

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

DEPARTMENTS OF BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY

Biology – Chemistry Planning Group Minutes of Meeting held on 9th February 2009

Present: Paul Walton (PHW - Chair), Dale Sanders (DS), John Pillmoor (JBP), James Moir (JM), Tony Wilkinson (AJW), Ottoline Leyser (HMOL), Christoph Baumann (CB), Keith Wilson (KSW), Colin Kleanthous (CK), Rod Hubbard (REHu)

In attendance: Belinda Wade (BJW)

Apologies: Jennifer Potts (JP)

Action

09/01 Minutes of the last meeting: 9th December 2008

The minutes were agreed.

09/02 Matters arising from the Biology-Chemistry Planning Group: 9th December 2008

i) From minute 08/34 (i) Biochemistry programme on the Chemistry website

PHW confirmed that the Biochemistry programme now had a more prominent presence on the Chemistry website.

ii) From minute 08/35 Biology-Chemistry research collaborations

HMOL apologised that she had not yet written to staff regarding potential research collaborations.

HMOL

PHW suggested that once this had been done the information should be sent to the Dean of HYMS since HYMS was in the process of developing its own strategy for biomedicine. It was thought that a spread of departments should be involved in a general biomedical strategy. PHW and REHu are going to write to the Dean of HYMS soon to this effect on behalf of the Chemistry Department but will get Biology's input before sending the letter.

PHW/REHu

09/03 HiTEL management - update

REHu tabled a report from the HiTEL Management Committee. HiTEL is working well for bacterial expression if the runs are done properly. Over the past 4-5 months the major issues are the way in which the service is managed and how it interacts with its user base. A major review is due and a meeting has been arranged for February 17th to confirm that there is sufficient new bacterial business and to address the baculovirus issue. The report and financial plan from this meeting will then be brought to the BCPG.

REHu

09/04 RAE results in both Departments

PHW suggested that since both Chemistry and Biology had done so well in the recent RAE any extra QR funding obtained by the University should be made available for joint initiatives and not simply spread across all university departments. DS warned that at the recent meeting of Senate the latter option had been favoured.

He therefore suggested that a letter should be sent through the Academic Coordinator, for attention of the Senior Management Group, to emphasise exciting joint strategies and point out that QR funding could be used to fund these. It was thought that QR figures would be announced in about a month's time and that this letter should be sent before then.

PHW/DS

09/05

Any Other Business

JM tabled a document about the proposed Biochemistry undergraduate programme under the new modular scheme. The only issue for the Curriculum Development Team was that the Biology Department must give equal weighting to module credits and the final degree. The document was discussed and it was confirmed that both the Biology and Chemistry Departments have worked together on this.

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 28th at 14:00 in Biology K157A (Science City York room)

Dale Sanders
Belinda Wade
16th February 2009