

Minutes of the School Meeting held on 12th June 2019

1. HOS update – Tamas Dalmay

Tamas gave a update on the most recent round of interviews – To make up one 1.5 FT ATS appointment Tony Blake has been appointed at 0.9 FTE (in addition to a 0.1 fixed term position covering a buy-out) and the remaining 0.6 FTE is to be covered by Laura Wagstaff, who will be starting on the 1st September. There is still a 0.7 FT being advertised that covers another 2 buyouts. Phil Leftwich who has worked at BIO previously in several positions will be covering Kay's position.

BIO Floor 02 – The engineering subgroup (part of MTH) submitted a bid to the local enterprise partnership for £14 Million to create 'The Institute of Productivity' a combination of labs and teaching space. The reply was that the funding wouldn't be £14 Million it would only be £4 Million. Tamas said they are working on a revised bid so they don't know how much they will get.

In terms of the move to Building 60 Tamas reported that the 'Fish Room' (part of Martin Taylor's work) will remain with BIO as will the Cold Room. BIO will lose 2 of the Glass rooms/Auto Clave rooms as well as the MSC Teaching lab. Tamas said he has no control over this process and it wasn't his decision. One of the new labs in Building 60 will take the 'George Duncan' name. In response to questions about losing space Tamas replied that he has been told that BIO is gaining more space in Building 60 and that if research space has been lost this is a problem to be dealt with at different time. Tamas doesn't know who would be in charge of safety on Floor 02, he thinks it will fall under Engineering, he will raise it with the appropriate people.

2. Process for visiting PhD Students

Tracey explained that if you have a visitor coming to BIO it makes a difference if they have the right to work in the UK and as soon as you have details you should start the visiting process. If they are coming from an EEA country they have a right to work in the UK. If they are coming from outside of the EEA then their right to work in the UK must be established.

Tracey explained that she has a visitor coming from Canada and that they were sorting out the Visa at their end (Canada) which she found out is the wrong way to do it. The length of the visit is crucial – it falls into 1 of 3 categories, less than 3 months, 3-6 months, and finally more than 6 months. Each category has various levels of difficulty (for example an interview) which can affect the timeframe it takes to get the process completed.

Tamas finished by stating that faculty should not be sending invitation letters – we don't necessarily know what visa they need so we wouldn't know what to write in the letter. If you have any concerns please speak to Charlotte – if she doesn't know she will be able to advise how to get help.

3. Entrepreneur in Residence – David Dent

David introduced himself as the BIO Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence, a post he has been in working in part time since May. David gave some background on himself, his credentials and his working career (Slide 2). David gave a breakdown of what an entrepreneur is, what they do and why they do it (Slide 3) and continued by explaining the impact that entrepreneurs aim for (Slide 4). David talked through some of the products and companies he has designed/established (Slides 5 & 6) focusing on herbicide adjuvants, a payment system and method for rounding up payments on PIN payment systems to donate to charity. This is called the 'Pennies Foundation' and is has raised over £18 million since its introduction, helping more than 400 charities. Moving on to talking about delivering impact (Slides 7-9) David explained some of the projects he has been involved in and both the direct and indirect impacts these have achieved. Finally David set out what he viewed his role at BIO as being, namely helping BIO to deliver impact (Slide 10) which will be achieved through various methods such as careers advice, mentoring, seminars and more. David is happy to meet to discuss any projects or any queries anyone has, but he can only help if he understands the scope and breadth of what we at BIO are doing.

4. Exam timetabling – Katie Noble

Katie spoke about 2nd year exam timetabling though she is a 3rd year course rep. Katie received various exam timetables from students who contacted her with concerns that the timetabling seemed quite illogical to them. As an example, Biomedicine has 6 modules, all of which are compulsory, and in the first week they had 4 exams in the first 4 days and then 2 exams which were more spread put. The 2nd year Biological Sciences have more choice of which modules they can take, and as an example Katie showed one student who had 6 exams within a 9 day period, all worth 60% of the overall grade and all over 2 hours in length.

Katie proposed some solutions – Spot checking student exam timetables for feasibility, use more of the 4 week exam period, more consistency among BIO exam timetables, lower exam weighting and January exams.

5. Improving the accessibility of modules – Emilia Bugg

Emilia introduced herself as representing BIO disabled students on SU committees and she is part of a team of interns who are involved in a project to try and better support UEA disabled students in their studies. Due to time constraints Emilia didn't get time to present her whole presentation. Emilia will have left UEA by the time of the projects completion so someone from the group will present the findings at a meeting during the new academic term in September. To start Emilia suggested those involved in teaching focus on their image descriptions and that text is Sans Serif, black in colour on a white background.

6. Any Other Business

- None