

Staff-Student Consultative Committee
Minutes for Meeting No. 1 of 2021/2022

Date: 14th January, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Venue: Zoom meeting

Present:

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

Prof. H.F. Chau (Staff representative)

Dr. Judy Chow (Staff representative)

Dr. Jenny Lee (Staff representative)

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

Dr. M. K. Yip (Staff representative)

Mr. Mak Wai Lok (1st year representative)

Mr. Cheuk Yin Yu (2nd year representative)

Miss Wong Hoi Ting (3rd year representative)

Miss Chan Hei Yung (4th year representative)

Mr. Thomas Hong Tsun Wong (Postgraduate student representative)

Mr. Kees de Kuijper (Space Science representative)

Miss Yoanna Kei Yan Lam (Physics society)

Apology:

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

(1) Feedback from 1st year student representative

Concern: Students reported that the HW problems of PHYS1150 (Problem Solving in Physics) were hard and the level of the exam was fine.

Deliberation: The course coordinator explained that the key to manage the final exam well was adequate training on exercises.

Concern: Students reported that there was only one session for each PHYS1650 (Nature of the Universe) tutorial class. They asked for more sessions to avoid timetable clash.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students reported that the level of PHYS1650 (Nature of the Universe) HW problems was fine but some exam problems covered the knowledge outside the lecture notes.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students reported that the video recording of PHYS1650 (Nature of the Universe) did not include the screen sharing.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

(2) Feedback from 2nd year student representative

Concern: Students reported that the number of PHYS1650 (Nature of the Universe) tutorial problems was insufficient. They asked if the instructor can provide more.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students reported that the lecture notes and the solution to HW of PHYS3750 (Laser and Spectroscopy) were incomplete.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students reported that the final exam of CCST 9051 (What are We Made of – the Fundamental Nature of Matter) was demanding because it covered some questions in quantum mechanics.

Deliberation: Dr. Pun explained that he had pointed out the focus of the course at the end of semester. However, the attendance was very low (10 to 15 %).

Concern: Students reported that the teacher should discuss the date of PHYS2150 (Methods in Physics I) mid-term with them because some of them had three to five tests in one week.

Deliberation: Dr. Judy Chow agreed to discuss the date of mid-term with students next year.

Concern: Students suggested if the teacher of PHYS2150 (Methods in Physics I) can provide supplementary notes covering the key concepts and worked problems.

Deliberation: Dr. Judy Chow agreed to add the materials next year.

Concern: Students reported that the demonstrators of PHYS2250 (Introductory Mechanics) and PHYS2261 (Introductory Heat and Thermodynamics) labs were not helpful. They found the demonstrators not familiar to the experiments.

Deliberation: Dr. Jenny Lee replied that students were assumed to learn and follow the lab manual. Mr. C.M. Lee who is the technician of laboratory is willing to help. She will include all contact persons of labs to the webpage. Dr. Jason Pun added that students should report earlier to the course coordinator when they observe poor performance from demonstrators.

(3) Feedback from 3rd year student representative

Concern: Students reported that the ppt documents of some courses had missing pages and they were organized in a messy way. The copies posted on moodle were not the same when compared with those that the teachers delivered during the lectures. The ppts were very short and lack of contents. Most discussion was given orally.

Deliberation: Students should state clearly the specific course code.

Concern: Students reported that the lecture videos of PHYS3350 (Classical Mechanics) had poor audio or no audio. The teacher may need technical support.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students reported that the tutorial class and assignment of PHYS3350 (Classical Mechanics) were useful for learning because of good examples with full solutions. The appropriate number of assignment should be around five in order to prevent overloading. Students also suggested that the tutors should prepare some materials to teach if there were no questions raised from the class.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students asked if the teacher of PHYS3350 (Classical Mechanics) could provide feedback for mid-term test, e.g. common mistakes.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

(4) Feedback from 4th year student representative

Concern: Students reported that they could not enroll both PHYS4850 (Particle Physics) and PHYS4551 (Solid States Physics) because of timetable clash.

Deliberation: Prof. H.F. Chau explained that timetabling was not completely controlled by the department. Dr. Jeremy Lim added that the department had noticed this problem and made effort to avoid it to repeat in the future.

Concern: Students asked if the department could organize some activities such as career talks. They were looking for general information for career choices.

Deliberation: Dr. Jason Pun reported that the department had organized events of similar nature, inviting alumni as guests, but the attendance was poor.

Concern: Students reported that PHYS3750 (Laser and Spectroscopy) had a good attempt on flip classroom but the sound recording of the lecturing video was poor.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students reported that a student who enrolled to both PHYS3660 (Astronomy Laboratory) and PHYS3650 (Observational Astronomy) in the first semester got lost while doing the lab at the beginning of the semester. He was completely frustrated due to inadequate background knowledge in the field.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Concern: Students reported that one of the lectures of PHYS1056 (Weather, Climate and Climate Change) was cancelled by the teacher without notice.

Deliberation: The committee explained that the lecture might not be cancelled; it could be a university holiday. Surely, the teacher should make advance announcement to the class if he is going to cancel a lecture.

Concern: Students reported that teacher of PHYS1056 (Weather, Climate and Climate Change) may need technical support on video recording. Only the video of first class was posted. The tutors did not post the information and materials of tutorial class on moodle.

Deliberation: Dr. Jason Pun replied that the course coordinator should communicate better with the teacher and tutors to ensure better teaching.

(5) Feedback from postgraduate representative

Concern: Students reported that the number of webinars was not enough in the area of astronomy.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the department.

Concern: Students reported that the number of postgraduate astronomy courses offered by the department was very limited for chosen.

Deliberation: Prof. H.F. Chau replied that postgraduates were allowed to enroll courses in sister institutions. Supervisors should communicate well to their students.

Concern: Students reported that there was no financial support to cover the quarantine cost during the pandemic. The heavy burden avoided them from attending conference overseas as well as long term cooperation outside Hong Kong.

Deliberation: Prof. H.F. Chau suggested that the Graduate Student Committee should write a letter to the university to discuss this issue.

(6) Feedback from Space Science representative

Concern: Students reported that there was timetable clash problem, i.e. STAT7102 (Advanced Statistical Modeling) and the AI course for Space Science programme.

Deliberation: Dr. Jason Pun explained that the teacher of AI course for Space Science programme was an adjunct professor. He had commitment in other days of the week. He could offer course on Saturday only and it caused time conflict with STAT7102. As a consequence, students could not enroll both courses. Dr. Jason Pun added that the problem cannot be solved shortly within the semester.

Concern: Students reported that they could not enroll ELEC6008 (Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning) in the second semester.

Deliberation: Dr. Jason Pun explained that ELEC6008 was originally planned to offer in the second semester. However, the offering department (Department of Computer Science) decided to move the course to the summer semester and this information reached the Department of Physics very late. In

fact, the Department of Physics can do very little on this because it is not easy to find a replacement course for students. It turns out that it becomes a thorny problem to Space Science students because they are required to finish the courses in the first and second semesters under the university regulation. Hence, they are not allowed to enroll courses as electives in the summer semester.

Concern: Students reported that they had very few opportunities for internship in Space companies.

Deliberation: Dr. Jason Pun explained that the company visit was greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. He is working hard to find more internship opportunities for students.

Concern: Students reported that the mid-course survey was important.

Deliberation: Dr. Jason Pun reported that he had encouraged teachers to conduct these surveys and he will continue to do so in the second semester. Dr. Jeremy Lim added that teachers should collect feedback during the semester time, not until the end of semester.

Concern: Students asked for information about PhD positions in space science, remote sensing or radiation detection.

Deliberation: Dr. Jason Pun reported that he will put an eye on this. Dr. Jeremy Lim added that Hong Kong Polytechnic University is active in lunar research and there could be opportunities on these positions.

(7) Feedback from physics society representative

Concern: Students reported that they liked hybrid mode teaching. The video recordings helped much on their study. Some teachers may need technical support to control and maintain the quality of audio and video output.

Deliberation: Dr. Jeremy Lim explained that hybrid mode teaching is under the university policy in the first semester.

Concern: Students reported that the teaching mode of PHYS3750 was good and new. However, there was no model answer being shown on the screen after the discussion of class questions. Students were asking for releasing the solution after class.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

Feedback from teacher representatives

Concern: Dr. Jeremy Lim stated that students should feedback to the teachers during the semester time, not until the end of semester. Problems should be fixed during the semester. Student representatives should seek feedback from peers and bring the problems to the attention of the SSCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

MK YIP (Temporary Secretary)

14th January, 2022