

Minutes for 2000 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No.2

Date: Friday March 24, 2000

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Room 522, Chong Yuet Ming Physics Building

Present:

- [Mr. Terry Boyce](#) (Staff Representative & Chairman)
- [Dr. Chau Hoi-fung](#) (Staff Representative)
- [Dr. J. Wang](#) (Staff Representative)
- [Dr. Wang Zidan](#) (Staff Representative)
- Mr. Ma Pui Wai (1st Year Representative)
- Ms. Michelle Cheung Suet Yee (2nd Year Representative)
- Mr. Mike Lam Ho Yan (3rd Year Representative)
- Mr. Sazabi Chin Hong Yu (Postgraduate Representative & Secretary)

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting ([00/01](#)) were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

With reference to Item 2.i, Mr. Boyce reported that for Room 527 (Computer Room) the Department had made a request to the Faculty of Science to replace four old computers and to add a further four new computers. He added that a request had also been made to replace the slowest of the two printers and to add more software (particularly for graph-plotting) to the computers.

Comments from student and staff representatives

i. Comments from the first-year representative

Mr. Ma reported that students were complaining about the workload of course PHYS0411 Experimental Physics, especially the requirement to write reports after completing each experiment. Dr. Chau explained that since this course has no lectures, no examination and is assessed entirely by coursework, it is natural that the students would be expected to devote more effort to report writing. The general comment from staff was that the workload is in line with the nature of the course.

ii. Comments from the second-year representative

- a. Ms. Cheung reported that many students were abusing the facilities in Room 527 by installing and playing computer games. She complained that this practice was very annoying to other users and also deprived students of access to the computers for legitimate work. It was agreed that this was mainly due to a lack of self-discipline by students. Mr. Boyce suggested that students should inform the Physics Office staff when they see this happening and he

agreed to circulate a notice to all students warning them against this practice.

- b. Ms. Cheung complained of students making too much noise in Room 522, which is supposed to be a quiet area for study. It was again agreed that this was due to a lack of student self-discipline and Mr. Boyce suggested that such occurrences should be reported to the Physics Office staff who can take action. He also agreed to put up notices asking students to be quiet when using this room.
- c. Ms. Cheung reported that there have been requests for a rubbish bin to be placed in Room 522. Dr. Chau pointed out that such action might encourage food and drink to be brought into this room, whereas the intention was for it to be designated as a study area only and not for consuming food and drink. Mr. Boyce pointed out that waste paper can be put into the recycle bin in Room 527 and other waste materials can be put in the rubbish bin in the pantry, neither of which is far from Room 522.

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

Mr. Lam reported that there were complaints of insufficient chairs in Room 527. It was generally agreed that there should be one chair per computer and Mr. Boyce agreed to check this. He also added that the table recently installed in Room 527 is intended for the new computers and is not for general study purposes.

[Post-meeting note: On checking Room 527 it was discovered that there were 18 chairs and 20 computers. Accordingly, two additional chairs have now been placed in this room.]

iv. **Comments from the postgraduate representative**

There were no comments from the postgraduate representative.

v. **Comments from staff representatives**

Mr. Boyce tabled a letter of complaint from Dr. Fung regarding students using mobile telephones during lectures (see [Appendix A](#)). Mr. Boyce reported that he and other staff members had experienced similar problems in their lectures and that the matter was on the agenda for discussion at the next staff meeting. In the meantime, the Acting Head of Department had agreed to provide all staff with an overhead sheet to be displayed before lectures, warning students to switch off mobile telephones while they are attending lectures. It was generally agreed that anyone who allowed a mobile telephone to ring and disturb a lecture would be asked to leave the lecture.

vi. **Any Other Business**

- a. Mr. Boyce informed members that the Physics Department had arranged a public talk on *Science and the Mind* to be given by Sir Roger Penrose of Oxford University on Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. He asked members to pass on the information to students and hoped that as many people as possible would take this opportunity to listen to one of the world's leading physicists talk about this exciting new topic. He added that further information on the talk could be found on the Physics Department home page at this [link](#).
- b. Mr. Boyce reported that in his use of e-mail for communication with students he had noticed a large number of messages being returned as "undeliverable". Dr. Chau commented that this could be due to a number of reasons (such as students using e-mail addresses different from those supplied by the University), but the most likely was that the students had allowed their mailbox

capacity quota to be exceeded. Mr. Boyce suggested that students should be asked to take regular action to clear their mailboxes and in case of any difficulty to contact the Computer Centre for help.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28, 2000.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Boyce
Chairman

March 25, 2000