

**Staff-Student Consultative Committee**  
**Minutes for Meeting No. 2 of 2020/2021**

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Venue:** Zoom meeting

**Present:**

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

Prof. J.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. Cheuk Yin Yu (1<sup>st</sup> year representative)

Mr. Richard Ruizhe Liu (2<sup>nd</sup> year representative)

Miss Kwun Ching So (3<sup>rd</sup> year representative)

Mr. Meng Chit Ho (4<sup>th</sup> year representative)

Mr. Thomas Hong Tsun Wong (Postgraduate student representative)

Miss Yoanna Kei Yan Lam (Physics society)

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

*Concern:* Students reported that the lab schedule was very tight. Most of the lab sessions for PHYS2250, PHYS2255 and PHYS2255 were arranged in late February and early March. Most students taking these courses were overloaded. Some students had very limited time to finish the reports.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jenny Lee admitted that the schedule was not desirable due to Covid-19 pandemic in Hong Kong. She agreed to make better arrangement in the coming semester.

*Concern:* Students reported that some computers shut down unexpectedly when they worked in the f2f session of LAB 1 of PHYS2250.

*Action:* Dr. Jenny Lee agreed to reflect the issue to the technician.

*Concern:* Students reported that they preferred to work online sessions instead of f2f sessions because the data was guaranteed and the support provided by the demonstrators was much greater in the online sessions.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jenny Lee reported that there was mark scaling to the two groups of students and she found that the deviation among groups was not that much. Prof. Chau added that employers would like candidates who had hand-on experience in the lab rather than the virtual one.

*Concern:* Students asked if the department can offer f2f make-up lab sessions in the summer such that students can receive more training on lab skills. They asserted that the make-up sessions will benefit those who worked through the online lab sessions.

*Concern:* Dr. Jenny Lee agreed to consider the summer f2f make-up sessions, but the arrangement is not guaranteed due to limitation of manpower in the summer. She also emphasized that students should not rely the summer sessions (not guaranteed), they should learn as much as they could in the regular semester.

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

*Concern:* Students reflected that the construction noise during the class of PHYS3550 (Statistical Mechanics and Thermodynamics) affected the recording of the ZOOM meeting.

*Concern:* Students reported that there was a rush to cover the contents of PHYS2160 (Introduction to Computational Physics). They suggested the Q&A session for the project to be removed so that there is adequate time for lectures.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Judy Chow planned to remove some contents from her course. She agreed to remove the Q&A session for the project.

*Concern:* Students reported that the attendance rate of PHYS3450 (Electromagnetism) and PHYS2160 (Introduction to Computational Physics) f2f lectures was low.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy Lim noted the report and it was not a complaint.

*Concern:* Students asked if feedback to midterm tests could be provided, i.e. the general performance and the strength and weakness of students in each question, etc.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy Lim reported that the teachers have been informed to give feedback to all assessments, especially tests and exam.

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

*Concern:* Students reported that marks were deducted when they copied the information from the manual to the PHYS3XXXX lab reports. In fact, they were not informed for any penalty would happen.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jenny Lee stated that she will make it clear in the guideline next time.

*Concern:* Students reported that they did not know well about the physics of the three-week project and they suggested if short lectures could be provided.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jenny Lee replied that students should be motivated to explore knowledge of a project by themselves.

*Concern:* Students reported that they had to do the lab during the revision week.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jenny Lee reported that the arrangement was made inevitably because the confirmed COVID-19 cases in the building postponed the lab schedule.

*Concern:* Students suggested that if the PPT files of PHYS3653 (Astrophysics) could be posted before lectures.

*Action:* Students should communicate lecture delivery to teachers in real time.

*Concern:* Students reported that there were no tutorial classes for PHYS3450 (Electromagnetism).

*Action:* The course coordinator has been notified.

*Concern:* Students suggested having less HWs near the end of semester; the deadline of such HWs should be earlier.

*Deliberations:* There will inevitably be assignments during the revision week to cover the last components of any course.

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

*Concern:* Students reported that the teacher of PHYS3150 (Theoretical Physics) covered the topics in a rush (one to two hours) near the end of semester and the topics were important in the exam.

*Concern:* Students reported that the deadline of the last HW assignment of PHYS3150 (Theoretical Physics) was in the middle of revision week and the solution was posted just before the exam. It was very late for weak students to catch up the study.

*Deliberations:* There will inevitably be assignments during the revision week to cover the last components of any course.

*Concern:* Students reported that it was too harsh for them preparing three devices for the proctoring exam.

*Deliberations:* Required by university regulations.

*Concern:* Students reported an occurrence that some students did not stop writing after the examiner had made announcement “Time’s up. There must be no writing”.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy Lim pointed out that he would report such cases to the authority. Students should not assume that the teacher did not do so.

Concern: Students reflected that the time allowed for PHYS4999 (Physics Project) presentation was very short. They could not report their work well under the constraint.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jeremy Lim explained that the time allowed in international conferences for talks can be as short as 5 minutes. Dr. F.C.C. Ling added that students should report the most essential results. Prof. H.F. Chau pointed out that students should prepare well for their career in the industry.

Concern: Students expressed appreciation to the department who allowed them to mail the PHYS4999 final reports. They hoped that the measure would continue after the pandemic.

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

*Concern:* Students asked if they can promote students' activities through the course moodle.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun suggested the organizers to contact the course coordinators. Mr. Thomas Wong suggested the organizers sending the bulk emails.

*Concern:* Students asked if teachers can teach faster in the early period of the semester and then slower gradually.

*Deliberation:* Prof. H.F. Chau pointed out that there is a wide variety of students in the class. Teaching fast at the beginning of semester is not feasible.

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

*Concern:* The TAs reported that they did not have a clear picture about their job in lab teaching; e.g. the learning goals of the experiment and the connectedness of the experiment and the lectures.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jenny Lee explained that the lab manual had stated the objective of experiment. The theory section in the manual supplemented students to work on the experiment before attending lecture for those topics.

*Concern:* The TA of PHYS2265 asked for a list of discussion questions (sample questions) such that they could interact with students during the lab session.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun suggested if the report sheet includes the discussion questions as reflective questions. Dr. Jenny Lee proposed if teachers can offer a short session (20 minutes) which summaries the physics of labs at the end of semester.

*Concern:* The TAs of PHYS2255 (Introductory Electricity and Magnetism) and PHYS3660 (Astronomy Laboratory) asked for more manpower support owing to a heavy workload.

*Deliberation:* Dr. Jason Pun suggested setting up a formula to calculate the number of TAs needed for each course. Dr. Jeremy Lim suggested that teachers should list the workload for their TAs before the chief demonstrator assigns duties to TAs.

*Concern:* Students asked if they can use password to access the electric door.

*Deliberation:* Prof. Chau clarified that the door system has to identify users, thus using password should be avoided.

### **Feedback from teacher representatives**

*Concern:* Dr. Jeremy Lim would like to solve problems for students during the semester rather than solving them after the end of semester. Please let him know the problems when they rise.

*Concern:* Dr. Jeremy Lim was very disappointed to some students who did not work seriously on HWs but instead they copied solutions directly from previous years. He asked representatives to communicate to their peers the seriousness of cheating.

*Deliberation:* Thomas Wong suggested if the weighting of HWs could be lowered.

*Concern:* Dr. Jeremy Lim reported that the Department of Physics will treat the cheating cases seriously.

The SSCC teachers thanked all the peer representatives for their service – a credit to each and every peer representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

MK YIP (Temporary Secretary)

3<sup>th</sup> June, 2021