Department of Biological Sciences
Dept meeting 7\textsuperscript{th} March 2017

Agenda

• Welcome to new staff
• Upcoming events
• Admin re-structure
• Implementation plan for 2017
• Committees for 2017
• Web pages
• MRes update
• L&T update
• Sustainability
Dr Anthony Chariton
- Genomics tools for biodiversity assessment
- BIOL861

Dr Jemma Geoghegan
- Viral disease transmission
- BIOL345

Nick Harris
Senior Tech Officer (Marine Fieldwork)

Andrew McNee
School Liaison Officer

Kate Barry
First Year Coordinator

Julian May
HDR support
Professor Mark Westoby

A spectacular wine and cheese event is planned for 28th February!
MQ Centre for Green Cities

Kick Off Meeting

7th of March 2017 4-6pm
Welcome to First Years

Thursday 9th March
12.30-1.30pm
Biology courtyard

• Biology & Env Science Student Society
• AdvBiol students
• Advisers

Please come along, mingle and make them feel welcome!
FSE Admin review

• In implementation phase
• 8 positions in the department, some changes in roles and levels
• EoIs this month, interviews April
• New structure in place 1\textsuperscript{st} June
Strategic goals & supporting actions

1. To deliver excellence in teaching at a sustainable level
   • Develop BIOL326 as a PACE unit
   • Investigate OUA opportunities
   • Program-level reviews (Biology major, MBioCon)
   • Teaching quality implementation

2. To sustain & increase our recognised research strengths
   • Expand strategic support
   • New appointment plant sciences
   • Support MQ Centres
   • ERA assessment

3. To support and enhance medical science related teaching programs and related research
   • New appointment (e.g. physiology, evolutionary medicine)
4. To attract high quality HDR students & enhance experience

• Support Research Enrichment Program
• Workshops for supervisors on mental health, cultural sensitivities

5. To increase our engagement with industry partners

• Targeted strategic funds
• Strengthen partnerships – Taronga Zoo, Aust Museum, NSW OEH
• Investigate joint appointment opportunities

6. To be the destination of choice for biology students

• Strengthen strategic school partnerships
• Develop professional modules for teachers
# Department committees

**EXECUTIVE**

- Michelle Leishman
- Grant Hose
- Melanie Bishop
- Andrew Barron
- Mariella Herberstein

**RESEARCH**

- Nathan Hart
- Leanne Armand
- Andy Barron
- Kerstin Bilgmann
- Melanie Bishop
- Anthony Chariton
- David Raftos
- Ian Wright
# Department committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning &amp; Teaching</th>
<th>HDR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drew Allen</strong></td>
<td><strong>Culum Brown</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Atwell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Bulbert</td>
<td>John Alroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Donald</td>
<td>Linda Beaumont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Hallinan</td>
<td>Glenn Brock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Kosnik</td>
<td>Simon Griffith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Power</td>
<td>Mariella Herberstein</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grant Hose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lesley Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adam Stow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phil Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martin Whiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Williamson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Department committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MRes</th>
<th>Advising</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Hose</strong></td>
<td><strong>Darrell Kemp / Glenn Brock</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Power</td>
<td>John Alroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brian Atwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ken Cheng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jenny Donald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachael Dudaniec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Gillings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Hallinan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mariella Herberstien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew Kosnik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Raftos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julia Raftos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adam Stow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prizes</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linda Beaumont</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerstin Bilgmann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemma Geoghegan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Department committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Fieldwork</strong></th>
<th><strong>WHS</strong></th>
<th><strong>Diving, Boating &amp; Safety</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Martin Whiting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Marita Holley</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rob Harcourt</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kath McClellan</td>
<td>Leanne Armand</td>
<td>Matthew Kosnik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Collison</td>
<td>Simon Griffith</td>
<td>Culum Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarun Rajan</td>
<td>Mariella Herberstein</td>
<td>Josh Madin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Harris</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Williamson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ina Geedicke</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Sordes (UDO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nick Harris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plant Growth Facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ian Wright</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Atwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Leishman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Manea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Department committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach</th>
<th>ECR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matthew Bulbert</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rachael Dudaniec</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerstie Bilgmann</td>
<td>Kerstie Bilgmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemma Geoghegan</td>
<td>Lesley Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajay Narendra</td>
<td>Kath McClellan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Reid</td>
<td>Ajay Narendra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew McNee</td>
<td>Chris Reid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Madin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachael Gallagher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Others</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology Gardens – Rachael Gallagher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability – Sam Newton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity – Mariella Herberstein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Web page update

- Department pages
- Staff & student portals
- Biology – undergrad, postgrad, HDR, research, etc pages
- PURE...

And (social) media to advertise and celebrate successes
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Blogs, The Conversation, media releases
MRes Update

- 12 new MRes Y2 students (8 from Y1 + 4 newbies)
- 20 Year 1 students (17 newbies)

- Notification Of Examiners form for July cohort now due
  - Thesis due 24 April

- MRes seminars 23 March

- Changes afoot...
  - 1 internal + 1 external examiner (2018)
  - Departmental approval and advice/notification to students
Learning and Teaching
Members of Committee

• Brian Atwell
• Matthew Bulbert
• Jenny Donald
• Jennifer Hallinan
• Michelle Power
Learning and Teaching
Changes to Moderation Policy

• The major summative assessment (final examination or major piece of assessment where there is no final examination) of every unit will be reviewed every offering by an academic not currently involved in the teaching of the unit.

• Where submissions from multiple students are distributed to multiple staff members for marking:
  • Assessment items and rubrics/marking schemes will be distributed to the marking team for comment before release to students.
  • There will be a process (such as pre-marking meeting, joint marking of a subset of submissions (pilot marking), etc.) to ensure consistency of assessment.

• For the major summative assessment in a unit (final examination or major piece of assessment where there is no final examination) 10% of submissions (but no less than 5 actual submissions and no more than 20 actual submissions) will be reviewed every offering (including review of every marker).
Learning and Teaching
Peer Review of Teaching

• Staff will act as a peer reviewer for a colleague once a year
• The Faculty will monitor the application of these review processes but will not access the actual feedback results
• Staff will be required to have a valid LET, by the TEDS definitions, once in every two-year period
• Staff are encouraged to build up a teaching portfolio and to discuss its contents with their PDR supervisor

• Michelle Power will be charged with heading this up
Learning and Teaching Committee
Enrolments [data from Jenny Donald]

- **Significantly up:**
  - BIOL206, BIOL345, BIOL349, BIOL376
- **Up**
  - BIOL235, BIOL334, BIOL379, BIOL391
- **Down**
  - BIOL114 (no longer taken by most Med Sci or Human Biology students because of BIOL116), BIOL242, BIOL263, BIOL347 (down despite growth in BIOL210)
- **Significantly down**
  - BIOL115 (has been dropped as required unit in Chiro), BIOL227 (students only enrolling for S1?), BIOL247 (?)
- **New/reinstated units:**
  - BIOL262 - Stronger than in past
  - BIOL228 & 229 - Significantly lower than expected, perhaps partly due to back-mapping issue?
  - BIOL364 - OK for new unit
  - BIOL368 - Stronger than expected
Sustainability Update
Samantha Newton

Target: Better Futures Bronze

• Last year we formed a Sustainability Working Group: Michelle Leishman, Mariella Herberstein, Rekha Joshi, Veronica Peralta, Matt Kosnik, Rachael Dudaniec, Katherine Berthon, Samantha Newton

• Submitted completed checklist for consideration for Bronze accreditation

• Actions identified:
  • Documentation of what we do in Biology – to be centrally located and easily accessible
  • Documentation of Green Lab practices in teaching labs, to share with research labs
  • Encourage update of Volunteering Leave
  • Better documentation of staff involvement in sustainability activities
  • Mentoring the Biological and environmental student society (BAESS)
Vehicle Emissions

- Biological Sciences has 8 department vehicles used for fieldwork.
- In 2016 these vehicles travelled a collective distance of 87,000km and produced over 20 tonnes of CO$_2$.
- The Department has offset these emissions through Carbon Neutral. The funds paid are used to plant biodiverse native forests in Australia.
Harvest Hub

- Weekly delivery service of fresh, local and seasonal fruit and vegetables. Easy to join, easy to make and change orders.
- www.harvesthub.com.au

Worm Farms

- Give your fruit and veg snack leftovers to our worms. Containers in tearoom fridges.

Transport

- Walk, bike, bus, train or carpool to uni
  - Transport options: www.mq.edu.au/transport
  - Carpooling: www.co-hop.com.au

Get more involved

Contact Samantha: samantha.newton@mq.edu.au
Sustainability website: www.mq.edu.au/sustainability