

Minutes for 2000 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No.1

Date: Friday February 18, 2000

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Physics Department Library, Chong Yuet Ming Physics Building

Present:

- [Mr. Terry Boyce](#) (Staff Representative & Chairman)
- [Dr. Chau Hoi-fung](#) (Staff Representative)
- [Dr. J. Wang](#) (Staff Representative)
- [Dr. Wang Zidan](#) (Staff Representative)
- Mr. Ma Pui Wai (1st Year Representative)
- Mr. Sazabi Chin Hong Yu (Postgraduate Representative & Secretary)

Absent:

- Ms. Michelle Cheung Suet Yee (2nd Year Representative)
- Mr. Mike Lam Ho Yan (3rd Year Representative)

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting ([99/06](#)) were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

With reference to Item 3.i, Mr. Boyce reported that, in response to student requests, Room 311 the (multimedia teaching lab) had been made available to students during the examination period last semester and that the same would be done this semester.

Comments from student and staff representatives

i. Comments from the first-year representative

Mr. Ma reported that students were complaining about lack of printing facilities in the Faculty Computer Room (CYM 527), in particular that only one printer is available for their use, that only about half of the computers seemed to be linked to the printer, and the printing queue is unacceptably long. Dr Wang Zidan agreed to talk to the computer technician, Mr. Yip, to try and solve the problem of printer connection. Mr. Boyce agreed to enquire whether the other printer can be made available for student use. In addition, Mr. Ma reported that there were complaints about software incompatibility between different computers, especially Microsoft Office, and problems with using Netscape because the version available on the university server is too old. Mr. Boyce agreed to write to the Computer Centre to report the matter and to request that they upgrade the browser software.

Mr. Ma reported that some students would like more example calculations in Modern Physics. Mr. Boyce agreed to consider the request.

ii. Comments from the second-year representative

No representative from the second-year was present at the meeting.

iii. Comments from the third-year representative

No representative from the third-year was present at the meeting.

iv. Comments from the postgraduate representative

There were no comments from the postgraduate representative.

v. Comments from staff representatives

Mr. Boyce reported that preliminary discussions had been held at the last staff meeting on the proposal to introduce teaching into the summer vacation period. At the moment it seems unclear as to whether this would be restricted to repeat courses for students who had failed courses earlier or would be like a third semester with regular courses. Dr. Wang Zidan commented that he thought such a scheme was impractical for a three-year degree programme, but that it might be possible if the length of the degree programme were extended to four years. Mr. Boyce commented that the repeat-course scheme would lead to abuse as did the now-defunct scheme of supplementary examinations and added that in his opinion a degree programme with no breaks would lead to unnecessary pressure on both students and staff. It was agreed to try and get more student opinion for the continuing discussions during forthcoming staff meetings.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Boyce
Chairman

February 19, 2000