

**Staff-Student Consultative Committee
Minutes for Meeting No. 3 of 2012/2013**

Date: 30th April, 2013

Time: 16:40

Venue: Rm 518, CYM Physics Building, HKU

Present:

Dr J. J. L. Lim (Chairman, Staff representative)

Dr F. C. C. Ling (Staff representative)

Dr K. M. Lee (Staff representative)

Dr J. C. S. Pun (Staff representative)

Mr John Einstein Tsz-Lun Wong (First year representative of the 3-year curriculum)

Mr Junhao Li (First year representative of the 4-year curriculum)

Mr Chun-Kit Lau (Third year student representative)

Mr Bosco Hong-Kiu Yung (Postgraduate student representative)

Prof. H. F. Chau (By invitation)

Apologies:

Dr X. D. Cui (Staff representative)

Absent:

Mr Kin-Kwan Chiu (Second year representative)

Mr Yiu-Ki Tse (Physics Society representative)

(1) Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The previous minutes was confirmed as correct.

(2) Matters arising from the previous meeting.

As reported in the previous minutes, the committee asked the (undergraduate) students to again consider the idea of using the space outside the Departmental Office as a public area for study, not as a substitute for Rm 522 (the seminar room, which when not used for official purposes is used as a public study area by students), but as a substitute for this room when it is used for official purposes. If the students agree, then the department will look into the possibility of providing suitable desks.

- Once again, the students refuted the idea as an adequate solution to the problem, and so this proposal is dropped for the time being.

As reported in the previous minutes, one of the Physics Society's lockers has a broken lock.

- Dr Lim has reported this issue to the Department, which has contacted the Estate office to fix the problem.

As reported in the previous minutes, tutors would like the Department to give an annual award to the best tutor and demonstrator. As also reported in the previous minutes, one of the concerns expressed by the tutors themselves is the criteria under which they would be judged for this award.

The Committee therefore asked the postgraduate students to suggest the criteria under which they would like to be judged.

- There was no reply from the postgraduate students. Dr Lim will look up and circulate the criteria used by the Science Faculty for the Award for Teaching Excellence to both Committee members as well as postgraduate students in the Department. In consultation with the postgraduate students, the Committee will then address whether the criteria used by the Faculty is suitable also for the Department in setting up a Departmental best tutor/demonstrator prize.

(3) Comment from the first year student representative of the 3-year curriculum.

There was no comment from the first year student representative of the 3-year curriculum

(4) Comment from the first year student representative of the 4-year curriculum.

There was no comment from the first year student representative of the 4-year curriculum.

(5) Comment from the second year student representative.

The second year student representative was absent.

(6) Comment from the third year student representative.

There was no comment from the third year student representative.

(7) Comment from the postgraduate student representative.

There was no comment from the postgraduate student representative.

(8) Comment from the Physics Society representative.

The Physics Society representative was absent.

(9) Comment from staff representatives.

There was no comment from the staff representatives.

(10) Discussion on a proposed curriculum structure changes for the department.

Concern: Prof. H. F. Chau presented a brief review on the reasons for a proposed change, as described in the following, in the curriculum structure. Under the current system for the 4-year curriculum, obtaining a major in physics requires only 84 credits in accredited physics courses (plus Common Core Courses and Science Foundation Courses). We anticipate that many physics students, especially those interested in pursuing a postgraduate degree in physics, to take significantly more credits in accredited physics course. Such students pay the penalty of not being able to pursue as many minors as those choosing to take the minimum number of required physics courses. To rectify the inherent unfairness under the current system, in addition to a major in physics, the department proposes granting a suitably named minor to students who take an additional 48 credits in accredited physics courses. The department anticipates that the number of additional physics courses students can take to satisfy this minor to increase in the coming years. In the meantime, the Department would like to hear from students: (1) whether they would like to have such a minor; and (2) if so, the name of this minor.

Deliberation: The 1st year representatives should ask their fellow students for opinions on (1) and (2), and reply to the postgraduate student representative by 8 May 2013. The postgraduate

student representative will then convey the results to Prof. H. F. Chau.

Result: The students agreed to the proposal, but have no suggestions for the name of the minor.

(11) Any other business.

There was no any other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:49

Bosco Hong-Kiu Yung (Secretary and postgraduate student representative)

30th April, 2013