UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT & STAFF MEETING

Tuesday, 16 May 2017 @ 1:00 pm

APHB Seminar Room north (1.81)

AGENDA

Chair – Fiona O’Shea

Student Representatives: Shakira Donovan (ANHB2212), Caitlyn Taylor (PHYL2212/PHYL3001/3002), Jasmine Rose Begovich (PHYL3001/3002), Erin Hassett (PHYL3001/3002), Patricia Leake (ANHB1101), Anthony Gielens (ANHB3310), Dune Du Plessis (ANHB2212), Ohad Vider (PHYL3001/3002), Kingsley Ung (PODI4104), Marion Oh (PODI4104), Georgina Earl (ANHB2217), Hannah Greig (ANHB3323), Li Yan Teo (ANHB4103), Danielle Sampson (ANHB3323)

Staff: Debbie Hull, Daniel Franklin, Archa Fox, Yu Suk Choi, Vanessa Hayes, Peter Mark, Debra Judge, Gavin Pinniger, Stuart Bunt, Tony Bakker, Shane Maloney.

Welcome

Fiona opened the meeting at 1pm. She introduced herself as the School’s Education Committee Representative for the Faculty and asked if everyone could take three to four minutes per unit as there were a lot to get through. She thanked the students taking the time out of their busy schedules to come and provide feedback, it was appreciated and valued.

Reports

ANHB3323 – Cells, Tissues and Development (Stuart Hodgetts, Archa Fox, Yu Suk Choi)

- Nice to have a level 3 unit that deals with cells and tissue
- Good to have a more research focussed unit.
- Not enough information provided for the essay
- Presentations being examinable content – students worried that they might not give a good presentation.
- Guest lecturers – enjoyable, strong focus on research – translated to course, not sure what they might be examined on?
- Final test – students feel it should be an exam during the exam period
- Not enough prerequisites listed in the unit guide book.
- Would like weekly quizzes to provide feedback on learning, would help with their essays and speech.
- AF said this was helpful feedback. She had also come to the conclusion that the exam should be run in the exam period. The unit had not been run for a few years and had been run as it had been previously so this was valuable feedback.
ANHB1101 - Human Biology (Fiona O’Shea, Vanessa Hayes)

- Three students provided feedback to Vanessa
- VH said students were happy with the unit, and commented on the enthusiasm of their lecturers and tutors.
- Assessment concerns – 70% exam, could be easy to pass as the first 30% was achievable, but achieving a high distinction could be hard to achieve. Alternative ways to weight?
- Text references during the lectures would be useful. VH has provided
- VH aware that students not happy with the 70% exam and from next semester will change the weighting to 40% (10% attendance/participation, 30% continuous assessments) and 60% exam as a trial. Could introduce a 20% essay, but students feel equally worried by that. (assessment on quality of writing, research etc).

IMED1001 – Form and Function (Avinash Bharadwaj, Robert White)

No student reps.

ANHB2217 – Human Neurobiology (Stuart Bunt)

- Students enjoy the content
- Challenging and fast paced, lectures really stimulating
- Addition of current research really good, inspires students
- Extra interest articles on Blackboard well received
- Facebook page with extra interests
- Lectures are really good, run to time and good use of diagrams, however the focus on key topics or processes can sometimes be skipped over and the content can be a sidetrack from the basic topic.
- Students are doing wider readings but not sure on how much content they should be concentrating on.
- Labs are really helpful. Some students feel having the lack of structure they concentrate on their learning areas more, whereas others think they are wasting time and would like some structure, maybe with a demonstrator at each station.
- Prelab demonstrations by Stuart and Akram are really great, sometimes a bit fast. Could they be recorded?
- Assessment – quizzes are quite difficult, but good for revision afterwards.
- Exam – how specific would the questions be? Students study widely, but can’t apply all of the content studied for. Mid –semester exam is good preparation.
- SB – agrees he can go off on a tangent in the lectures, but hopes that makes them a bit more interesting. He tries to put it in the context of research. The exams are based on the powerpoint. The quizzes can be a problem. He asks questions before the next lab to encourage pre-reading, and even though they are hard ,they are open book and can be taken a few times.
- SB – Exam questions any three from a lot, aimed so students would know something from each.
- Would love to be able to record in the DR, AV not recordable. Alan’s have been uploaded, but are different to Stuart’s and he will look at updating.
ANHB2212 – Human Structure & Development (Dan Franklin)

- Unit content is interesting
- Lectures are generally interesting and well delivered
- Labs – want more out of the labs, many tutors present at start of lab when lab books are marked but they disappear, leaving only a couple in the lab to assist. Not enough time with tutors.
- Tutor explanations regarding cadavers are hard to hear and see with too many students crowding around. Maybe, allocate small groups to a tutor and move table to table, or have a tutor at a table of their expertise.
- Understand students are encouraged to learn independently, but a balance would be helpful.
- Tutors helpful, even though limited numbers.
- On-line lectures are really hard to hear and can’t be downloaded. Especially Dan’s.
- Last lecture before the lab is on the Thursday, if students can’t get to the lecture, don’t get the chance to check the content covered in the lab the next day. Difficult to prepare and complete the lab.
- A prelab would be helpful as per the neuro prelab at the start. Everyone is there with the same mindset.
- Lab books consolidate learning.
- DF – fantastic feedback. Currently in the process of reworking unit.
- The bulk of lectures are going on-line. Dan will examine masterfiles of quiet lectures.
- Deployment of lectures – on-line not restricted, however live ones are locked in due to venue availability.
- Pracs – looking at this area now. Difficult to tackle, everyone turns up early to have pre-lab work marked. This takes 5 tutors, does leave a deficit of student to tutor ratio in the lab as students enter. DF ideally would like the marking to go on-line, is looking at the possibility. He likes the idea of a prelab and tutors on stations. Has some new tutors.

ANHB2215 – Human Adaptation & Variation (Debra Judge)

- DJ for the first time in 12 years, not one student was sufficiently unhappy to attend the meeting.
- Feedback provided has been positive. Like the fact that lecture material is applied to tutorials.
- In response to prior feedback, reduced the number of questions in the mid-term and that resulted in an increase of 5 points in the mean exam score
- Correlation between exams indicated people having lower scores not having time to finish.

ANHB3310 – Human Biology: Applications & Investigations 1 (Peter Mark)

- PM put up a forum on LMS and students contributed their feedback and Anthony has collated this information.
- Positive feedback received, commended staff for being exceptionally helpful, particularly in the labs.
- Like the relevance to the other units undertaken by students and gives them a better perspective and understanding of the other units they are enrolled in.
ANHB3310 continued……

- Stats and the labs were not too difficult. The stats test close to the labs allowed them to see what they were doing and apply it.
- The unit presented an introduction to work in research. Gave students an idea of the next step in their studies ie. Research, Masters or Honours.
- All the groups seemed to get along. Two hour block following the lab helpful.
- Negatives – lack of communication between supervisors of group projects and unit coordinators. Eg. Supervisors telling groups they had good projects but receiving lower marks than expected. Supervisor not fully informed on what was expected.
- Stats tests straight after labs, many students struggled with the time allowance – an extra 10 to 15 minutes extra would be beneficial.
- Genstat software – doesn’t give students an understanding of stats, just gives results, not the theory behind the stats.
- Order of the unit/overall structure was questioned. Lectures not needed. Unit not
- Assignments too heavily weighted on one or two (also due in the same week), other assignments of no benefit.
- Weekly reflective forum – no benefit, students found it difficult to find something to say.
- Not engaging enough
- PM conceded the lack of communication between unit coordinators and himself in the change of approach to the ethics applications. Was mentioned 4 to 5 times up the front and written in the instructions for the assessment what was required. Ethics consideration needs to be addressed, thought that was clear. If there was an issue with different advice coming from different areas then someone should have approached him to let him know. He will look at improving this method
- PM Timing of stats test – just about finished marking, high number of people received marks in the 90’s. Same as past years.
- PM - Genstat – not all of the supervisors that host the project use the program in their unit, but it is used around the world and is a normal statistical program.
- PM -assessments in the final week, need to complete the work which is critical for preparation for the presentation and applies to the final assignment all apparent in the manuscript. Not wasted work,
- Students worried that the majority of the units marks are in the same week, within a couple of days. PM said 50% of the unit. He could push the manuscript back but then will impinge on preparation for exams. Needs to be later in semester.
- PM considering dropping the weekly reflective forum based on feedback.

ANHB3321 – Biological Anthropology: Genes & Society (Silvana Gaudieri/Stuart Hodgetts)

No student reps.

ANHB3324 – Human Structure and Function (Marc Tennant)

- Echo player deteriorated this semester. Cannot pause for long period of time, resets to start. Video not available, audio available on most files. Live lectures, not only 3324 but 3321.
- FO’S will follow up with Marc.
- Not only Anatomy but other units. DF said his recording sounds clear, but this is not the end result.
- Streaming, not downloadable due to copyright, intellectual property.
ANHB3324 continued........

- Labs are run very well because a pre lab is required. Initially students were annoyed but have adapted and now find this very useful.
- Lecture recording problems in the John Bloomfield Lecture Theatre have been reported.

PHYL3002 - Physiology of Cardiovascular & Respiratory Systems (Peter McFawn)
PHYL3001 – Physiology of Membranes, Muscles and Signalling (Gavin Pinniger)

Combined feedback

- Students really like the post lab tutorial lectures, cover main content
- Like the clear aims at the lectures. Like Peter’s jokes.
- Like the hands-on labs, even though the results might not be great the experience is good.
- Like how involved the Unit Coordinators and tutors are in the labs. Available to ask questions.
- Would like tutorial session for opportunity to discuss/review concepts. Labs based on specific topics, students would like a general review of topics.
- Tutors available in the on-line forums to answer questions would be helpful.
- PHYL2001/2002 tutorials were
- LCS some lectures don’t work eg. Wils & Tats venues. Impedes students - what is available in lectures not always available in dot points on slides. References sometimes not available, hard to know what to study.
- Lectures with a lot of diagrams, please don’t use laser pointer, use the mouse.
- Lecture Monday 4pm, next lecture Tuesday 9am, difficult to catch up if Monday missed. Monday upload can be within 3-4 hours, but sometimes will be the next morning.
- Lab report marking inconsistencies – up to 10% to 15% between tutors. Content, formatting – not sure what the issues are.
- PHYL3001- students grateful lab report pushed back
- PHYL3002 - some not happy with 3 assessments in the final week, stats test on Tuesday, poster presentations Wednesday to Friday and rabbit lab reports due on the Friday – study for exam delayed. 20% poster presentation earlier – WK 10?
- PMcF- moderation tried – not working.
- Students putting a lot of effort into labs and marks not reflected like in 2nd year.
- Can the same marker be kept for student’s work, as per scientific reviewers/publishers? Consistency. Example of what markers are looking for?
- PHYL3001 gave general feedback on line.
- GP – marking issue comes up every year. Have tried for equity in marks. Markers are given example reports and feedback on marking. Marks are checked between markers and averaged. Relatively consistent.
- GP – big issue, level of feedback from markers. GP spends a lot of time checking over papers. Tutors do not have enough time, time marking reports and adding comments is more than the 20 minutes they are paid per report. Maybe tutorial based feedback might address this issue.
PODI4104 – Lower Extremity Functional Anatomy and Physiology

- Students like to hear about the bigger picture from Prof Bunt
- Lectures – sometimes a bit off topic, run out of time to address the slides etc. Hard to find info on topic online.
- More non-graded practise questions please
- Worried about exam
- Mid-semester prac exam bit confusing – no practise run, starting at different stations – confused on how to mark paper.
- Some students found labs confusing as they did not line up with the lecture material
- Pre-lab quizzes were not available.
- Sometimes lab demonstrators not very helpful, some directed learning.
- SB – apologies, next year’s students will have a mock exam as per ANHB2217. Quizzes each week – different from exam questions? Anzac day, Study Break, exams etc. might have led to a deficit in quizzes. Apologised for straying from unit structure in lectures. Just dictating lists of muscles and lists of nerves waste of time, factual download.
- Limb abnormalities lecture – too much information in one lecture.
- SB asked for more feedback.

PHYL2001 – Physiology of Human Body Systems (Tony Bakker)

- Anatomy in PHYL2001 easy, but hard to focus on lecture with writing and pictures. Would like more writing. Hard to take notes.
- Labs – tutor discrepancies in advice given.
- Exam – don’t know what to expect. No test, all lab based.
- TB – past exams are put up towards the end of semester, along with some review quizzes. Try to have the same demonstrators for marking – sometimes out of control. Please provide feedback via email regarding discrepancies and relevant information can be added to the guides for tutors.

ANHB3328 – Communications Systems in the Human Body (Tony Bakker)

No student reps

Meeting closed at 2pm.