

**Staff-Student Consultative Committee
Minutes for Meeting No. 3 of 2011/2012**

Date: 16th April, 2012

Time: 16:00

Venue: Rm 522, CYM Physics Building, HKU

Present:

Dr K. M. Lee (Chairman, Staff representative)

Dr X. D. Cui (Staff representative)

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

Mr Che-Hin Chow (First year representative)

Mr Bosco Hong-Kiu Yung (Postgraduate student representative)

Mr David Ka-Wai Lau (Physics Society representative)

Apologies:

Mr Chun-Kit Lau (Second year student representative)

Mr Tsz-Kit Chau (Third year student representative)

Absent:

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

Dr H. S. Wu (Staff representative)

(1) Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The previous meeting was confirmed as correct.

(2) Matters arising from the previous meeting.

Dr Lee reported on the postgraduate student meeting regarding the tutor workload. It was concluded that the workload for a laboratory demonstrator is lighter than that of a lecture based tutor. The ratio is about 1.5:1, which means 1.5 hour of laboratory duty is equivalent to 1 hour of lecture based duty.

(3) Comment from the first year student representative.

There was no comment from the first year student representative.

(4) Comment from the second year student representative.

The second year student representative was absent.

(5) Comment from the third year student representative.

There third year student representative was absent.

(6) Comment from the postgraduate student representative.

The postgraduate student representative would like to know whom they should approach when they have computer problems, after the retirement of the current technician Mr Yip.

Dr Lee replied that the department was going to hire a new technician, and hopefully the hand-over will be smooth.

(7) Comment from the Physics Society representative.

The Physics Society representative proposed to have a society room.

Dr Lee replied that the department did not have enough resource to offer a society room.

The Physics Society representative proposed to have a vending machine in the Physics Building.

Dr Cui mentioned that a water machine was located in G/F students could use it, there was also a pantry on the 5/F.

Dr Lim worried that the running vending machine would be a waste of electricity, so it was not a very good idea.

Dr Lee replied that they have no rights to put a vending machine in the building.

The Physics Society representative reported that half of the computers in Rm 312 were not able to get onto the internet. Even for those that were connected, JAVA and Flash could not be used.

Therefore students were having troubles in browsing some course webpages (e.g. PHYS2221).

Dr Lee replied that he would talk to the people who are responsible for this problem.

The Physics Society representative complained that the English standard of some tutors.

Dr Lee said if the course had more than 1 tutors, they could try asking the one with better English to conduct tutorials. Anyway he would convey this problem to the lecturers.

Dr Lim said they have limited number of tutors, so it was difficult to get all good tutors to teach. He used to teach tutorial classes by himself.

The Physics Society representative said that some students complained about the grading system of physics courses, as the average grade was too low comparing to other departments.

Dr Lee replied that the faculty had guidelines about how many A-grades could be given.

Starting from September 2012, a new system would be introduced. He would convey this problem in the staff meeting.

Dr Lim said that lecturers must have their own standard in grading. For example, if the faculty lower the standard, he would set more difficult examination questions.

The Physics Society representative suggested there should be 2 student representatives for the coming new academic year, for 2 different group of first year students.

Dr Lee replied they have already planned to do that.

(8) Comment from staff representatives.

Dr Lim suggested that we have to seriously concern about the English standard of tutors.

(9) Any other business.

There was no any other business.

(10) Date of next meeting.

This was the last meeting in the current academic year. The next meeting was scheduled to be held in around October.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:30
Bosco Hong-Kiu Yung (Secretary and postgraduate student representative)
16th April, 2012