

Minutes of the School Meeting held on 13 January 2016

1. HOS Update

- **Vacant Positions:**

The 4 BIO Faculty ATR positions discussed in the last School Meeting have been signed off. Person specification and advertisement wording should be complete by the end of January. The posts will be advertised in Nature and interviews will take place in June, the earliest date that the Dean can chair them.

- **Factors that would affect student numbers:**

Tamas met with the Executive team in early January to discuss BIO's performance – which is very good – and the factors that would allow the School to increase student numbers. It was agreed that an increase in staff numbers and teaching lab space would be essential.

2. BIO Energy Efficiency Project Update – Richard Bettle/Catrin Darlsley

[Energy efficiency presentation](#)
[ULT freezer management guide](#)

- **Slides 1 & 2: Energy consumption**

BIO's energy consumption averages 6000kWh per day. The aim is to reduce it to 4500kWh per day.

- **Slide 3: ULT freezers**

The ULT freezer guidance document link is above. The Sustainability team will be contacting freezer owners with further information about their energy usage and the possibility of replacing the oldest/worse ones. Richard confirmed there is a clear correlation between the age of the freezers and their energy usage.

- **Slides 4 & 5: Expected data and campaign plans**

If you have any comments or suggestions on where energy savings may be made, please contact Catrin Darlsley c.darsley@uea.ac.uk. Or if you are interested in your lab taking part in the Green Impact programme please email her. There are currently no BIO labs participating.

3. Teaching update – Mark Coleman

[Teaching presentation](#)

- **Slides 3 & 4: Coursework return**

Well done to all markers on our much improved coursework return times. So far we returned ALL coursework within the required 20 days limit and more than half were returned within 15 days.

- **Slides 7 – 12: Structure of Academic Year**

The minutes on Slide 8 are still in draft format and not confirmed. No official announcement or confirmation has been made.

The idea of a Week 7 Enrichment Week was strongly condemned by most attendees as it interrupts teaching. Particular attention was drawn to lab practical schedules and 3rd year projects. Tamas confirmed that 3rd year projects would continue, with students being urged to focus on them during Week 7, and essential teaching activities would also continue. It was noted that some of the activities listed on Slide 10 are simply not feasible or practical, and that BIO should raise formal concerns, possibly jointly with the other SCI Schools.

Sam reported that the Careers Service and the Associate Dean (AD) for Employability are opposed to this structure change in its current form, as there has been a lack of consultation and planning. It was noted that the University of Exeter tried something similar recently, which was unsuccessful.

ACTION: Sam will send further information to Mark, cc'ing Tamas, who will then discuss this further with the AD for Employability.

4. Enterprise & Impact Funding – Richard Bowater

- Richard encouraged people to attend the SCI Enterprise & Engagement Club seminar to be delivered on 20th January by Dr Jonathan Milner
- Richard highlighted different funding from UEA/NRP that is available for developing projects that link to enterprise or research impact. Further information is available at <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/ren/find-funding/internal-funding>

5. Any Other Business

None