

Minutes for 2000 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No.5

Date: Wednesday November 1, 2000

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Physics Department Library, Chong Yuet Ming Physics Building

Present:

- [Mr. Terry Boyce](#) (Staff Representative & Chairman)
- [Dr. Francis Ling Chi-chung](#) (Staff Representative)
- [Dr. Wang Jian](#) (Staff Representative)
- Mr. Andy Leung Hoi Cheung (1st Year Representative)
- Mr. Ma Pui Wai (2nd Year Representative)
- Ms. Michelle Cheung Suet Yee (3rd Year Representative)
- [Mr. Ho King Fung](#) (Acting Postgraduate Representative & Secretary)

Apologies:

- [Dr. Xie Mao-hai](#) (Staff Representative)

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting ([00/04](#)) were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

In relation to Item 3 i (b), Mr. Boyce reported that the Head of Department will give permission to individual students wishing to participate in the Government Census based on each student's academic status.

3. Comments from student and staff representatives

i. Comments from the first-year representative

Mr. Leung reported that some students had expressed an interest in setting up a Physics Society and asked whether the Department would help by providing a room and funds. Mr. Boyce commented that it would be useful if the aims and constitution of the Society could be established first and added that it should be extended to cover all years, not just the 1st Year. He also queried whether it might be more appropriate for such a society to be formed under the Student Union. Ms. Cheung suggested that an e-mail should be sent to all students to seek their opinion. Mr. Boyce agreed to raise the matter at the next Physics Department Staff Meeting.

[Post-Meeting Note: The matter was raised at the Physics Department staff meeting on November 3 and it was agreed that:

- a. The Department should encourage such activity, but at the same time it might be more appropriate for such a society to be formed

under the Student Union.

- b. The aims and constitution of the proposed Society should be drawn up and students from all years should be involved.
- c. The Department will consider providing space (and possibly funds) after the aims and constitution of the Society have been suitably established.]

ii. **Comments from the second-year representative**

- a. Mr. Ma transferred the key for the class pigeon-hole to the first-year representative.
- b. Mr. Ma complained that there were insufficient chairs in Room 527 (Computer Room) for the number of computers. Mr. Boyce agreed to investigate and raise the matter with the Head of Department.

[Post-Meeting Note: The Head of Department agreed to provide more chairs for Room 527. On November 29, six new chairs were placed in Room 527 bringing the total to 20, i.e. one chair per computer.]

- c. Mr. Ma asked if there would be a re-assignment of student advisor following Prof. MacKeown's retirement. Mr. Boyce agreed to raise the matter at the next Physics Department Staff Meeting.

[Post-Meeting Note: The matter was raised at the Physics Department staff meeting on November 3 and Prof. Cheng indicated that this would be done as soon as possible.]

iii. **Comments from the third-year representative**

- a. Ms. Cheung reported that many students were dissatisfied with the new core-selection process. The system operates by random selection rather than on a first-come-first-serve-basis and leads to the absurd situation where some students find they cannot take the core courses required for their chosen programme. Dr. Ling commented that he was a member of the Core Selection Committee and that the committee was also unhappy with the system. He suggested that since this system was now University policy, students should send letters of complaint directly to the Faculty of Science and the Senate.
- b. Ms. Cheung reported that students taking Course PHYS2226 Animation in Science had complained of the lecture time (6:00 p.m.) being too late, especially for those students who had early morning classes and had to wait all day just to attend the course. Mr. Boyce agreed to raise the matter at the next Physics Department Staff Meeting.

[Post-Meeting Note: The matter was raised at the Physics Department staff meeting on November 3 and Prof. Cheng said that nothing that could be done to alleviate this problem in the current year since the course was taught by someone outside the University who was not available during normal teaching hours. However, he

added that the course would be taught by a staff member in the following year so that the problem should not arise in future.]

iv. **Comments from the postgraduate representative**

There were no comments from the postgraduate representative.

v. **Comments from staff representatives**

Mr. Boyce commented on the confusion caused by the two-week selection process at the beginning of each semester and the difficulties it creates in running a course. He suggested that a 15-minute introduction to each course given in the first week of each semester should be sufficient to enable students to decide whether or not they wanted to take a course. He also commented on the unfair bias given to students in being able to drop a course, while teaching staff are unable to remove students who fail to participate in a course for which they are registered.

4. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

5. **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Boyce
Chairman

November 28, 2000