

Staff Student Consultative Committee Meeting
Minutes for Meeting No.5 of 2009/2010

Date: 7th April, 2010

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Rm415A, CYM Physics Building, HKU

Present:

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

Dr. X.D. Cui (Staff Representative)

Mr. Chan Chi Chung (Third Year Student Representative)

Ms. Anna Chen Yuk Nga (Postgraduate Student Representative)

Mr. Cheng Kiu Chun (Physics Society Representative)

Apologies:

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

Mr. Mok Yi Yun (First Year Student Representative)

Mr. Chan Tsz Man (Second Year Student Representative)

Absent:

Prof. J. Wang (Staff Representative)

Dr. H.S. Wu (Staff Representative)

Absent:

(1) Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The previous minutes was confirmed as correct.

(2) Matters arising from the previous meeting

Nil.

(3) Comments from the first year student representative.

There was no comment from the first year student representative.

(4) Comments from the second year student representative.

The second year student representative introduced the new member in this meeting, Mr. Cheng Kiu Chun, a first year BSc student. He would be the representative for the Physics Society in this meeting for the coming year.

(5) Comments from the third year student representative.

There was no comment from the first year student representative.

(6) Comments from the postgraduate student representative.

There was no comment from the first year student representative.

(7) Comments from the Physics Society representative

The Physics Society representative requested for a space where they could get prepared for functions or activities. They had been using Rm522 as the preparation room but they were afraid that they might interrupt the students studying there.

Dr. Lee replied that there were 2 rooms they could book, Rm522 and Rm105, although Rm105 was mostly reserved for academic uses. He also mentioned booking the room in advance could be a way to solve the problem, and then they had the right to use the room and could politely ask the student inside the room to leave.

Dr. Cui asked about the possibility of the students using the department library in Rm518A. Dr. Lee replied the room was occupied with meetings most of the time and the room should be use for more formal events.

(8) Comments from the staff representatives

There was no comment from the staff representative.

(9) A.O.B.

Dr Lee had received a letter from students raising the issue that the 3 courses, PHYS2021 The Physical Universe, PHYS2022 Observational Astronomy and PHYS2039 Principles of Astronomy were very similar in terms of content (Letter attached on page 4 and 5). The student recommended that the lecturers should avoid this overlapping of contents in different courses. Dr. Lee mentioned he had also received complaints from other students regarding this

issue and that it might be unfair to students for some students who took the course this semester might have taken the others previously.

Dr. Lee, being one of the lectures of the course, said that he would treat the issue seriously. He would discuss it with the Curriculum and Development committee, who were in charge of the major structure of the courses, in a meeting with them next week. He would also discuss the issue with other lectures in these courses.

(10) Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held in September in the next academic year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Anna Yuk Nga Chen (Secretary & Postgraduate Student Representative)

7th Apr, 2010

Physics Society
Department of Physics
The University of Hong Kong

Dear Sir / Madam,

Submission of the opinions regarding Astronomy-related courses
to the 5th Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting

I would like to express my opinion on the three Astronomy-related courses, i.e. PHYS2021 (Physical Universe / PU), PHYS2022 (Observational Astronomy / OA) and PHYS2039 (Principles of Astronomy / PA).

I found that the course PA has a significant portion overlapping with PU and OA.

For instance, the parts 1, 2 and 3 of the course PA (see Annex I) are the same as parts 3 and 4 of the course PU; while the part 5 of PA basically overlaps with the course OA; the parts 2 and 4 are also covered in some introductory courses such as PHYS2627 (Introductory Quantum Physics). Therefore, I think the course structures of the three courses: PU, OA and PA should be modified such that they are differentiated from each other.

There are also a few students who have taken all the three courses having the similar opinions. However, due to limited time, I cannot gather all

ideas for this meeting.

Best Regards

<http://www.physoc.hku.hk/~physoc/>

WONG, Ka Tat (BSc II)

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[Annex I]

Courses Outline

PHYS 2021

- ① - Spherical Astronomy
- ② - Light & Telescopes
- ③ - Celestial Mechanics
- ④ - Special Relativity
- ⑤ - Statistical Mechanics

PHYS 2022

- ① - Optical Telescopes
- ② - Light
- ③ - Other telescopes
- ④ - Detectors
- ⑤ - Photometry
- ⑥ - Spectroscopy
- ⑦ - Observations of various objects

PHYS 2039

- ① - Celestial Mechanics
 - ② - Continuous Spectrum
 - ③ - Special Relativity
 - ④ - Wave and Matter
 - ⑤ - Telescopes
 - ⑥ - Binary Stars
 - ⑦ - Stellar Spectra
- ↳ (details not known yet)