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**ChemNet skype meeting #5**

**Wednesday May 2 at noon Brisbane time**

Attendees:

James Mitchell Crow (Project officer) jmitchellcrow

Gwen Lawrie (UQ) gwen.lawrie64

Will Rifkin (USyd) will\_rifkin

Madeleine Schultz (QUT) madeleine.schultz

Dino Spagnoli (UWA) dino.spagnoli

Roy Tasker (UWS)

Siggi Schmid (Sydney)

Feng Wang (Swinburne)

Steph Beames (QUT)

**Minutes:**

**1. Reports from working groups**

* **website: Madeleine**
  + calendar installed (showing meetings and conferences)
  + resource submission open
  + can the resources be in dropbox? (Will)
  + sharing resources – can bring some things on a USB stick if seeing people in person at conferences
* **mapping: Madeleine**
  + 8 unis are finished, 3 waiting on
  + Dino – it didn’t take too long; one afternoon looking at unit outlines; assessment hasn’t changed in some time so quite quick to see what assessment was about; only looked at first three years
  + James has done the bulk of work for Curtin and Melbourne
  + Stefan Huth to do this week
  + Siggi: James could do Sydney – first year all online firstyear.chem.usyd.edu.au; second and third year will need someone to send.
  + Roy: will send to James
* **TLOs: James**
* finished first pilot exercise to map TLOs to first year units UTas, Monash, Macquarie and Woollongong. Waiting for feedback, once all happy with it will go onto second year and third year.
* then move onto other unis
* only units in the major
* there will be a preliminary report
* **resources: Madeleine**
  + form is now on website (need to log in!). How do we encourage people to use it?
  + Siggi –to ask people who submitted items for feedback on form first for feedback on form.
  + MS to ask everyone to have a critical look at form – anyone, ManCom, ...
* **standards** – Greg, Dan S have shown interest...
  + Roy: learning outcomes in units, what you claim and how these are couched. This determines how they are assessed. Trying to compare different courses means that comparing learning outcomes and how they are achieved. This conversation needs us to share the learning outcomes that we aim out of the units.
  + James: TLO project is comparing the stated LO
  + Madeleine: looking for guidance in setting assessment items and knowing that other unis have high standards would help make it ambitious
  + Dino: as a new lecturer you have open canvas setting assessment using material from previous years. Good things about this network is trying to change what has been done in the past and how chemistry was taught – can become dated and stale. Some kind of standardisation and knowing that what is being taught and assessed is common around Aus is important.
  + Will: notion of touchstone but with flexibility – eg have a fictional curriculum – need to ensure that you had some agreement with it. Conversations about what is happening.
  + Madeleine: content – what is in vs depth – how hard?
  + Roy – this will not be homogenisation – we all have first year chem for different students – some will continue in chem; the majority will not. No reason to feel that it has to be one size fits all. What is valuable is to see the different approaches? Why is some certain content in vs out? Why are applications in vs out (time constraints) – what is needed for second year. Need to look at each others assessment items.
  + James – this does not really overlap TLO project; there is nothing about what the actual content is. If you look at TLOs, only one is about content/level. Much broader – around graduate skills and attributes so there is not really a big overlap with standards. Not all unis have shared their exam questions.
  + Roy – important issue – pressure to increase the number of MC questions in final exams – to reduce cost of marking. Roy says that even though students do not get feedback, we need them to have generic skills eg communicate in writing, quantitative literacy... End result 50% MC 50% SA. Previously no MC. Exam worth 40% (dropped) and only 2 hours (shorter).
  + Will – notion of national standard – has political implications – opportunity to push the discipline in the direction you want. If our standards are vetted by national group and agreed, they have weight?
  + Madeleine to chair Standards WG and call a meeting Greg D, Dan S, Roy T – include someone from another discipline – Dann Mallet working on maths standards, or Margaret Wegener from UQ for insight.
  + Roy – although no-one wants homogeneity, when students change unis they want to use their chem units as credit at a different uni; rationale to know what people are doing and why. Is there a core curriculum that we would be prepared to publicise as certain essential core set of skills, content, prac experiences for first year.
  + Beyond first year, the whole degree ? there are so many types of chemistry degree
  + Will – GRE exam covers 4000 universities, has some idea of what is essential
  + Roy: in the UK, the RSC has mapped what constitutes adequate content and skill coverage for a chemistry degree in the UK; Bologna in Europe has helped this discussion. Simon Bedford has a lot of experience with UK system – invite to standards working group.
  + Need to talk to Glennys... she was at the UK conference recently.
  + SaMnet has Paul Gin from HEA on advisory committee (Will).

**2. ChemEd2012 in Adelaide:**

* everyone should have heard that their abstract is accepted.
* please use logo on your slides/poster (available under Resources on website)
* badges will be distributed at our Symposium

**3. Issues for ManCom?**

Please let Madeleine know in advance of next ManCom meeting (first week of June)

**4. Other business**

* Will R –National Uni of Singapore. Adrian Lee – James can invite to join ChemNet.
* John Rice should contact discipline networks to see who is going to which conferences so that they can meet in person. eg HERDSA, FYHE, ACSME
* MS should send ACSME call for papers in next update.
* Tom Holme visit – Sydney June 26-27 – recover from flight on Tuesday, round table on Wednesday, Brisbane June 28-29, then Adelaide... Sydney accomm?

Where should the meeting be? Sydney – Adam to book a room (20 people) and then MS to advertise. Tuesday arvo or Wednesday, someone to take him for dinner Tuesday night. Maybe include people from other disciplines..

**Next meeting:** Wednesday May 30 same time (noon for everyone in eastern states, 10 am in Perth).