School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Chemistry for Bioscientists		
Unit code: CHEM10022		
Unit co-ordinator: Gavin Miller		
No of students taking unit: 120		
Other teaching staff: Jason Micklefield, Patrick O'Malley		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	25/120 20.83%	4.08
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	25/120 20.83%	3.52
This unit was well organised	25/120 20.83%	4.32
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	25/120 20.83%	3.68
Feedback on student comments: A description of the link to past papers will be included at the start of the course and added to the blackboard homepage.		

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Basic Physical Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM10212		
Unit co-ordinator: Klaus Muller-Dethlefs		
No of students taking unit: 230		
Other teaching staff: Jonathan Agger, Gareth Morris		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	70/230 30.43%	4.04
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	70/230 30.43%	3.76
This unit was well organised	70/230 30.43%	4.06
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	70/230 30.43%	3.73

Feedback on student comments:

Students provided very useful comments that we have taken on board to further improve this course. It is understood that QM and thermodynamics provide the students with more challenging problems then kinetics. In thermodynamics some part of the use of the Gibbs energy and its relation to the equilibrium constant will be expressed more clearly. In quantum mechanics the presentation in the form of deriving the required equations on the Visualiser will be enhanced by using clearer presentation procedures. In addition, also a fully retyped script of the Visualiser content will be provided for Blackboard, together with the summary for each lecture.

We also agree with the efficiency of the podcasts and will push for further improving the technical quality of the recordings.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Basic Inorganic Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM10312		
Unit co-ordinator: Richard Layfield		
No of students taking unit: 235		
Other teaching staff: Sarah Heath		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	62/235 26.38%	4.85
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	62/235 26.38%	4.48
This unit was well organised	62/235 26.38%	4.81
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	62/235 26.38	4.15

Feedback on student comments:

On the whole, the course has been well received by the students. There is no obvious need to change any of the content or the way it is delivered: the straightforward lecturing methods appear to have resulted in effective learning outcomes. The possibility of issuing more chocolate during lectures will be investigated.

Dr Layfield is on sabbatical during 2014/15 and so this lecture material will be delivered by another member of staff.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Organic Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM10412		
Unit co-ordinator: David Procter		
No of students taking unit: 240		
Other teaching staff: Jonathan Clayden, John Gardiner,		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	64/240 26.67%	3.61
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	64/240 26.67%	3.97
This unit was well organised	64/240 26.67%	4.03
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	64/240 26.67%	3.83

Feedback on student comments:

We are pleased with the response from the class. We will try to produce neater annotations when using visualiser in lectures. Using the microphone should help quiet lecturers. We will include examples of applications of the chemistry during the course. We will support the lectures with tutorials and workshop discussion sessions. There is little we can do regarding the mechanistic content of the course. We have to teach this material as it is essential for all aspects of the chemistry degree.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Introduction to Forensic & Analytical Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM10812		
Unit co-ordinator: Roy Goodacre,		
No of students taking unit: 81		
Other teaching staff: Robin Pritchard, Vasudevan Ramesh		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	23/81 28.4%	3.48
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	23/81	2.74
This unit was well organised	28.4%	3.30
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	23/81	3.13

Feedback on student comments:

We thank the students for their very useful comments; there were 23 feedback forms submitted which was only 28.4% of the class.

Overall the feedback from the students was very positive. The course was generally well received, the lecture material deemed appropriate, interesting, placed in context, and the lectures were well delivered. In addition the on-line resources which including formative feedback in BB9 and extra material and slides was appreciated.

The main area for concern was in the analytical accuracy part of the course. This is a numerate discipline that requires the understanding of accuracy, precision, etc. along with calculations of errors on measurements. This is a part of the course that has historically been more difficult for some of the students and so next year we have decided not to change the content *per se* but to modify the delivery. In particular more time will be spent on the analytical accuracy part of the course than previously, more example problems will be carried out in class, and more detailed answers will be provided as feedback to the workshop questions than at present. We hope that this will help for 2014/5.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Core Physical 2		
Unit code: CHEM20212		
Unit co-ordinator: Peter Gorry,		
No of students taking unit: 167		
Other teaching staff: Neil Burton, Paul Popelier		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	58/167 34.73%	3.83
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	58/167 34.73%	3.57
This unit was well organised	58/167 34.73%	4.28
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	58/167 34.73%	4.02

Feedback on student comments:

With over 200 individual comments it's difficult to summarise. In many cases the same topic appears as both positive and negative depending on the student: Large handouts vs concise ones, humour in lectures, maths – not enough or too much…

Overall we are very pleased with the student feedback. In all questions the top two grades (agree, mostly agree) are by far the largest category. The percentages in the top two bands are:

Q1 Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent : 72.4%.

Q2 The feedback that I received on my work was helpful: 58.6%.

Q3 The unit was well organised: 86.2%.

Q4 The eLearning resources provided in this unit were helpful: 74.1%.

Q5 All Staff – content was excellent: 76.4%.

Q5 All Staff – delivery was excellent: 83.9%.

The question on feedback clearly has the poorest rating. However, the main feedback mechanism for this course is outside the lectures - via the three physical chemistry tutorials during semester 2 (and some PASS questions). These are an extensive set of questions covering all sections of the course, and feedback should be at the 'near personal' level in small group tutorials. Many students singled out tutorials as a positive feature, but it's not clear that all students have taken the role of tutorials into account in the answer. Within the course itself the main form of feedback is in the form of (optional) online tests – which generally were well received.

The issue of the mathematical content was raised several times. Physical chemistry is by definition the application to mathematical models to physical phenomena – so it is inescapable. Comments varied from "I genuinely believe that putting lots of equations in lectures is useless" to "MORE MATHS!!!!!!!!!!!... I feel I'm wasting my maths skills from 1st year maths lectures". We feel that the balance is about right.

Handouts again divide the class – probably the majority favour large comprehensive notes, but a significant number prefer concise ones – with key equations – especially at revision time. Some like having bits they have to complete – some think this a waste of time. Overall there is no clear preference and this remains left to individual lecturers.

Many students asked for more examples problems across all topics – this is difficult to achieve in the time available in lectures, and tutorial/pass are meant to address this. The possibility of further material on BB will be examined.

The examples/revision classes also came up several times – most found them useful, especially for exams. Some suggested a more 'workshop' approach, with problems completed with staff present after each topic. We have given considerable thought to this and feel the tutorials should provide the problem discussion and small group support of this type. We believe classes at the end of the course, to supplement revision and giving a clear idea of what constitutes a good answer, is actually more helpful.

Finally, the topic of the computational computer session was raised, some were critical of its usefulness, others felt more such classes would be better. Computational chemistry is a very important topic now – the 2013 chemistry Nobel prize went to pioneers in this area and the Nobel committee stated "Today the computer is just as important a tool for chemists as the test tube. Simulations are so realistic that they predict the outcome of traditional experiments". Unfortunately, we can only provide a brief introduction in CHEM20212 – but computers will play an expanding role in later years of the course for many of you and it's important to make you aware of this.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Inorganic Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM20312		
Unit co-ordinator: Mark W Whiteley,		
No of students taking unit: 167		
Other teaching staff: Michael Ingleson, Richard Winpenny		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	53/167 31.74%	4.28
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	53/167 31.74%	4.23
This unit was well organised	53/167 31.74%	4.32
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	53/167 31.74%	3.96

Feedback on student comments:

We are pleased with the generally positive comments received from students on the unit. All teaching staff thought that students engaged well with the course and we were pleased with the quality of answers to exam questions which resulted in a relatively high overall average for the unit.

The main negative issues were:

1. Arrangements for workshops and number of workshops
2. Some aspects of Prof. Winpenny's lecture delivery style
3. The volume of material presented by Dr. Ingleson.

1. In 2013/14 the unit consisted of 5 workshops and 18 lectures. We recognise that workshops are popular and will therefore not reduce their number. However there is a balance between the time allocated to workshops and lectures. A deficiency of lecture slots is detrimental to delivery of material in a correctly paced and structured manner. The timing of workshops in 2013-14 was determined by the 10 week span of teaching before the Easter break. As such the course was organised so that there were no lectures but only workshops after the Easter break. In 2014-15, there is a more usual 8 week block of teaching before Easter and a more normal pattern of a workshop at the end of each lecture block will be used.

2. Although there were some negative comments about Prof. Winpenny's lecture style there were also many positive aspects and students performed very well on Prof. Winpenny's exam question. For the 2014-15 academic year the d-block part

of the course will be delivered by Prof. McInnes

3. Although Dr Ingleson's notes are extensive, much of the material consists of examples to illustrate just a few basic principles. The key point is to understand the principles rather than to memorise each and every example.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Structure and reactivity of organic molecules		
Unit code: CHEM20412		
Unit co-ordinator: Jonathan Clayden,		
No of students taking unit: 165		
Other teaching staff: Andrew Horn,Timothy Wallace		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	53/165 32.12%	3.98
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	53/165 32.12%	4.00
This unit was well organised	53/165 32.12%	4.32
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	53/165 32.12%	4.06

Feedback on student comments:

The points about tutorial timing have been noted and we would like to try and address this problem: the cycle of tutorials and lectures is never perfect, but is particularly bad for this course.

Some students commented that Chromatography was out of place on ths course. Chromatography is an important and under-rated part of chemistry, and understanding it is vital in many parts of the field of chemistry and the chemical industry.

The courses on metabolites (from 20411) and stereochemistry will be swapped next year to avoid repetition of material and to allow stereochemical ideas to be developed more logically.

We will consider moving chromatography to the start of the semester, but this depends on academic commitments.

We appreciate comments on the high quality of the notes.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Soft Matter Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM30212		
Unit co-ordinator: Robert Dryfe,		
No of students taking unit: 167		
Other teaching staff: Peter Quayle, Michael Turner, Stephen Yeates		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	53/167 37.74%	3.60
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	53/167 37.74%	3.26
This unit was well organised	53/167 37.74%	3.85
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	53/167 37.74%	3.57

Feedback on student comments:

Mike Turner said he would use a microphone next year: some students found him hard to hear – note that we had to shift to larger lecture theatres because of the late addition of the MSc students.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Electronic Structure Calculations, Simulation and Photonics		
Unit code: CHEM30242		
Unit co-ordinator: Richard Henchman		
No of students taking unit: 47		
Other teaching staff: Klaus Muller-Dethlefs, Paul Popelier		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	10/47 21.28%	3.40
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	10/47 21.28%	3.30
This unit was well organised	10/47 21.28%	4.00
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	10/47 21.28%	3.80

Feedback on student comments:

Podcast videos of all three lecturers will be made available this year.

While most students were satisfied with the lecture notes, all three lecturers will continue to refine and improve their lecture notes.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Solid State & Surfaces		
Unit code: CHEM30312		
Unit co-ordinator: Nicholas Bryan / Martin Attfield		
No of students taking unit: 174		
Other teaching staff: Martin Attfield, Robin Pritchard		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	45/174 25.86%	3.73
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	45/174 25.86%	3.76
This unit was well organised	45/174 25.86%	4.22
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	45/174 25.86%	3.89

Feedback on student comments:

Overall we are pleased that this course was well received by the students as evidenced by the ratings and feedback provided for all aspects of the content and delivery of the course.

The following concerns that were raised by several students will be addressed:

(i) Sound quality in podcasts will improved where possible with current facilities.

(ii) Spacing in gapped lecture notes will be modified to fit closer to what the gap contains when completed.

(iii) Additional sectioning of the lecture notes with inclusion of summaries, learning objectives etc will be made as appropriate.

(iv) Distance learning students who struggle with the workshops in the course are reminded that they can contact the lecturers on the course for help on workshop questions by a variety of means (email, telephone, etc). They are also allocated a tutor to give remote support and can undertake tutorial work and submit this for feedback.

Additional individual concerns raised by students will be discussed in the annual review of the course and implemented where appropriate.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Core Organic C		
Unit code: CHEM30412		
Unit co-ordinator: Jason Micklefield		
No of students taking unit: 135		
Other teaching staff: Michael Turner, Tim Wallace		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	28/135 20.74%	4.18
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	28/135 20.74%	3.79
This unit was well organised	28/135 20.74%	4.43
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	28/135 20.74%	4.11

Feedback on student comments:

JM is pleased with the positive feedback. He was described as enthusiastic, with lively, interactive, interesting lectures relating to real life examples. Of the 14 students that provided written feedback, 7 students said the lecture notes/handouts/slides were good or very good and 3 students felt that JM regularly asking questions during lecture and at the end of the lecture course was helpful.

One student felt JM's course would fit in better with bioorganic and is similar to a JMG course. The same student did not like the lecture handouts and felt the questioning during lectures was patronising and they felt under pressure by the questions. JM response: The course is based on glycolysis and the citric acid cycle which should not overlap with JMG. The comments about handouts and questions during lectures are not in accord with the other students *vide supra*. Entering into discussions and addressing question during lectures can be difficult, but if the class becomes more familiar and comfortable with such interactions it can be a very valuable.

MLT response – Many thanks for the positive feedback, the students appeared to enjoy the course and the presentational approach adopted appealed to the students as it ensured that the pace of the delivery was commensurate with the rate at which the students can take notes. One student was concerned about the legibility of my handwriting at times and I will endeavour to address this next year by writing in capitals - all of the handwritten notes were posted on Blackboard so hopefully the students can check their notes using these.

TW presented his material in six lectures, and followed these with two workshops which focused on problem-solving (identifying and predicting reaction outcomes). The lectures were backed up with a booklet and online support (interactive web pages, Blackboard quizzes). TW will use the same format in the next session.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM30432		
Unit co-ordinator: John Gardiner		
No of students taking unit: 104		
Other teaching staff: Nicholas Turner, Fred Goldberg		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	23/104 22.12%	3.48
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	23/104 22.12%	2.96
This unit was well organised	23/104 22.12%	3.65
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	23/104 22.12%	3.35

Feedback on student comments:

The lecture block will involve a 15 minute inter-lecture break to prevent over-long lecturing, and also this will be an explicit slot for students to discuss content wit the lecturer, and/or address issues immediately.

This course will no longer have Year 4 students, so the content relationship to CHEM4 courses will no longer be relevant. CHEM30432 will be presumed to be a precursor to more extended coverage in year 4 of these areas.

The overlap of some med chem introductory concepts with sem 1 courses will be addressed, but noting that only med chemists (a minority of the cohort) will have seen this in that course. There will remain quite a wide background of biological and pharmaceutical previous knowledge as ths course does not have pre-requisites, and so we will make this clear at the outset for those students who may have extensive biology and felt that some sections were starting too basic for them. Other students found the same content suitable in level and the course will endeavour to accommodate this spectrum if prior student expertise and experience.

There will be some content changes and, where relevant, request for additional textual annotations on several parts of the course will be addressed by adding comments. The weekly summaries will be continued and extended.

We will aim to include a workshop style question in each block, in addition to online problems as previously.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Synthesis for Drug Discovery and Development		
Unit code: CHEM30442		
Unit co-ordinator: David Procter		
No of students taking unit: 23		
Other teaching staff: Leon Aarons, (Matt Ball)		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	7/23 30.43%	3.86
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	7/23 30.43%	2.71
This unit was well organised	7/23 30.43%	3.71
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	7/23 30.43%	3.43

Feedback on student comments:

We will drop the test aspect of the Pharmacy component next year and so there will only be a group mark. We will improve communication on the course to make sure students know what to expect and when. There will be a sample 'mock' paper and a past paper available to students for revision purposes next year. We will review the amount of material in the two lecture courses.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Case Studies in Experimental Physical Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM40232		
Unit co-ordinator: Joseph McDouall,		
No of students taking unit: 59		
Other teaching staff: Cinzia Casiraghi, Simon Pimblott, Vasudevan Ramesh		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	18/59 30.51%	3.94
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	18/59 30.51%	3.17
This unit was well organised	18/59 30.51%	4.28
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	18/59 30.51%	3.78

Feedback on student comments:

The returns submitted on the questionnaire for this course were very low with at most about 30% of the class providing comment and feedback on the course. Aspects of the delivery and content of the course that were appreciated by some students were disliked by other students. This makes it difficult to suggest specific changes that should be implemented for the unit. Different lecturers will always adopt different strategies with advanced level units and a diversity of approaches is inevitable. The unit exam produced a high average score indicating that the teaching and learning was entirely successful. Further provision of quizzes to enable students to assess their understanding of the material may be beneficial.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Topics in Inorganic Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM40322		
Unit co-ordinator: Alan Brisdon,		
No of students taking unit: 74		
Other teaching staff: Martin Attfield, Michael Ingleson, Richard Winpenny, David Mills, Louise Natrajan		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	24/74 32.43%	4.08
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	24/74 32.43%	3.83
This unit was well organised	24/74 32.43%	4.50
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	24/74 32.43%	4.29

Feedback on student comments:

The very positive responses to the lecturers, topics and overall style of this literature-based unit are welcome - no major changes are indicated. We will continue to up-date and refine the course so that we can maintain the high standards of delivery and chemistry on this popular and successful advanced inorganic chemistry unit.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Molecular Interactions & Analysis in Organic Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM40422		
Unit co-ordinator: Simon Webb		
No of students taking unit: 38		
Other teaching staff: David Procter, Lu Shin Wong, Tim Wallace		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	14/38 36.84%	4.21
The feeback that I received on my work was helpful	14/38 36.84%	3.71
This unit was well organised	14/38 36.84%	4.29
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	14/38 36.84%	4.21

Feedback on student comments:

We were pleased to read the positive comments of the students on this course. Although this course will be redesigned for the upcoming academic year, we will seek to maintain a high level of student satisfaction.

School of Chemistry: Unit Questionnaire Feedback Semester Two 2013/14

Unit title: Advanced Bioorganic Chemistry		
Unit code: CHEM41412		
Unit co-ordinator: Nicholas Turner		
No of students taking unit: 29		
Other teaching staff: David Leigh, Jason Micklefield,		
General University Questions	**Response**	**Mean score**
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	11/29 37.93%	4.09
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	11/29 37.93%	3.55
This unit was well organised	11/29 37.93%	4.00
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	11/29 37.93%	3.82

Feedback on student comments:

JM is pleased that all the comments he received were positive. He enjoyed teaching the class because they were very enthusiastic and interested in the science."

NJT was encouraged by the very positive feedback of the students but also noted that there is perhaps scope to omit some of the more basic material at the beginning of the course. However, care will need to be taken not to 'lose' students for whom this material is helpful in terms of background information.

The molecular machines module is to be moved to a different unit in 2014/15 and in addition the names of the lecturing staff will be advertised at the start of the course.