1. Familiarity with staff

The issue is that students don’t see a lot of the academic staff members and know little about them. This is especially important for those thinking of Honours, who would like to know more about the staff and the sort of work that they do. This might be helped by more information on the web page (see below), and by staff offering ‘work experience’ in their labs. It was likely that some students would be willing to volunteer for ~2 hours a week to get research experience. A trial program would be a good way to test if it was worthwhile.

2. Group work in labs and tutes

Group work has its advantages and disadvantages. The view was that a group size of 3-4 was optimal; groups larger than that were difficult to manage (eg, in scheduling meetings) and made it easier for a member to freeload on others.

3. Teaching in labs and tutorials

There was concern that the lab/tutorial program in some units was skimpy and did not provide learning experiences equivalent to those offered in other schools, despite being charged the same amount for tuition. The point was also made that inadequate lab programs made the transition to honours (where the emphasis is on independent research) more difficult.

4. Web page

The School’s web page was to be upgraded. A student page should have the following links:

- an FAQ with general information like writing reports, using Turnitin, and APA format
- academic staff links: who are they, and what do they do?
- link to on-line unit outlines
- link to experiments looking for participants
- link to labs looking for volunteers