

# Committee Meeting Agenda

Postgraduate Physics Students' Society

14.00, Tuesday 15th March, 2016

## **1 Attendance**

### **1.1 Opening**

Braden was elected Chair

### **1.2 Attendance to be taken**

Daniel, Braden, Shanette, Cate, Innes, Tristan and Sri were in attendance

### **1.3 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Stephi

### **1.4 Committee Membership**

Daniel welcomed the new committee

## **2 Advertising for Physical Systems**

Melbourne will be running a Physical Systems course next semester; it's a premier subject

Will cover wave optics, classical mechanics, solving differential systems as physical systems

(A little bit of) Overlap with some math subjects (DEs, Mathematical Methods of Physics) (but not so much that there's anti-requisites)

2nd year subject; 3rd years can take it (good for them, as they have context)

Put up posters to advertise? Yes

Advertising cannot be on LMS - we should get it on the PSS

Braden will correspond with PSS re: everything

### **3 Mentoring**

Braden presented the idea (based on a discussion with a Neuroscience Postgraduate executive)

Tristan will bring this up with Andrew Melatos at the next Knowledge Engagement committee meeting

### **4 Funds and Assets**

The most costly events for the year will likely be: post-Completion talk food, Easter, Pool, Trivia

The question of whether we need a TV on Level 7 was discussed (following on from last year's discussion of Tristan having a spare TV). The committee decided: probably not

Level 7 needs some items (especially for GOSS preparation and serving): platters, IKEA stuff, cutting board, knife, cheese knife

We will use GOSS funds to source some knives and forks

Braden brought up the idea of using GSA/UMSU funds set aside for assets. The committee decided that were some assets we should obtain: board games (a small amount), PPSS banner, pull-down screen (note: this is something the School of Physics could/should do)

## **5 Semester event plan**

### **5.1 Other events**

Multiple event ideas were put forward:

- Cate proposed running one more “bigger” event (e.g. Pool Comp, Trivia Night) this semester. The committee agreed.
- Snooker - running in semester opposite the pool competition (Sem 2)
- A talent show? It was considered logisitically difficult
- Karaoke night
- Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

The committee agreed running another Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea (following on from last year) would be successful. No concensus was reached on what extra “large” event to run this semester; Cate will put out a poll to the membership to gauge interest.

Committee think the “mentoring” sessions for 1st years (where graduates come in to tutes and talk for 10 minutes) are not effective

### **5.2 Pool Competition**

Several logisitical issues were agreed upon:

- As Activites Officer, Cate will organise much of the event
- Running the week of Monday 4th April
- Final on Friday 8th April
- Signups close Monday 4th April
- Cate will make and post posters
- Prizes: alcohol (two different bottles), names engraved on trophy

### **5.3 Diversity Fair/Event**

Daniel has been in discussion with some other graduate science groups, including Chemistry. There has been not nearly enough collaboration between STEM groups; a Diversity Fair/Event is currently being discussed with several groups (Chemistry, Physics; possibility to expand to Optical Students Association, WISE, WIP group in the School of Physics; considering Geology, Biology).

For such an event, there will be a lot of money available by pooling resources.

Daniel will continue conversing with these other groups.

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Academic Staff Committee**

After being invited, Cate was asked to leave (/kicked out of) the most recent meeting, as the topic of discussion was the EPP leadership position.

### **6.2 Academic Progress Committee**

Innes attended the most recent meeting.

**See attached report for full notes**

### **6.3 Knowledge Engagement**

Tristan attended the most recent meeting.

**See attached report for full notes**

### **6.4 Research and Research Training**

No-one attended

## **6.5 Occupational Health and Safety**

No-one attended

## **7 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

This was our first meeting, so there were no previous minutes.

## **8 General Business**

### **8.1 Further business**

No further business

### **8.2 Next meeting**

Cate suggested fortnightly meetings; the committee agrees.

Next meeting: 5th April, 2pm (unless times clear up; currently Innes is unable to attend this time)

## **9 Meeting close**

3:05pm

## Action List

1. Daniel - organise posters for Physical Systems advertising
2. Braden - talk to PSS re: advertising Physical Systems on their page
3. Tristan - talk to Melatos about Mentoring
4. Shanette + other - buy PPSS GOSS stuff from IKEA
5. Innes/George - buy knives and forks for GOSS (with GOSS funds)
6. Innes - notify people of banner comp (via email + Facebook) (note: there will be a "silly prize")
7. Braden - buy some PPSS board games as assets
8. Daniel - talk to Ray/someone re: pull-down screen in Level 7 Common Room
9. Cate - create poll for PPSS members to voting on new events
10. Cate - to take care of Pool Competition
11. Daniel - continue conversing with other graduate group executives people about diversity event
12. Others - let Daniel know about other graduate groups which could get involved in a diversity event

# Academic Programs Committee notes

Innes Bigaran

11th March 2016

## **1 Report on new level 2 subjects, management of legacy subjects and subject advice**

### **1.1 First year**

There have been some issues with advanced physics and students being allowed to enrol in the subjects without the prerequisites. They will be informed about being withdrawn from the subject- not as a reflection of their competence but rather so that people are NOT further advised at high school level that certain prerequisites are not required- hence there isn't any sort of additional decrease in people taking physics to a senior level in VCE.

As per last year, there is hope that towards the later parts of semester there will be additional tutorials run in the lab centre on specific topics such as Differential Equations and Gauss' Law...

### **1.2 ISIS/Handbook**

There has been an issue with ISIS and crossing over the old and new second year subjects- ISIS wasn't updated consistently with the handbook and hence prerequisites and such were not consistent. There has also been issues with overfilling of subjects- and students are being advised to sit in on the lectures/tutorials they can go to.

### **1.3 Second year**

Approximately 200 students enrolled- in legacy and new subjects. There are issues where students have needed to take legacy subjects but are being credited for taking the new subject equivalent/s- there were issues with the access of the LMS for people enrolled in legacy but needing to access the LMS for the new subjects, but Sean Crosby is a genius and reprogrammed the LMS so that this issue didn't exist.

The new second year lab classes should increase the number of non physics students taking physics subjects- especially engineering, as they may want more practical learning. Therefore in the future we will need to prepare for larger class numbers- but we are over-filled/ at capacity now. So far they have booked the Thomas Cherry labs for computational labs, but are working on getting access to the Graduate Science computer labs in Laby South- the Laby centre is "reserved" for astro labs.

## **2 Proposed pre-requisite change to PHYC20013: Laboratory and Computational Physics 2**

Previously the pre-requisites are Physics 1, Physics 2, Calculus 2 and Linear algebra. The argument is that one would only really require Physics 1 and Physics 2 to be able to do the subject- this is especially good for students who did UMEP physics and can't enrol in any physics, consequentially, in first year due to bureaucracy. They will still need to have taken 50 points of level 1 before they enrol in level 2 subject, but with this proposed change then UMEP students will be able to enrol in Lab and comp from second semester of this year. The change was voted on and passed.

## **3 Change to Major in Physics: Laboratory and Computational Physics 3**

Now that there is a Lab and Comp second year subject, we have to create a Lab and Comp third year subject for next year. The requirement for the Major in physics will now be: Compulsory- QM and Lab and Comp, One of- Electrodynamics or Statistical, One of the options- as per previously.

## **4 Teaching Support Fellows**

Have employed 5 teaching support fellows- "Senior tutors/demonstrators". So far they are five males- there were 6 positions but one is being held open for the sake of gender diversity. They will advertise again for these roles in second semester, and are considering advertising one as a "Female teaching support fellow" for the sake of diversity- affirmative action.

## **5 Experimental and Computational Laboratories report**

There has been really good feedback for second year labs- especially for the computational projects.



## **6    SSLC and PPSS**

SSLC meeting is 22nd March. Welcome to Innes, the new PPSS APC representative.

## March KE meeting notes

- July Public Lectures
  - Celebrating 100yrs of GR
  - Grav Waves detection
  - 5 Friday lectures
  - Possibly a large crowd
- In-service & VCE November lectures all going well
- Nothing yet for Open Day
- All Colloquiums organised till May
- WIP camp, 29th April – 1st May, Mt Bulla
- Work Exp
  - Particle and Astro
  - Will expand to other sciences
  - 20th – 24th June
  - Will accept 24 students
  - Have had hundreds apply
  - Will want student volunteers
- Careers nights a success
- Public lectures April 19th ANZ and PWC alumni
- Brian Green on 19th March Melbourne Park
- Andrew making School of Physics events list
- Science Festival this year
  - Targeting all Science students
  - ~12th-21st August
  - Tim Flannery laurel lecture
  - Theme – Droids drones & robots
  - Ideas for events by June
  - Will have Sci week + unimelb grants
  - Current ideas – Rockets & 3d Printing
- 2 Project committees formed for pathways through Uni & where students go
  - Trying to come with better surveys