

Our Ref: GSCC17-18/A2/18.01.2018

## GRADUATE STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 18 January 2018, 2.00 pm, Bragg Committee Room

**Present:** Professor Haniff (Chair), Professor Parker (HoD), Alice Allen (TCM), Hope Bretscher (OE), Ed Carter (AMOP), Kamran Javid (AP), Rebecca Harwin (QS), Arthur Henderson (SMF), Theresa Jakuszeit (BSS), Mrittunjoy Guha Majumdar (TFM), Claire Malone (HEP), Simon Wilkinson (SC), with Miss Wood (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Adrien Amiguez (QM), Bruno Villa (SP), Christopher Ashcroft (Mole), Sean Cormier (NP), B Gripaos, Ms Khan

### 1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 were confirmed with no amendments.

### 2. Matters arising

- i) Athena Swan graduate survey – it has been decided by the Athena Swan SAT that focus groups will be more effective in gathering useful and concentrated information in a short timeframe than an electronic survey. The focus group events will take place this term and there will be a call for volunteers later this month. Chair to find out if undergraduates will also be involved in these groups. A small survey may be sent to graduate students this month in the event that one is created for staff. Chair asked GSCC for any Athena Swan topics that they would like to be discussed in the focus group.
- ii) GSCC membership 2017/18 – Chair to ask Nano DTC for nominee.
- iii) Graduate Student Conference 2017 – Approx. 150 people registered for the event. There was a good turnout for the talks, fewer for the posters and only around 18 people remained for the prize giving which was disappointing. It was thought that for next year publicity could be better and perhaps not clash with the advertising for the Cavendish Research Day. Some thought should be given to the structure of the day and how best to maximise attendance.
- iv) Abdul Salam prize 2017 - To be announced earlier next year.

### 3. Chairman's business

- i) Researcher development programme – Events that will be taking place this year once final dates have been confirmed are: Unconscious Bias & Equality and Diversity (in approx 2 weeks), Research Data Management (approx 3 weeks), Entrepreneurship & IP (in approx 5 weeks), Presentation Skills (end of term).

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There was discussion about the utility of the last session on Research Data Management being not fit for purpose, and the Chair asked GSCC members to send any thoughts to him so that the Research Data Management team can make the content more relevant to the audience. They are also asked to send in ideas of courses they would like to see in the department (i.e. LaTeX).

- ii) Alumni Industry Day 2018 – Chair asked for volunteers to organise this event. Mriritunjoy Guha Majumdar (TFM) has agreed to take the lead on the event, Claire Malone (HEP) has agreed to second.

#### **4. Graduate Student Matters**

A query was raised about how technicians are funded as there was concern about maintenance and support of equipment falling on graduate students. HoD explained that the burden of maintenance and training should not fall upon the graduate students. It was explained that this is part of a wider issue that is in the process of being resolved.

The current lead time in the workshop is longer than usual due to staff shortage. A query was raised about how the workshop prioritizes work and whether graduate students in their final year had higher priority than Part III students. This query is being actioned by HoD.

#### **5. Any other business**

The University runs a 5 year rolling review on learning and teaching. The Cavendish's review is taking place this term. The panel would like to talk to some of the graduate students. A first meeting will take place at the end of January, a second will be held in March. The Chair will share the review document with the committee dependant on the agreement of the Review Panel Chair.

#### **6. Date of the next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the GSCC would be held on 15 February 2018 at 2pm in the Bragg Committee Room (213).