

Minutes for 2001 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No.2

Date: Wednesday March 14, 2001

Time: 5:00 p.m.

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

Present:

- [Mr. Terry Boyce](#) (Staff Representative & Chairman)
- [Dr. Francis Ling Chi-chung](#) (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)

Apologies:

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

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting ([01/01](#)) were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

3. Comments from student and staff representatives

i. Comments from the first-year representative

- a. Mr. Boyce relayed comments from members of staff relating to the proposed Constitution of the Physics Society.
After discussion, it was agreed to make the following amendments to the proposed constitution.
 - In Section I, Article 4, to change the word "language" to "languages".
 - In Section II, Article 1 (a), to combine items i & ii into a single statement.
 - In Section VIII, Article 2(a), to add a clause stating that no amendment to the Constitution be passed without at least a two-thirds majority vote from the total Full Members of the Society.

Ms. Cheung commented on the lack of activities to promote physics to secondary-school students, and asked whether the sales of past examination papers is a major

source of income, since these are currently provided free by the Science Society. Mr. Leung replied that because of lack of time, activities involving secondary-school students will not take place until next year. He added that past examination papers will be distributed to members free of charge. Mr. Boyce suggested that to save paper, the Society should consider establishing a web site and providing past examination papers as downloadable files to be used as soft copies.

Mr. Boyce informed the committee that at a recent staff meeting, the Physics Department had agreed to provide HK\$5000 towards the setting up costs of the Society and to provide the following items: an allocated room for use by the Society, a computer, a desk and chairs, a telephone, book shelves, notice boards, and a sofa. He added that the Department had not agreed to provide the following items: a fax machine, a photocopying machine, an electronic door lock, newspaper subscriptions, and a television. Further, that the Department wished to make it clear that the money provided for setting up costs should not be used for purchasing these latter items.

- b. Mr. Leung reported that many students who are not majoring in physics are using the computers in room 527. Dr. Ling replied that, although the computer room is managed by the Physics Department, it is funded by the University and is therefore open to all students.

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

- a. Mr. Ma reported that he had received complaints from students regarding the poor maintenance of computer facilities in Room 527. He commented that some computers have the wrong settings and cannot be connected to the internet, some are not connected to any printer and for some there is inadequate software (e.g. Acrobat) installed. He also enquired whether it might be possible to use other operating systems, such as Linux. Mr. Boyce said that all computers were supposed to be installed with reborn cards but added that he would raise these matters at the next staff meeting and would bring them to the attention of the technician in charge of the computers.

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

Ms. Cheung complained that the network printer in the computer room is frequently out of order, due to lack of maintenance. Mr. Boyce said that if students found equipment not functioning properly, they should make a report immediately to the Physics Office, who would then contact the technician in charge.

iv. **Comments from the postgraduate representative**

Mr. Ng reported that very few students were making use of the Help Desk, with most students bypassing the system and taking their problems directly to course tutors. He suggested that the system should be reviewed and that it might be better for students to consult tutors at their designated work places instead of in a particular room.

v. **Comments from staff representatives**

There were no comments from staff representatives

4. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

5. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, April 18, at 4:15 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Boyce
Chairman

March 29, 2001