Dept meeting 1st September 2015

- update – this & that, Faculty retreat
- HDR stuff & conference (Adam S)
- undergrad prizes (Rob H)
- L&T (Michelle P)
- Open Day (Jenny D)
- Safety in Spring (Marita)
- Sustainability & Arboretum (Sam N)

- Tracy Rushmer & Ren Yi on co-tutelles & joint PhD programs
Update from Michelle

- Eureka night
- Committees
- MQRF applicants
- VC Excellence awards for Professional Staff
- MQ – NSW OEH partnership
From the Faculty

- Strategic planning retreat – focus on visions, values & direction (industry linkages, increasing research productivity, new science building).
- *Retreat implications for biology* – our strategic plan by December, research productivity increase (opportunities for 06 funding, cat 2 & 3 funds, MQ–index for research performance), Adv Science
- ARC Linkages – sandpits & consultant (Prof Baverstock)
- Budget process
- Faculty research awards (early career, mid career, leadership, HDR, industry)
- Marketing (Pioneering Minds)
- Schools – which ones? What support needed?
- website migration
HDR stuff & conference (Adam S)

- 14-15 September
- Prizes & panels

1. **Field based talk** - 1 winner (Barbara Rice prize + Austral Ark), 2 runner ups (Austral Ark + $50 voucher)
2. **Lab based talk** - 1 winner (Austral Ark + $100 voucher), 2 runner ups (Austral Ark + $50 voucher)
3. **Theoretical/Modelling based talk** - 1 winner (Austral Ark + $100 voucher), 2 runner ups (Austral Ark + $50 voucher)
# Undergrad prizes (Rob H)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed (new prizes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Best student overall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Female only</td>
<td>Best student overall x2 BIOL units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male and female</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Plants (single unit)</td>
<td>Best student overall x3 BIOL units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parasite (single unit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Highest GPA for a BIOL major. Optional name ‘Biology medal’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRes (Course work)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Top student in year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRes year2 (thesis)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Top student in year 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning and Teaching

• Update on Biology major
  – Late changes for 2016
  – Progress / development meetings 300 level

• Sustainability mapping
  – Began with 100 level units
  – Moving onto 200 and 300 level
  – Requesting information and meetings

• Learning and Teaching week (Sept 14-17)
  – Get along to some events
  – Call for Chairs elizabeth.shoostovian@mq.edu.au
Learning and Teaching

• The new FLTC
  – Covers FSQC and FLTC matters
  – New assessment policy being developed
  – Faculty workshop – Active learning

• Increase in postgrad coursework students
  – Master of Science
  – Management and communication focus

• Science communication ugrad units
  – Revamp
  – Volunteers to contribute to ideas

• Bachelor of Innovation
Learning and Teaching

• Faculty Learning and Teaching strategy

• Working Party is currently gathering ideas and seeking general thoughts
  – Excerpts from brief to gather your thoughts
  – Good / bad idea? Why!
  – Are we doing things now?
  – Anything that we should be doing?
Open Day (Jenny D)

Looking for volunteers for the advising desk – no experience necessary!
BIOLOGY COURTYARD

SEPTEMBER 29TH 11am - 2pm
• Take a fitness test
• Win a fit bit!
• Guess the secret ingredient in our be healthy recipe
• Strawberry and herbs to take home
• Become a member of the fruit and Veg co-op
• BYO jar for our BeeSafe Honey

Healthy Food – Healthy Body
• What is wrong with this?
• Identify 20 problems to Win a Sit-Stand Desk!

Benefits of Sit-Stand Desk

• Reduced risk of obesity
• Prevent spine injuries
• Helps maintain better posture
• Reduced risk of cardiovascular disease
Win !!!

- Sit-Stand Desk
- Fit Bit
- Plants and Honey
Leave the Stress Outside

Alfresco Massages
Volunteering Leave

• All continuing staff have 2 days per year (pro rata) volunteering leave
• Volunteering leave is the perfect opportunity for a team activity
• Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and is fun and rewarding!

Other benefits include:
* Connecting you with others  * Make new friends and contacts
* Good for mind and body skills  * Enhance your social and relationship skills
* Good for your career job skills

How to go about it:
Discuss with your team and team supervisor (or HoD)

Pick an organisation: host organisations must be a registered charity.
For suggestions visit the volunteering website:
http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/strategy_and_initiatives/sustainability/get_involved/community_volunteering/faqs/
Biology Garden

The Biology garden is undergoing a makeover

Changes you can expect to see:

• Removal of some larger (lanky or senescent trees)
• Fixing of garden bed walls eg fern bed
• Redesign of annexe and installation of pathways
• New landscaping in annexe and extra plants in garden