

Minutes for 2001 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No.1

Date: Wednesday February 7, 2001

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Physics Department Library, 518A Chong Yuet Ming Physics Building

Present:

- [Mr. Terry Boyce](#) (Staff Representative & Chairman)
- [Dr. Xie Mao-hai](#) (Staff Representative)
- Mr. Andy Leung Hoi Cheung (1st Year Representative)
- Mr. Ma Pui Wai (2nd Year Representative)
- Ms. Michelle Cheung Suet Yee (3rd Year Representative)
- Mr. Stephen Ng Chi Yung (Postgraduate Representative & Secretary)

Absent:

- [Dr. Wang Jian](#) (Staff Representative)

Apologies:

- [Dr. Francis Ling Chi-chung](#) (Staff Representative)

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting ([00/06](#)) were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

- i. In relation to Item 2 i, Mr. Leung reported that the proposed Physics Society was still in the process of being established and that it had been decided to form the society under the Physics Department rather than under the Independent Club Association of the Student Union.

3. Comments from student and staff representatives

i. Comments from the first-year representative

There were no comments from the first-year representative.

ii. Comments from the second-year representative

- a. Mr. Ma reported that some course textbooks were not currently available from the University Bookstore, in particular the recommended textbooks for PHYS1312 Classical Physics, PHYS2324 Classical Mechanics and PHYS2326 Nuclear and Particle Physics. Mr. Boyce suggested that, for urgent requirements, students could, with the assistance of the course coordinator, order textbooks from other sources, such

as amazon.com.

- b. Mr. Ma reported that students had complained of insufficient guidelines for assignment marking on PHYS2223 Data Analysis of Physical Systems. Mr. Boyce suggested that students should discuss the matter directly with the course coordinator and the course tutor.
- c. Mr. Ma enquired whether there was any mechanism for appealing against examination results. Mr. Boyce suggested that students should check the regulations published by the Registry and contact the Faculty of Science directly on such matters.

iii. **Comments from the third-year representative**

Ms. Cheung enquired about the system of honours classification, in particular how the GPA is calculated and whether it is the full 180 credits or the best 150 credits that are counted. She also asked whether all courses will be weighted equally and added that this information is vital for students when they are choosing courses at the beginning of the semester. Mr. Boyce replied that this was a complex problem and was under active discussion by the Board of the Faculty of Science. He added that no final consensus had yet been reached by the Board and advised students to bring the matter to the attention of the Dean of the Faculty of Science.

iv. **Comments from the postgraduate representative**

There were no comments from the postgraduate representative.

v. **Comments from staff representatives**

Mr. Boyce complained of the problems arising from the two-week course selection period at the beginning of the semester, especially students going in and out of lectures and making teaching extremely difficult. He suggested that it would be better to separate the two processes by having a one-week sampling period at the beginning of the semester in which lecturers give short (15-30 minutes) presentations to explain and give a brief introduction to their courses, with teaching proper to begin in the following week. Students would be required to make their course selection in the sampling week, which could either replace or precede the designated first week of teaching.

4. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

5. **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on March 7, 2001.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Boyce
Chairman

February 21, 2001