MSc in Biological Sciences Research

End of Term Meeting with Programme Director

22\textsuperscript{nd} March 2017, 10am, Room B602

\textbf{Present:} Most students in attendance.

\textbf{Programme Director} – Pavlos Alifragis (Chair)
\textbf{Programme Admin} – Tracey Jeffries (Notes)

Pavlos thanked the group for coming and advised this session was an informal request for feedback, a catch up and reminder of some forthcoming events.

\textbf{10 minute oral presentations to lab group and supervisor}
By now all students should have given at least one presentation to their group. This is good practice for the longer assessed presentation in June.

\textbf{Literature Reviews}
By now, everyone choosing to submit a paper rather than a thesis should have sent their literature review to their supervisor and had feedback. As this is a substantial part of your submission this make the summer submission somewhat easier for both you and your supervisor. If anyone is still waiting for feedback please make us aware.

\textbf{Thesis or paper submission?}
Looks like most students have opted for the paper and literature review submission. This being the case it is good that we have the literature review out of the way.

\textbf{Draft Methods and Materials}
Make sure that you have decided with your supervisor what your target journal will be. Do not delay if you have not already decided.

\textbf{Lab Book Updates}
Please keep these coming. These are required at the end of EVERY month.

\textbf{Oral Presentations to School – June}
The practice slot sheet will be available in the Alice room soon. Feel free to sign up and make use of this time in the lecture theatre.

Please encourage your supervisor and group to come to these. Assessment comes from both PI’s and peers. This is good experience for you to give feedback and in past experience the marking from students has been in line with that of PI’s.
Term 3
This is likely to be your busiest and most productive term. Push to complete data capture and keep in touch with your supervisor.

WordPress
Just a reminder of the extension to 29th March for this session. Thanks everyone for their patience as we ran this session for the first time, we appreciate there were a few set up issues and have learned from this.

It was pointed out that some of the email address were UG addresses. Thanks for pointing this out. We can run a check on these before the session next year.

Some students felt a step by step guide may have been a bit more helpful and maybe sent in advance of the session so students can prepare the set up.

Some of the things covered in the session were not in the notes but have now appeared in a later version of the notes.

Please leave us further feedback on this session on the WordPress section of Moodle.

Advanced Feature of Office
There was mixed opinion of this revamped session. Some students found it really useful whereas others found they wouldn’t use some of the content eg databases.

This session was modified to an advanced session based on feedback in previous years that the Office sessions were too easy and covered stuff students were already familiar with. Feedback from this tutor for the session was that she felt some students were lacking some of the basics. We hope at least that this session highlights what the packages can do for you.

Overall opinion was to drop the PowerPoint section to allow more time for the rest of the content.

Some felt that it came a little late in the year as it would have helped to have known some of this earlier on. Being earlier could also help with the literature review.

Pavlos pointed out that looking ahead these skills are very likely going to be needed as we seek employment in many areas.

NSS Survey
Becky Thomas arrived to ask if students could five some time to completing the online PG student survey. Most students kindly took up the offer.

Pavlos thanked everyone for attending.