**ChemNet Skype meeting 29/01/2014**

Dino Spagnoli (UWA)

Ian Jamie (Macquarie)

Kieran Lim (Deakin; host)

Glennys O’Brien (Wollongong)

Roy Tasker (UWS)

Stefan Huth (La Trobe; note-keeping)

**What’s happening?**

* *Roy: --*
* *Glennys: Student enrolment***Reminder: Academic Standards meeting Wednesday 5 February 2014 (09:00-16:30) at the Holiday Inn (Melbourne Airport) under the auspices of the RACI and the Chemistry Discipline Network**
* *Dino: How to select groups for pre-lab trial*Planning to introduce element of choice in student pre-lab activities (online incl. videos) so that students are able to explore and ask their own questions (e.g., what happens if this prac activity is done at a higher temperature?). Would like to measure effect of this intervention. How can students be divided up – in an ethically sound way – into groups doing the ‘standard’ pre-lab and the ‘choice’ pre-lab, respectively? Some suggestions:  
  - Time cut-off (choice option only available to students during certain time frame)  
  - Students could self-select. May lead to students talking about pros and cons of each option during semester. If the two options are offered for several pracs, students may tend to do one or the other in subsequent pracs and thereby express preference.   
  - Let students self-select and track their choices. Correlate their choice with performance measure (online quiz, lab report mark, …).  
  - Normalise student cohorts using TOL (Test of Logical Thinking) test  
  - Use different lab days as control groups. Each lab day could do standard pre-lab in one prac and choice pre-lab in another to keep it fair.
* *Stefan: Preparation for practicals*   
  Reducing number of prac sessions to eight or nine sessions (incl. 2-3 workshops/tutorials) per semester to reduce costs and face-to-face time
* *Kieran: Student enrolment (online enrolment system)*
* *Ian Jamie: Chemistry education presence at RACI congress***Call for abstracts for RACI congress is now open. Encouraging contributions from ChemNet members and others.**