

Minutes for 1999 Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting No.4

Date: Thursday October 14, 1999

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Physics Department Library, Physics Building

Present:

- [Mr. Terry Boyce](#) (Staff Representative & Chairman)
- [Dr. J. Wang](#) (Staff Representative)
- [Dr. Wang Zidan](#) (Staff Representative)
- Mr. Ma Pui Wai (1st Year Representative)
- Ms. Michelle Cheung Suet Yee (2nd Year Representative)
- Mr. Mike Lam Ho Yan (3rd Year Representative)
- Mr. Sazabi Chin Hong Yu (Postgraduate Representative & Secretary)

Absent:

- [Dr. Chau Hoi-fung](#) (Staff Representative)

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting ([99/03](#)) were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

3. Comments from student and staff representatives

i. Comments from the first-year representative

Mr. Ma reported that students were unhappy with the timing of the test for Methods in Physics A and asked for tests in future to be held after the Reading Week.

Mr. Ma asked whether it would be possible for the Class Association to be provided with locker space for storage of materials. Mr Boyce promised to enquire into the matter but pointed out that lockers were provided by the University not the Department and doubted whether there were any free at this particular time.

Mr. Ma reported that they were intending to create a homepage for 1st-year students and asked whether it could be linked to the Physics Department homepage. Mr. Boyce welcomed the move and agreed to link it to the Physics Department homepage. He also said that he hoped students from other years would take a similar initiative.

ii. Comments from the second-year representative

Ms. Cheung said that students were unsure about what facilities were available for their use within the Department and mentioned in particular the scanner and printing facilities in Room 527 (the Computer Lab). Mr. Boyce replied that because of past experience in wastage of paper, students were now expected to buy paper for printing and that it was available from the Department Office at a cost of HK\$5 for 70 pages. With regard to the scanner, he promised that he would raise the matter at the next staff meeting to try and clarify the situation.

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

Mr. Lam reported that he had received complaints from students that they were unable to hear Prof. MacKeown because he spoke too softly when he lectured in Room 311. Mr. Boyce promised to pass the comment on to Prof. MacKeown.

Mr. Lam reported that there were complaints about insufficient software installed on the computers in Room 527, especially with regard to Visual C++ and Digital Fortran, which are required for the course on computer modelling. He said he thought that at least half of the computers should have this software installed. Mr. Boyce promised to raise this with the staff concerned.

iv. **Comments from the postgraduate representative**

Mr. Chin reported that many new postgraduates were finding the workload excessive during the first semester due to the fact that they had to attend many Graduate School courses in addition to their normal demonstrating duties and research activities. He suggested that it would be better if the courses were more evenly distributed throughout the whole academic year.

In addition, he reported that many people found the course on Statistics for Science Students (GRSC6006) too elementary and uninteresting and not at an appropriate level for science postgraduates.

v. **Comments from staff representatives**

Mr. Boyce reported that Prof. Cheng had ordered that the pantry should be locked during lunchtime (from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.) as a result of abuse by students. He said that this facility would not be made available to students unless it was treated with respect and kept properly clean.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Boyce
Chairman

October 15, 1999