

Minutes of Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No. 04/01

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2004

Time: 4:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Terry Boyce (Chairman & Staff Representative)
Ren Wei (Secretary & Postgraduate Representative)
Cheung Shuk Yin, May (1st Year Representative)
Martin Mak Ka Fai (2nd Year Representative)
Wong Tak Ching (3rd Year Representative)
Francis Ling Chi Chung (Staff Representative)
Shen Shun Qing (Staff Representative)
Xie Mao Hai (Staff Representative)

Apologies

S. Fung (Staff Representative)

Absent

Tam Kai Hang, Stephen (Physics Society representative)

1. Confirmation of previous minutes

The previous minutes were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from 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) The first-year representative reported that a sizeable proportion of 1st-year students (especially those who had not previously studied mathematics) were having difficulty with the mathematical aspects of physics courses.
- b) The first-year representative reported that there was general dissatisfaction with the performance of course tutors and that this was a problem based on academic knowledge and experience not a problem of language communication.

c) The first-year representative reported that first-year students were in general unaware of the "office-hour" system for consultation with teaching staff.

ii. Comments from the second-year representative

The second-year representative reported that a number of students (especially those in the Mathematics/Physics programme) were experiencing difficulty with many physics courses because of inadequate mathematical background (e.g. lack of knowledge of vector calculus).

iii. Comments from the third-year representative

The third-year representative raised the problem of soliciting comments from students. It was agreed that comments should be collected by sending email requests to all students prior to the meeting.

iv. Comments from the postgraduate representative

There were no comments from the postgraduate representative.

iv. Comments from the Physics Society representative

The Physics Society representative was absent from the meeting.

v. Comments from the staff representatives

There were no comments from the staff representatives.

4. Any other business

There was no other business.

5. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Staff-Student Consultative Committee will be held in the same week as the next staff meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Terry Boyce
Chairman

February 23, 2004