

**Staff-Student Consultative Committee
Minutes for Meeting No. 1 of 2013/2014**

Date: 20th November 2013

Time: 16:30

Venue: Rm 518, CYM Physics Building, HKU

Present:

Dr J. J. L. Lim (Chairman, Staff representative)

Dr X. D. Cui (Staff representative)

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

Dr J. C. S. Pun (Staff representative)

Dr K. M. Yip (Staff representative)

Mr Cheung Hiu Fung (2nd year representative of the 3-year curriculum)

Mr Li Jun Hao (2nd year representative of the 4-year curriculum)

Mr Chiu Kin Kwan (3rd year student representative)

Mr Lam Chi Chung (Postgraduate student representative)

Absent:

Mr Wong Yuen Hing (1st year representative)

Physics Society representative

(1) Statement of Responsibilities

Student representatives should:

- consult peers about problems or issues they would like to bring to the attention of the SSCC
- communicate the concerns of their peers to the SSCC
- convey and consult their peers on solutions proposed by the SSCC

Staff representatives should:

- facilitate an environment that encourages students to raise their concerns to the SSCC
- find solutions whenever possible to problems raised by the student representatives, and explain reasons when no adequate solution can be found

(2) Feedback from postgraduate representative

Concern: Some of the graduate school courses are too long, the teaching repetitive, and the course content not perceived to be useful

Deliberation: This concern has been raised before by some postgraduate students to their respective supervisors (but not to the SSCC)

Solution: Postgraduate students provide feedback to the course coordinators through the course evaluation form

Concern: Hygiene in at least one postgraduate student office is poor; specifically, leftover food not disposed of but left on the desk of a particular postgraduate student in the office

Deliberation: Students are deliberately provided a great degree of freedom to collectively manage their offices. On the other hand, the department would of course like to maintain high standards of hygiene and decorum in the student offices.

Solution: Postgraduate students report individually or collectively and, if desired, anonymously to the Chairman of the Space Committee about problems arising in the postgraduate student offices. The Chairman will then investigate and decide upon the appropriate actions to take.

(3) Feedback from 3rd year student representative

No concerns to report

(4) Feedback from 2nd year student representative of the 3-year curriculum

Concern: students wishing to enroll in the course on General Relativity have not satisfied the prerequisites because the relevant courses were not offered in the previous year

Deliberation: The staff representative who also is a member of the Curriculum Committee will bring this issue to the attention of the Curriculum Committee

Solution: For now, students can take the prerequisites and enroll in the General Relativity course in the next year, or seek the department course advisors for waivers

Concern: in some courses, lecture hours are being used for tutorials

Deliberation: the credit unit statement (i.e. lecture based courses should include 36 hours of lectures and 12 hours of tutorials) is only applicable to BSc 4-year curriculum. For BSc 3-year curriculum, it is not clear whether other combinations of lecture-tutorial hours are against the regulation.

Solution: this issue will be brought to the attention of academic staff

(6) Feedback from 2nd year student representative of the 4-year curriculum

Concern: students would like the course offerings for the present and future years to be made sufficiently early so that they can plan ahead

Deliberation: The Curriculum Committee is aware of this issue.

Solution: The department will do its best to announce course offerings as soon as is possible given the prevailing circumstances. One issue that the department has no control over is class scheduling, and so clashes between physics courses that students may like to take can still occur

This representative also raised the same concern as the 2nd year representative of the 3-year curriculum on the earliest possible announcement of course offerings.

(7) Feedback from Staff

Concern: The department seeks to improve communications with physics students on issues of concern beyond teaching and learning, such as proper course selection to improve future career prospects

Deliberation: The department provides department advisors to 1st year students who express an intention to major in physics, as well as 2nd year (and sometimes 3rd year) students who have

selected to major in physics. Often times, however, students do not meet with their department advisors.

This year, the Physics Society organized a forum for students to hear from alumni on career prospects. In future years, the department offers to coordinate more closely with the Physics Society on how the department can help (e.g., teachers to discuss proper course selection, help to find alumni), or to arrange such forums each year if not organized by the Physics Society
Action item: Student representatives seek feedback on why many students choose not to meet with their department advisors (e.g., group rather than 1-on-1 meetings, better timing not close to final exams), and how to improve the effectiveness of the process (e.g., have a course advisor each year?)

Concern: The department recognizes that no personalized space is provided within the department for students to gather, work, and discuss, although Rm 522 (seminar room) is made available when not used for official functions

Deliberation: The department is considering making a room available in the CYMP building next year when more space is made available to the department elsewhere

Action item: Student representatives consult their peers on priority for room usage: computer room, Physics society room?

Concern: The Physics Society and 1st year representative did not attend the SCCC

Action item: The Chairman will meet with the representatives individually to find out why they did not attend

(8) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for early in the 2nd semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30

Daniel Lam (Secretary and postgraduate student representative)

2nd December 2013