

**Staff-Student Consultative Committee**  
**Minutes for Meeting No. 2 of 2021/2022**

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2022

**Time:** 3:30 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. F.C.C. Ling (Staff representative)

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

Dr. M. K. Yip (Staff representative)

Mr. Mak Wai Lok (1<sup>st</sup> year representative)

Mr. Cheuk Yin Yu (2<sup>nd</sup> year representative)

Miss Chan Hei Yung (4<sup>th</sup> year representative)

Mr. Thomas Hong Tsun Wong (Postgraduate student representative)

Mr. Kees de Kuijper (Space Science representative)

Mr. Choi Chung Hei (Physics society)

**Apology:**

Miss Wong Hoi Ying (3<sup>rd</sup> year representative)

**(1) Feedback from 1st year student representative**

*Concern:* Students suggested if teachers could provide hybrid mode teaching. They asked teachers to keep posting class videos for revision purpose.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun clarified the definition of hybrid mode teaching. According to the university policy, teachers will provide f2f teaching and recorded lecturing videos in the first semester of 2022/23. Live teaching through Zoom will not be available officially. Prof. H.F. Chau reported his observation from the statistic. He noted that students who attended the live time lectures performed better in the exam.

*Concern:* Students reported that some data in the lab videos of PHYS2255 were incorrect. They also commented that some marks in the lab reports were deducted unexpectedly. They asserted that they

had followed the instruction given by the technician.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jenny Lee reported that the videos were recorded last year and there were no report about these mistakes. Students should report as soon as possible to the course coordinator when they found problems. Dr. F.C.C. Ling will be the coordinator of Physics Lab next year.

*Concern:* Students reported that the tutorial classes were not very helpful. They described that the tutors had poor English.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy Lim admitted that it has been a long term problem in the department.

*Concern:* Students reported that the HW problems and the exam paper of PHYS1150 were hard. Some commented that the level of difficulty of the course is a crucial factor when they decide major at the university. Too hard a course will sometimes scare them from choosing.

*Deliberation:* Dr. M.K. Yip admitted that the HW assignments were hard because they were designed to strengthen students' problem solving skills. However, the exam paper was about right in level of difficulty as was reflected by the performance of students in the exam.

## **(2) Feedback from 2nd year student representative**

*Concern:* Students reported that the class attendance was low. They suggested a promotion of active teaching and learning via flip classroom. They gave MATH 2012 Fundamental Concepts of Mathematics as an example of flip classroom.

*Concern:* Students suggested if the teacher could provide more examples in PHYS2155 Methods in Physics II. They reported that the teaching was rather slow in chapter one and they urged for more discussion in eigenspace and orthogonal space.

*Concern:* Students suggested if the teacher could provide more examples in Ising model in PHYS3151 Machine Learning in Physics.

## **(3) Feedback from 3rd year student representative (through emails)**

*Concern:* Students commented the teaching of PHYS3450 Electromagnetism. They reported that the teacher did not provide any solution to the HW assignments. The teacher simply read out the lecture notes without any explanation or elaboration on the examples in the notes. They also reported that the invigilator did not provide any verbal announcement during the exam. A trouble happened in the

May exam when the exam question was amended and informed via emails. Many students did not know about the announcement when they were devoted in the exam.

*Concern:* Students suggested if teachers could include short demonstrations in introductory courses. It helps easier understanding to the theory behind the phenomenon.

*Deliberation:* Dr. M.K. Yip pointed out that f2f demonstrations were not possible in the recent years during pandemic but teachers were encouraged to illustrate difficult concepts through movie clips.

*Concern:* Students suggested if teachers could keep posting recorded class videos for revision purpose.

#### **(4) Feedback from 4th year student representative**

*Concern:* Students commented the teaching of PHYS3450 Electromagnetism. They reported that the teaching was too fast and the teaching was finished one month before the end of semester. There was no lecture for one month before the exam was held.

*Concern:* Students commented the teaching of PHYS4351 Advanced Quantum Mechanics. They reported that the teacher was a visiting professor. He didn't give HW until students told him at the middle of the semester.

*Concern:* Students suggested if teachers could provide more examples related to the lecture notes such that they learned the ways to solve problems, i.e. applying concepts and managing problems with mathematics.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy asked for specific course codes. Prof. H.F. Chau explained that smart students should learn how to translate abstract concepts and implement using mathematics.

*Concern:* Students commented on the date of announcement of report requirements for Directed Study and Final Year Projects. They suggested the department telling the information when students enroll the courses. The information should include the number of pages in the report and the key components in the report, etc.

*Deliberation:* Prof. H.F. Chau added that the information should also include the tentative due date of report.

*Concern:* Students asked the way to get sample reports.

*Deliberation:* Dr. F.C.C. Ling told the committee that the departmental library stored the hard copies of such reports. He added that there were softcopies but no more hard copies when COVID-19 spread in the recent years. Prof. H.F. Chau pointed out that it is not proper to allow unlimited access to the reports because they were not public publication.

*Concern:* Students suggested if there could be career talk for them.

*Deliberation:* Dr. F.C.C. Ling stated that he was open to the roles of the department. It could be the department as an organizer or the Physics Society organizing the activity with the support from the department. He was pleased if the Physics Society will send him information about the kind of careers that they are of interest. Lastly, he told the committee that the videos of last career talk were posted on the departmental homepage. Dr. Jason Pun added that students should be more active to join LinkedIn for job opportunity. He suggested students to contact alumnus for updated market information.

#### **(5) Feedback from Space Science representative**

*Concern:* Students suggested if teachers could make extra short video clips explaining the more difficult parts of the lectures (i.e. to some math demanding courses). Videos could be made in e.g. Khan Academy/3Blue1Brown style or using a light board.

*Concern:* Students suggested if small class f2f tutorial, e.g. two to three students doing exercises together, is allowed when there is an improved COVID environment. They appreciated one course having in-class exercises on moodle (counted for 10% of their grades) with answers which stimulated them.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy reported that he offered one-hour session for students asking questions every week and he also provided moodle questions with answers.

*Concern:* Students suggested if the TA of Zoom tutorial could create breakout rooms such that there could be 1-on-1 attention. They also prompted teachers to schedule virtual office hours (outside lecture time) so that they could ask questions about the course.

*Concern:* Students suggested if the teacher could provide lecture notes with figures for revision purpose. They asked if teacher could show some live demonstrations during the lecture. They appealed if teachers could check their attention by asking questions at the middle of class.

*Concern:* Students commented on a course which was taught by a professor from Zhejiang University, who could not come to Hong Kong. They found that the course was unsatisfactory because there was a lack of hand-on practice despite of the nature of this course having practical component. They would like if there is a local Hong Kong teacher who can teach in the campus. It would be better to have laboratory assignment instead of software online. They pointed out that the software did not support Mac OS and it made troubles to Mac users.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun explained that the teacher could not come because of the COVID situation.

*Concern:* Students commented that they didn't like online lectures. They suggested if it is possible to have local Hong Kong teachers, for example Dr. Zhang from Space Weather, also an expert in plasma physics, who can teach a course for them in the campus.

*Concern:* Students commented that the workload was unevenly distributed in semester two. There was nothing to do at the beginning of the semester, but too heavy (80% of the work) at the end of the semester. They suggested the workload of the AI project could be spread over the whole semester instead of doing everything at the end of semester.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun elaborated the schedule in the second semester. There were one or two weeks of classes before a one-week Chinese New Year holiday and then few weeks of classes before the reading week at the middle of the semester. So, the teaching pace was slow in the first half and most of the classes were in the second half. He suggested students approaching supervisors earlier to do projects such that the workload will be more even in the semester.

*Concern:* Students asked if there are some ways helping students to find a job. They also asked if it is possible to add theoretical oriented capstone projects because most of the projects available in the current list were dominated by computational coding projects.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun stated that students should contact the CEDARS for job hunting support. He also heard from students who asked for wide variety of projects. He pointed out that coding is important in data analysis projects.

## **(6) Feedback from postgraduate representative**

*Concern:* Students commented that the compulsory graduate course GRSC6008 Transferrable Skills was not useful for them. The course is not about academic. They had a feeling that the course aims at nurturing students the socializing skills with their supervisors and colleagues, etc.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun suggested if students could share their strong opinions with the university more actively, in particular, sending written feedback in the course survey forms.

*Concern:* Students commented about the graduate course PHYS8950 which asked students to attend 80% of the seminars and many of them were not in their own fields.

*Deliberation:* Prof. H. F. Chau reported that the requirement of this course will change greatly. Students will be asked to give seminars on some of the colloquiums that they had attended. The details will be worked out later.

*Concern:* Students asked about the arrangement of Best Tutor Award this year.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy Lim will ask teachers to nominate candidates.

*Concern:* Students suggested if the head lab TA could join the SSCC meeting because there were lots of lab matters in the discussion.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun agreed to invite the head lab TA as a non-formal member to contribute.

## **(7) Feedback from physics society representative**

*Concern:* Students asked if CYP 522 will be available soon.

*Deliberation:* Prof. H.F. Chau reported that the renovation was basically finished and the room was available then.

*Concern:* Students asked if it is possible to have a society room.

*Deliberation:* Dr. F.C.C. Ling commented that the Departmental Space Committee should consider this issue again.

*Concern:* Students commented on the need of Course Consultation Day for freshmen. Students would prefer f2f meeting instead of Zoom based discussion if the situation is allowed.

*Deliberation:* Dr. F.C.C. Ling commented that he was working with the Faculty of Science on this issue. An orientation on course selection will be held. However, it seems that it will be an online one according to the information from the Faculty of Science.

## **Feedback from teacher representatives**

*Concern:* Dr. Jeremy Lim asked the way to improve teaching and learning experience.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun introduced the synchronous vs asynchronous teaching.

*Concern:* Students commented on flip classroom. They queried about the way to use the lecturing time if all lecturing materials were posted on web for reading purpose before the class was held. They thought that doing hand-on exercises, demonstrations and discussion cannot fully occupy the remaining lecture time.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy Lim suggested students sending him more ideas about this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

MK YIP (Temporary Secretary)

15<sup>th</sup> July, 2022