

Our Ref: GSCC17-18/A1/09.11.2017

GRADUATE STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 9 November 2017, 2.00 pm, Battcock Centre Meeting Room

Present: Professor Haniff (Chair), Hope Bretscher (OE), Sean Cormier (NP), Dr Gripiaios, Rebecca Harwin (QS), Theresa Jakuszeit (BSS), Claire Malone (HEP), Bruno Villa (SP), with Mrs Weale (Secretary) and Ms Whittle (Graduate Office).

Apologies: Ms Dann (Graduate Office), Ms Khan (Graduate Office), Mrittunroy Guha Majumdar (TFM), Professor Parker (HoD).

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2017 were confirmed with a couple of minor amendments.

2. Matters arising

- i) Athena Swan – the survey of graduate students to inform the Athena SWAN submission was still outstanding but would be undertaken in time for the analysis of the results to inform the final submission document due in April 2018.
- ii) Welcome Event (5 October) – the chair asked the student representatives for feedback on whether new students had found this helpful. It was reported that Visiting masters students had not been sure whether they should attend, and this would be clarified for next year. Health and Safety training was mandatory for new starters, including Visiting students.
- iii) Open Day (3 November) – 70 attendees had been registered, of which 40 were from outside Cambridge, suggesting that wider advertising next year would be desirable. It was agreed that the event should be staffed by existing graduate students more extensively next year so that prospective students could ask them about their experience of being a student within the Department. Volunteers would be requested from each group, and perhaps a lunch arranged as an incentive to participate.

3. Chairman's business

- i) GSCC membership 2017/18 – a representative from the NanoDTC was still required.
- ii) Graduate Student Conference 2017 – 140 students had registered to attend, and the Chair would circulate a reminder that attendance was mandatory for first years, including students in Astrophysics. More poster entries would be welcome, and all would need to be available for display the day before the conference so that they could be judged. It was suggested that

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prizes could also be awarded to students for Best Outreach work, Best Supervisor and Best Demonstrator, if criteria could be worked out sufficiently in advance to enable nominations. Room bookings and catering had been ordered, and the organisers were advised to seek advice from their Admin Hubs over ordering wine for the reception afterwards.

- iii) Abdus Salam Prize 2017 – This prize, funded by the Abdus Salam Foundation was awarded to the best student's work leading to publication. The winner received a cheque and their name engraved on a trophy. A representative from the Foundation had been invited to attend to present the award. Seven entries had been received so far.
- iv) Researcher development programme – It was proposed to run the presentation workshop again twice, as sessions last year on this topic were well-received, as well as workshops on Big Data and entrepreneurship. Compulsory sessions on Dignity@Study and gender issues would also be organised for the first year cohort. Students were reminded that if they registered to attend a workshop, they were expected to show up, and sessions would run as far as possible in the 9-10am slot as this had previously been agreed to be generally a convenient time.

4. Graduate Student Matters

A query was raised about the cash machine on the West Cambridge site having been out of order recently. Being the property of Barclays Bank, the Department was unable to take direct action on this.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

6. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the GSCC would be held on 18 January 2018 at 2pm in the Bragg Committee Room (213).