

Minutes of the School Meeting held on 13 November 2019

1. Head of School update (Tamas Dalmay)

- Upcoming strikes – TD encouraged those who plan to strike to inform their students in advance as a gesture of goodwill, so they don't turn up to lectures/seminars unnecessarily.
- Lewis Spurgin is the new UCU rep for BIO. Please contact him with any questions.

2. SCI Media Coverage Report (Simon Dunford - ARM)

[See attached presentation](#)

- If anyone is interested in pitching ideas and subsequently writing for The Conversation, or being part of the SCI Expert Alerts, please contact Simon. Training is provided for The Conversation, and Simon's team assist with Expert Alerts.
- Coordination between partnership universities/organisations for press releases is necessary to avoid duplication of effort/information.
- The Executive Team receive this report and value positive media coverage. They are investigating strategies to determine how our internationally high media profile can help UEA ascend the league tables.

3. The EDESIA: Plant Food and Health Wellcome Trust PhD Programme (Ian Clark)

[See attached presentation](#)

- This new PhD programme is NRP-wide and looks at linking up plant-based diets with health and nutrition.
- The programme duration is 5 years, with Year 1 involving 3 x rotations across NRP and Year 5 a 9-month career placement anywhere, not necessarily related to their PhD. The rotational aspect is new for BIO but already in place at JIC. Although it wasn't a mandatory part of the bid, all the successful bids had some sort of rotational aspect.
- The programme will include vacation studentships each year. Details are awaiting finalisation but will likely be 8 UG studentships each year, with students not necessarily from UEA.
- PhD stipends are the same as other Wellcome stipends.

4. Web Project Update (Lewis Spurgin)

- Lewis provided a brief overview of the new website, which will be image-heavy with text kept to a minimum.
- Theme pages will be automatically populated from Pure. Pure will have details of PIs' research groups.
- Lewis asked that everyone ensure their photo is up to date for the People Pages.

5. BAME – Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic Group (Maisha Reza)

[See attached presentation](#)

- Maisha sits on the UEA Race Equality Charter, which we are applying for in 2021. She is a member of the BIO Equality and Diversity Committee and involved in Widening Participation activities.
- Maisha reminded advisers to send students to BAME or Maisha directly if they need support.

6. Blackboard Ally (Graham Riley)

[See attached presentation](#)

- This software performs an automatic check on uploaded documents to assess and rate their accessibility. It also generates alternative file formats such as electronic Braille and mp3 audio. Note that students cannot see the ratings on documents.
- Please send any queries or feedback to Graham or Carl Harrington.

7. Any Other Business

- Referees for PGR applicants: An issue was raised regarding referees for PGR applicants not receiving emails requesting references, now we have moved over to a new system, TargetX. Gabriella will forward an email providing instructions on how to enrol on the new system. Please check your junk folder as well as inbox.