the problem.

4.4 Maths

There were no matters to discuss.

4.5 Physics

There were no matters to discuss.

4.6 Crick

AN, the Crick Student Rep, informed the committee about the Crick Symposia that take place every year in February. They are organised in collaboration with Imperial College, UCL and King's College and aim at building links between the Crick and its partner Universities. It is

planned that each year a different university will host the symposium, with the hope that Imperial would host the 2020 event. LL said that the Graduate School could assist with organising the event. SG suggested organising the symposia every 6 months as this might attract more interest among students. In response to that, AN said that this might be an issue due to lack of funding but she will discuss this option at the meeting with the Symposium organisers.

5. Chair's Business

EC reported that she is involved in organising a Project Student Management course. As it is a pilot she is seeking feedback from students. Currently only 10 students (all from the Department of Life Sciences) expressed their opinion. PF queried why the course is not compulsory. EC explained since the course is at pilot stage, it had not been made mandatory yet.

6. AOB

PF informed the committee that the next FoNS Research Showcase will take place on the 25th September 2019 at SK. As in previous years it will include presentations and discussions with the academics and prize-winning FoNS PhD students. He noted that this year, the number of talks at the showcase will be reduced. However, all Departmental winning presenters could enter a poster. In addition, the prizes will be more generous i.e. £1000 for the best talk and £700 for the runner-up; £800 for the best poster presenter and £500 for the runner-up.

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.

7. Dates of Future Meetings:

Committee	Date	Time	Room
Research Student Staff Committee	Weds 01/05/19	12.30-14.00	SAF 120