

Minutes for 1997-98 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No. 6

Date: Thursday, March 26, 1998

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Seminar Room 522, Physics Building

Present:

- Dr. T. C. Boyce (Chairman, Staff Representative)
- Prof. K. S. Cheng (Staff Representative)
- Dr. Z. D. Wang (Staff Representative)
- Dr. J. Wang (Staff Representative)
- Mr. Yip Man Kit (Postgraduate Representative & Secretary)

In Attendance:

- Mr. Timmy Cheung Tin Wai (Acting 1st Year Representative)
- Mr. Tang King Loy (Chief Demonstrator)
- **Absent:**
 - Ms. Mavise Lo (1st Year Representative)
 - Mr. William Ho Wing Kwong (2nd Year Representative)
 - Mr. Patrick Kwok Fuk Yick (3rd Year Representative)

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The previous minutes 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 acting first year representative**

Mr. Cheung complained about the workload of the course "Modern Physics" being too heavy with too many assignments.

Dr. Boyce commented that the best way to study is by doing exercises. Furthermore, the course had been shortened for effective teaching. During classes, students are allowed to raise questions whenever they find difficulties, but few people make use of this opportunity.

Mr. Cheung requested Dr. Boyce to distribute formal handouts before the lecture, so that they can prepare the topics before lecture. Furthermore, he suggested that some interesting contents (e.g. cartoon) should be added when the topic is dull.

Dr. Boyce agreed to make the lecture overheads available before lectures, by scanning them onto the home page for Modern Physics, provided students supply the manpower to do it.

Prof. Cheng remarked that students should communicate with Dr. Boyce so as to facilitate the process for studying and teaching.

ii. **Comments from the postgraduate representative**

Mr. Tang expressed his concern about the delay in the construction of student notice boards, because students have been waiting for the boards for several months.

Prof. Cheng reported that the job has been in the schedule of the carpenter but has not been top priority. It was agreed that the department will buy two notice boards and hang them on the wall in the 1/F and 2/F. The job is expected to be completed before the end of the semester.

iii. **Comments from staff representatives**

Dr. J. Wang expressed concern about the discipline of the students during classes. He reported that students do not concentrate in the lecture, they are talkative, use mobile phones or pagers, disturb each other etc. Sometimes, students come to the lecture very late. He said that he was very disappointed and he finds it difficult to conduct a normal class.

Dr. Boyce reported the same observation during his lectures. He emphasized that students are allowed to raise questions or stop his class whenever they find difficulties, but few people make use of this opportunity. He expressed concern that more students attend the tutorials than the normal lectures. It appears that the function of lectures is being replaced by tutorials, since the latter are conducted in Cantonese instead of English. He is very disappointed by the lack of effort from students in class.

Dr. Boyce also reported comments from other members of staff concerning poor attendance at lectures, disrespectful behavior in class, poor usage of the Help Desk, assignment copying and a general unenthusiastic attitude towards learning.

Prof. Cheng clarified that using English as the teaching medium is the policy of the University, hence, all normal lectures must be conducted in English. On the other hand, tutorials provide support for lectures, so using Cantonese is just a measure for efficient learning.

4. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was tentatively scheduled on Thursday, April 16, 1998 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Dr. T. C. Boyce
Chairman

March 28, 1998