

Department of Biological Sciences

Dept meeting 5th May 2020



Agenda

- WHS
- HoD update
- L&T
- HDR
- Research
- Outreach

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Custodians and Elders of the lands on which our university is located

HoD update

- Welcome to Oliver Griffith
- Budget update
- Long service leave
- Our well-being
- How is MQ travelling?
- What's new in the new normal? (teaching S2 and beyond, research access, fieldwork)

WHS – update from Marita

L & T Update

- Thanks
- S1 Update
- S2 Update
- Tech support considerations
- Teaching sustainability
- 'Normal' L&T Business

S1 Update

- Are assessment tasks (and hurdles) clear on iLearn?
- Special Provisions: Jacqui Henrisson will alter timing of quizzes
- iLearn assistance preparing quizzes: see me ASAP
 - How many questions
 - Type of questions (MC, short-answer)
 - When will practice and real exam be ready
- Exam info on iLearn: make sure it is up now
- Exams: still working on timing
 - “Tight exam” up to 3 hours within 3.5 hr window (9-12:30pm or 2-5:30pm)
 - “Window exam” up to 3 hours in a six hour window (7:30-1:30pm or 3-9pm)

S2 Update

Requirements given Covid-19

- As little face-to-face contact as possible:
 - Lectures, lectorials, tutorials – online
 - Pracs (SGTA) – online if at all possible. Preferably only on campus IF required for LOs to be met
- Max: 3 x pracs (i.e. across six weeks) BUT prefer 1-2 x pracs
 - Consideration: breakout rooms
- Feeling lost:
 - Lots of online help
 - Plan with others in your teaching cluster
 - Talk with Tech Staff
 - What resources do you need? Give me a plan

Tech support considerations

Cleaning/infection control:

- ~30 mins/lab; PPE will be provided

Planning:

- End of May convenors need to have communicated prac requirements, and have timeline
- End of June: filming completed

Personnel & communication:

- Clear directions/instructions
- No last-minute changes

AV/IT

- Equipment quarantine requirements

Teaching sustainability and the new normal

Reality 1:

- 2021: likely to run in similar way to S2 2020
- 2022 onwards: unlikely that students will switch back to fully face-to-face
- Increased importance on student engagement & retention

Teaching sustainability and the new normal

Reality 2:

- Lack of staff
- Recruitment unlikely
- So....
 - Modify curriculum
 - Ensure support of essential units
 - Team teaching (survey coming out soon...)

Program changes

- BIOL3620 (Biological Sciences capstone). Discontinued & replaced with a faculty-level capstone
- BIOL3910 (Advanced Science 3). Discontinued & replaced with a new version of the unit (BIOL3911) that is not PACE designated. AdvSci students can do BIOL3640.
- BIOL3330 (Symbiosis). Discontinued.
- BMOL3201 (Advanced Biochemistry and Cell Biology) added to Biochemistry and Microbiology concn of Human Biology specialisation
- Changes to Infectious Disease and Biosecurity major of the BMedSci
- Eliminate STAT3195 Biostatistics and Epidemiology (no longer offered)
- Add HLTH3302 Principles in Health and Disease 2 to 3000-level option set
- Add HLTH3303 Principles in Health and Disease 3 to 3000-level option set
- Move BIOL2610 Biological Data Analysis from required 2000-level unit list to 10cp option set
- Add HLTH2301 to list of required units

MRes update

All Y2 candidates have received a one-month extension

Submission date for all activities (Methods, lit rev, poster) have been extended – on iLearn

Seminar attendance

Thesis submission

Before May 19: as earlier

After May 19: Thesis submission and examination – fully online – resembles the PhD process

HDR – update from Simon Griffith

Research Reminders

MQRF:

- Faculty Eol closing date **Thursday 7th May**

DECRA / FF:

- Macquarie University expressions of Interest are now open for DECRA (DE22) and Future Fellowships (FT21 FT21).
- The Word EOI forms are available for download on the DECRA and Future Fellowship MQ web pages
- Deadline is 5 pm (AEST) Wednesday 19th August 2020

Outreach – update from Calli Miller