



Royal College of Science Union

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Education Board

Held at 17:08 on 29th Jan 2019 at the RCSU Office (Sherfield 214D)

PRESENT:

- Michaela Flegrova (RCSU VP Education) (MF)
- Isabel Esain (Biochemistry Dep Rep) (IE)
- Tim Marley (Physics Dep Rep) (TM)

- Lorenz Hoffmann (Chemistry Dep Rep) (LH)
- Albert Muljono (Biology Dep Rep) (AM)
- Ankush Rajput (Mathematics Dep Rep) (AR)

Apologies: Tim Marley (Physics Dep Rep) (TM)

Michael McGill (RCSU President) (MM)

Absent:

Clerk: Kaifeng Wei(RCSU Secretary)(KW)

Meeting opened at 17:08.

A. Departmental updates (successes in term 1 and plans for term 2)

- AR: Missed the past curriculum reviews. AR will review the meeting minutes this week or as soon as possible as the deadline is in late Feb. Discussion in the first SSC has not been implemented, but the interaction has been improved. Maths lectures' poor attendance needs to be addressed (with considerable difficulty in monitoring and improving third and fourth years' attendance); A high (>80%) attendance was registered for the compulsory lectures. MF suggests ideas about improvements could be communicated with Becky. Other issues include that coursework was not structured/standardised properly, and also,

- LH: Chemistry curriculum review has been finished. There has been a discrepancy between the difficulty levels of different modules taken in a year. Pre-lab workshops have been set up for first-years. There will be a booking system for the shuttle bus services. The location of labs and lectures has been causing students much trouble. There has also been problems with exam timetable, which is very short for the average number of exams a student takes.

- AM&IE: Townhall meeting has taken place in Biology with confirmed changes on the exam dates and modules; Similarly, there should be more standardised modules in Biochemistry (IE), there will be a final curriculum review this month, and MF would like to attend the SSCs in all the departments. Events such as internship mingles held among Life Sciences department went very well. There has been effective channel for the students to provide feedback in Biochemistry, and in Life Sciences in general.

B. FoNS/RCSU Survey

- MF: FoNS Survey has been conducted, about a quarter of the faculty's students have responded, and the comments should be circulated among and read by the academic reps for them to provide some quick solutions to the existing problems.
- The problem with Student Experience Survey is the long time it takes the student to finish, it could be hard to fit the time in students' busy schedules (IE); survey booths might not be a good idea, but it could be broken down, suggested by all the academic reps, into shorter and more specific surveys, which could also help problems to be targeted better. There should be a more convenient way to fill up surveys spaced apart throughout the year (AR), but a previous Google form that has this function did not work well (MF).
- There is also concern about how little attention individual comments get (AM), and how few comments of the same nature might not be addressed at all.
- Nomination of reps will open next week, and MF encourages reps to find interested candidates. MF also asks if anyone is interested in her current role, or any RCSU or sabbatical role.

C. Life Sciences Common Room

- MF will talk to AM and IE in private about it.

D. SACAs

- There has been low response rate to the promoting e-mails, and MF needs the reps to promote within the departments.

E. Science Challenges

- MF will talk to Izu in private about it.

F. Leadership Elections

- See above

Meeting closed at 17:58.