

Minutes for 1999 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No.5

Date: Thursday November 11, 1999

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Rm 522(Seminar Room), 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)
- Ms. Michelle Cheung Suet Yee (2nd Year Representative)
- Mr. Mike Lam Ho Yan (3rd Year Representative)
- Mr. Sazabi Chin Hong Yu (Postgraduate Representative & Secretary)

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting ([99/04](#)) were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

- i. With reference to Item 3.i, Mr. Boyce reported that although the Physics Department had no lockers at its disposal, it had decided to make available a wooden letter-box on the 1st Floor for the use of the 1st Year Class Association. He handed the key to the box to the 1st Year Representative on the condition that it be returned at the end of June 2000.
- ii. With reference to Item 3.i, Mr. Ma reported that the home page of the 1st year been established. Mr. Boyce asked Mr. Ma to send the URL of the home page to him so that he could consider linking it to the Physics Department home page.
- iii. With reference to Item 3.ii, Mr. Boyce confirmed that all the facilities inside Room 527 (the Computer Lab), including the scanner and printers, are available for use by all students.
- iv. With reference to Item 3.iii, Mr. Boyce reported that the Department intends to increase the amount of computer software available in the Computer Lab.
- v. With reference to Item 3.iv, Mr. Boyce reported that he had forwarded the comments on postgraduate courses to the Graduate School.

3. Comments from student and staff representatives

i. Comments from the first-year representative

Mr. Ma commented that handwritten lecture notes are difficult to read and asked whether all lecture notes could be typed and made available over the internet. He referred particularly to the lecture notes for Electronics.

Dr. Chau commented that it is very time-consuming and heavy on manpower to convert lectures notes into HTML, especially with regard to equations and symbols.

He agreed that this was the most convenient method for distributing lecture notes and said that the Department was gradually moving in that direction but that it would take time to make all course material available on the internet.

ii. **Comments from the second-year representative**

Ms. Cheung reported that students had complained about the return of marked assignments and test results for Quantum Mechanics being too late. Ms Cheung added that there were also complaints that the tutor of Quantum Mechanics was speaking too fast during tutorials, making it very difficult to follow and understand, and that the tutor was difficult to find for consultation. Mr Boyce agreed to bring this to the attention of the lecturer concerned.

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

Mr. Lam reported that Prof. MacKeown had improved the volume of his lecture delivery and was now clearly audible.

iv. **Comments from the postgraduate representative**

Mr. Chin commented that three Nobel prize winners in physics had given seminars at the recent Baptist University physics festival, which had attracted many people to attend even secondary school students. He wondered whether our university could consider doing something similar.

Dr. Chau replied that getting such prominent physicists to give seminars depended on personal contact and that in this particular case it was because the Head of Physics at Baptist University had personal relationship with these three persons.

v. **Comments from staff representatives**

Dr. Wang Zidan complained of poor class discipline, especially with regard to students leaving noisily at the end of lectures. It was generally agreed that this was poor and undesirable behaviour and that students should leave lectures in a more quiet and dignified manner.

Dr. J. Wang complained of the late arrival of students at his class (Solid State Physics at 9:30 a.m.) and added that he felt this was probably the reason why students complain of not being able to follow and understand the subject material. Dr. Chau commented that a short quiz given out at the beginning of each lecture might encourage more students to arrive on time. Ms. Cheung explained that in some cases this was due to travelling difficulties caused by bad traffic conditions. She added that Hall activities was also a major factor in causing students to miss or be late for lectures. Dr. Chau commented that although attendance is not compulsory, it can be taken into account in course assessment.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Boyce

Chairman

November 12, 1999
