

Dept meeting 3 November 2015

- workload model
- research retreat
- L & T update
- fieldwork
- Biolumnia
- sustainability
- Xmas party!

FSE Workload Model

- working group co-ordinated by Mariella, includes David Coutts, Bernard Mans, Michael Hitchens, Barbara Messerle
- input from Dept reps (Jane W) and HoDs
- feedback from staff now required – by **11 November**
- implementation planned for 2016 with reviews and feedback throughout year

FSE Workload Model

FUNCTION: to help Heads of Department and academic staff to broadly balance their work and to align staff activities with the University's strategic goals

- aims to capture workload in teaching, research and service
- not designed to measure performance
- spreadsheet-based initially, will become online
- some flexibility among departments
- model to be published on FSE website
- workload allocations for staff published within departments

FSE Workload Model

Points system

- 40 points for research
- 40 points for teaching (minimum 20)
- 20 points for service (internal & external)

Research

HDR supervision

- primary or co-supervision only
- double previous weighting, up to 6 students

HERDC publications

- average number of publications for last 3 years (not linear)

Funded research

- writing grant applications (<\$60k/yr, <\$60k/yr)
- holding external grants, consultancies

Teaching

Face to Face

- lectures, pracs, design, field days, marking, convening, supervision of student projects, etc
- downloading of fieldwork, convening
- marking capped per student

Service

Internal

- Department directors
- teaching program director
- committee member
- dept activities (seminars, meetings, unit reviews, graduation, etc)
- outreach
- discipline-specific admin (eg ethics, fieldwork, biosafety)
- mentoring

Service

External

- journal editor
- external committee chair
- external committee member
- professional society executive
- reviews of grants, manuscripts, theses

Please look at the workload spreadsheet, plug in some data and give feedback to the working group via Jane by Monday 9 Nov

Research

- ARC results
- strategies – talk to Mel & research committee to get feedback and advice

Research retreat

- **10 December**, Caley Room, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
- all academic staff expected to attend, other researchers welcome
- focus on improving research performance – research targets, opportunities arising from new staff & research centres, HDR recruitment

Learning and teaching items

- Handbook changes 2017
 - Number of changes that will go in with continuing major rollout.
 - BIOL228 and BIOL229 (and BIOL208/210 rested) and impact on your pre-reqs
 - We are aiming not to deal with late requested changes as this process is inefficient
 - I also ask that people are vigilant about checking information when we ask

Learning and teaching items

- New assessment policy (circulated Dept news)
 - Schedule 1 passed by SLTC
 - Refinement on standards based marking, sets grade criteria
 - Denotes that grades (not marks) for all assessments to be released
 - Assessments set at program level
 - **SNG going** and final mark will be that which is reported with grade
 - Moderate at assessment level
 - Provide grade as opposed to a mark
 - Also means that exam marks will be determinable from final unit mark

Learning and teaching items

– Schedule 2

- Hurdle assessments need to be identified in unit guide
- Students who have made a serious attempt must be given **more than one** opportunity to complete the hurdle.
- **ALL assessments greater than 20% must be kept for 6 months for benchmarking**

– Schedule 4 Final examination

- 2 hour exams
- **Two examinations to be prepared**
- Additional quality assurance items
- Exam feedback – student entitled to view exam paper

Fieldwork update (Martin)

- online fieldwork forms coming soon

Biolumnia (Josh Madin)

Arboretum Update

Silk Floss Tree

The Silk Floss Tree (*Ceiba speciosa*) in the Earth Sciences garden, was knocked down during the severe storms we had in April. Following Alison's suggestion, the tree was trimmed back but the roots left undisturbed.



American Tulip Tree

Earlier this year the Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in the Biology courtyard, developed a deep split between the two main branches. Arborists were brought in to suggest a solution. We now have our very own Frankenstein-tree – Frank 2.



Seasonal Greetings

M-POWER CAMPAIGN October – December 2015



Think Local and Seasonal

Consuming local and seasonal food has numerous benefits across four categories:

- Improved taste
- Better health outcomes
- Less negative environmental impacts
- Community benefits

Seasonal Greetings



Think Local and Seasonal

What is local food?

- ‘Local food’ refers to the distance between food producers and consumers (i.e. food grown or raised within X kilometres of a consumer).
- For this campaign, the agreed geographical scale of ‘local’ is a 500km radius of the Sydney CBD
- Locally produced, seasonal foods are generally less expensive, more flavoursome and nutrient rich as they are harvested at their natural peak.



Think Local and Seasonal

What is seasonal food?

- ‘Seasonal food’ refers to the times of year where a food is naturally at its peak, in terms of taste and harvest.
- Seasonal foods are generally associated with locally produced foods.
- Not sure what's in season?
- Check out the [Sydney Seasonal Food Guide](#)



Get Involved

Seasonal recipes to get you started

- The MQ Executive Chef, Peter Brewty, has designed a sustainable feast menu for the summer season ahead (recipes available on the M-power site)
- Get involved by making any one of the seasonal recipes or put them all together for a delicious lunch feast with your team or family!
- A lot of the recipe ingredients can be sourced right here on campus at the Harvest Hub market or look up a market near you via localharvest.org.au
- Take photographs of your local and seasonal meal and send through to sustainability@mq.edu.au



Thank you!

WWW.MQ.EDU.AU/SUSTAINABILITY



Teaching labs official opening

Wednesday 11 November at 3pm

- all welcome but please RSVP via Eventbrite – see last week's newsletter

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/biology-lab-launch-tickets-19245012350>

More social events:

- Melbourne Cup celebrations today from 2.45pm
- bake off Thursday 10.30am – proceeds to UNHCR

Biology Xmas Party



SAVE THE DATE: Friday 18 December

Brought to you by the Wright & PIREL labs

- biology courtyard
- fun games
- delicious food
- bring your family
- end the year with a celebration!

