

Our Ref: GSCC17-18/A4/15.03.2018

GRADUATE STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 15 March 2018, 2.00 pm, Bragg Committee Room

Present: Professor Haniff (Chair), Alice Allen (TCM), Hope Bretscher (OE), Rebecca Harwin (QS), Arthur Henderson (SMF), Theresa Jakuszeit (BSS), Claire Malone (HEP), Simon Wilkinson (SC), Ed Carter (AMOP) with Mr Limb (Secretary).

Apologies: Andy Parker and Kamran Javid.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 were confirmed with no amendments.

2. Matters arising

- i) Athena Swan survey and focus groups – the chair reported that there was a good response to the survey, and that eight students attended the focus groups. The results would be made available to the committee.
- ii) Researcher development programme - the chair provided the following summary:
 - 23rd February, IP & Entrepreneurship – cancelled due to industrial action and will be rearranged.
 - 8th March, Communications skills - covering Presentation Skills in the morning and Writing Skills in the afternoon. Feedback indicated that more opportunity to practise giving a presentation would be welcome. The Chair would arrange a separate presentation skills course specifically covering the use of graphics.
 - 19th March, Ethics in Physics - due to go ahead as planned.

Members were reminded that the department can bid for more funds for researcher development training and that members should contact him if they had any ideas for future training.

- iii) Alumni Industry Day - Claire Malone (HEP) reported that the event was planned for the afternoon of 3rd May. Approximately four speakers had been confirmed so far. Members were informed that a survey of departing graduate students showed that 55% entered research and 44% found work across a number of different fields, with computing and finance being very popular. Only 1% remained unemployed after six months.
- iv) Abandoned Bikes – Members were informed that Peter Norman would arrange the removal of abandoned bikes over the Easter vacation.

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3. Chairman's business

- i) Learning and Teaching Review – the chair reported that informal feedback from the panel indicated that recommendations could be made on information dissemination, the supervisory team and support for female students. Members were reminded about the role of principal supervisors, advisers and second supervisors.

4. Graduate Student Matters

- i) Single use plastic and recycling - Hope Bretscher (OE) raised the issue of single use plastic cups being used in the canteen and a general lack of recycling bins.

Action: Chair to raise the issue with the canteen.

- ii) Researchfish submissions – student members reported confusion with regards to who needed to make a submission, and how to complete the submission.

5. Any other business

- i) Dissemination of information – the chair proposed the creation of a regular monthly email newsletter, however members felt that this might be information overload, due to the existing volume of emails. It was agreed that the best option was to continue in the present format, where emails were sent out as and when there was something important to announce.

6. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the GSCC would be held on 10 May 2018 at 2pm in the Bragg Committee Room (213)