

**Staff Student Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes for Meeting No.4 of 2008/2009**

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2009

**Time:** 3:00 pm

**Venue:** Rm522, CYM Physics Building, HKU

**Present:**

Dr. K.M. Lee (Chairman, Staff Representative)

Dr. X.D. Cui (Staff Representative)

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

Prof. J. Wang (Staff Representative)

Dr. H.S. Wu (Staff Representative)

Mr. Chan Tsz Man (First Year Student Representative)

Mr. Tse Ting Yan (Second Year Student Representative)

Mr. Yu Hoi Fung (Third Year Student Representative)

Ms. Anna Chen Yuk Nga (Postgraduate Student Representative)

Mr. Chow Tat Ming (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**

Physics Society representatives questioned the discrepancy between information of the course in the faculty handbook and the actual course. He wanted to know the mechanism upon which a course was added or cancelled. He also asked if the department could notify the students of the course information if there were changes.

Dr. Lee pointed out that the information for the course for the coming year should be accurate while the schedule for later years was only tentative. Students should understand that there were factors that the department could not control. He suggested for the next handbook more emphasis should be made on the temporariness of the information.

Dr. Ling agreed and mentioned that the situation was worse in these few years because of the reform of the whole university system. The information in the handbook should be regarded as a guideline only.

Dr. Lee agreed that the department should make an informal announcement to the students about the course information once they were confirmed.

The Physical Society Representative had concern on the binding of assessment weightings of physics courses as announced by the faculty, as some of the courses did not followed the stated weightings. Dr. Ling replied that the stated weightings should be followed, and also agreed to remind the teachers in the departmental meeting.

The postgraduate student representative mentioned that the department should keep the details of the course in the department web site updated in order to

avoid ambiguity. Dr. Lee and Dr. Ling agreed and mentioned they would take care of this issue.

**(3) Comments from the first year student representative.**

The first year representative mentioned that the courses often included tutorial and experimental sessions which occupied timing outside of the official lecture hours, which caused the students difficulty in managing the time table.

Dr. Lee pointed out that the experiment sessions were designed to be flexible, students could request for special arrangements if needed, in order to minimize the possibility of time-clashes. Dr. Lee also suggested increasing the number of days during the week in which the experimental sessions were held in the coming semesters.

Dr. Ling mentioned the situation was inevitable because the whole process involved lots of people including course coordinators, tutors, students, etc., but the department would try their best to help with the situation.

The first year representative also questioned the necessity for the experimental sessions to be merged into the courses instead of being a stand-alone course, and that since the experiments were now compulsory, whether it was possible to have less difficult experiments.

Dr. Ling replied that the department found it crucial for physics students to carry out the designated experiments in order to understand those respective physics topics and they could not be made simpler. Therefore the experiments were incorporated into the course to make sure student had the knowledge.

Dr. Lee also emphasized on the importance of the experiments to the study of physics.

The first year student representative raised the issue that some computers in Rm312 had only limited amount of software and could not display or input Chinese character.

Dr. Cui mentioned that the language problem could easily be solved by Mr. Yip; Mr. Yip could also help to install different software onto the computers. Students should draft a list of the software they needed and hand it to Mr. Yip.

The first year student representative would hand in the list of software required to Dr. Lee after discussing with the fellow students. Dr. Lee would contact Mr. Yip for the installation of software and the handling of the language problem.

**(4) Comments from the second year student representative.**

The second year student representative asked if it could be possible to have the free printing service as before, because the current system was both costly and inconvenient.

Dr. Ling mentioned that the department would be willing to provide physics students with free printing services but he expected there would be a lot of problems, such as the abuse of the system by other students, according to previous experience.

Dr. Lee emphasized that the department was already providing benefits for

physics students since the student would be charged less if they present the membership card of the Physics Society and the University student card.

The second year student representative also asked if it was possible for the student to get the authority of installing software in the computers in the Rm312. He also requested for a scanner to be placed in Rm312.

Prof. Wang mentioned that would lead to the abuse of the system. Dr. Wu agreed and suggested the students to go to Mr. Yip if they needed any software. Dr. Ling mentioned that a scanner would soon be placed in the computer room for public usage.

**(5) Comments from the third year student representative.**

There was no comment from the third year student representative.

**(6) Comments from the postgraduate student representative.**

There was no comment from the postgraduate student representative.

**(7) Comments from the Physics Society representatives**

There was no other comment from the Physics Society representatives.

**(8) Comments from the staff representatives**

There was no comment from the staff representatives.

**(9) A.O.B.**

The Physics Society representatives invited the members to attend the Dean's Forum in the coming week.

**(10) Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be at 3pm on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 (Friday).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Anna Yuk Nga Chen (Secretary & Postgraduate Student Representative)

20<sup>th</sup> February, 2009