

**Staff-Student Consultative Committee**  
**Minutes for Meeting No. 1 of 2022/2023**

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Zoom meeting

**Present:**

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

Prof. H.F. Chau (Staff representative)

Dr. Jenny Lee (Staff representative)

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

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

Dr. M. K. Yip (Staff representative)

Mr. To Chung Cheung (1<sup>st</sup> year representative)

Mr. Fung Chin Wah (2<sup>nd</sup> year representative)

Mr. Liu Ruizhu (4<sup>th</sup> year representative)

Mr. Martin Yiu To Chung (Postgraduate student representative)

Mr. Liu Xicheng (MSc in Space Science representative)

Mr. Choi Chung Hei (Physics Society)

**Apology:**

Dr. Judy Chow (Staff representative)

To be confirmed (3<sup>rd</sup> year representative)

Miss Wang Binyang (MSc in Physics representative)

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

*Concern:* Students asked if the prerequisite of PHYS1150 (Problem Solving in Physics) should include the requirement of Module 1 or Module 2 in HKDSE Mathematics explicitly.

*Deliberation:* Dr. M.K. Yip reported that students should better have basic calculus training before enrollment in PHYS1150. Such message has been given to students in every class during add/drop period. In fact, he has also appealed that knowledge of Module 1 or Module 2 in HKDSE Mathematics will be of great help to students. Here is an extraction from the pre-requisite stated in SIS, i.e. “*Knowledge of Module 1 or Module 2 in HKDSE Mathematics, or MATH1011, or equivalent is advantageous, though not required*”. Prof. H.F. Chau suggested adding a requirement

such as level 3 or above in HKDSE Module 1 or Module 2 Mathematics. The committee will bring the matter to the Teaching Committee. He also invited students to attend and share ideas in an Open Forum of the Physics Department which will be held soon.

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

*Concern:* Students asked if PHYS2150 (Methods in Physics I) could become one of the core course.

*Deliberation:* Dr. F. C.C. Ling reported that the total number of core courses in a major is restricted. Prof. H.F. Chau pointed out that students should get advice from teachers and peers before course selection instead of reading the syllabus solely. He admitted that student consultation was greatly affected by the pandemic in recent years.

*Concern:* Students reported that PHYS4650 (Stellar Physics) was not open for some years and STAT1603 (Introductory Statistics) was not open in 2022/23.

*Deliberation:* Prof. H.F. Chau reported that PHYS4650 (Stella Physics) is replaced by PHYS4656 (Advanced Astrophysics). Dr. J.C.S. Pun reported that the offering department of STAT1603 informed the physics department very late for its cancellation. The replacement course is STAT2601 (Probability and Statistics). The physics department will update the curriculum too.

*Concern:* Students suggested if the teacher could include more physical applications in PHYS2150 (Methods in Physics I). They asked for more physical understanding of gradient operator.

*Deliberation:* The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

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

The committee will collect comments after the meeting.

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

*Concern:* Students reported that knowledge and skills in data analysis were used in a laboratory work of PHYS4850 (Particle Physics). As a result many students lost marks because those things were not covered in any courses that they have learned.

*Deliberation:* Prof. H.F. Chau reported that it was the first time that PHYS4850 (Particle Physics)

included laboratory work. He suggested the teacher to communicate well with students and see if the methods of data analysis could be covered in the course. The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

*Concern:* Students asked if PHYS8352 (Quantum Information) could be open to undergraduates.

*Deliberation:* Prof. H.F. Chau reported that not all graduate courses are open to undergraduates due to manpower/admin problems. Experimental courses might have restriction due to manpower and limited devices.

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

*Concern:* Students reported that the number of power sockets available in the classrooms did not meet their needs because they had to work with laptops during class.

*Deliberation:* Dr. J.S.C. Pun pointed out that he could not promise on this matter because the classrooms were allocated by the university and it was out of his control. However, he agreed to check the room facilities before problems occur.

*Concern:* Students reported that the teacher did not release the grades and comments for homework/test on Moodle.

*Deliberation:* Dr. J.S.C. Pun suggested that students should prompt teachers to post the scores and feedbacks for homework/test on Moodle. Dr. F.C.C. Ling asked students to email him and he will do the job if students did not want their names known by the teachers. Prof. H.F. Chau added that students could also contact the Head of Department if the matter was serious. He strongly encouraged students to communicate with teachers early when troubles came and they should not wait until the SSCC meeting (usually at the end of semester).

*Concern:* Students reported that the exam grades were posted very late and it was in the first week of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. It affected greatly on their study plans.

*Deliberation:* Dr. J.S.C. Pun explained that the date of grade release was late because the university had to wait until all teachers submitted the final grades to the university.

*Concern:* Students reported that technical problems were encountered when SPSC7006 (Small Satellite Design) performed online teaching through ZOOM.

Deliberation: Dr. J.S.C. Pun wanted to know the nature of problems such that necessary support could be provided.

*Concern:* Students reported that all HW assignments of SPSC7003 (Remote Sensing in Space Science) were posted late. Many of them were released behind the schedule by one to two weeks. The due date of the last assignment was very close to the exam period.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

*Concern:* Students reported that the typos and errors on the slides of SPSC7002 (Introduction to Space Weather) were not corrected despite receiving report from students. The wrong copy was always there.

Deliberation: The committee will bring the matter to the teacher.

*Concern:* Students had concerns about PHYS8150 (Computational Physics and Contemporary Applications). They found that the exam focused too much on coding and the working time was very tight too. They added that they agreed to include coding exercise in the HW assignment but not in the exam because they thought that the ability of writing codes was irrelevant to their physics knowledge learned from this course.

Deliberation: Prof. H.F. Chau pointed out that students should understand that coding was a part of the course and so it appeared in the exam. He emphasized that coding experience is very important when students work in the fields and in the industry. Dr. J. J. L. Lim suggested the instructor having a calibration to the physics part and the coding part in the exam paper.

*Concern:* Students reported that the instructor of PHYS4656 (Advanced Astrophysics) did not use Moodle but emails. They would think that Moodle is a better platform.

Deliberation: Dr. F.C.C. Ling suggested students to talk to the instructor directly.

#### **(6) Feedback from MSc in Physics representative**

The committee will collect comments after the meeting.

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

The committee received no comment from the representative.

## **(8) Feedback from Physics Society**

*Concern:* Students reported that the number of freshmen that joined their activities was few. There were very few freshmen who joined the activity in Registration Day.

*Deliberation:* Dr. J.C.S. Pun suggested the Physics Society to promote their activities in the first lecture of PHYS1150 (Problem Solving in Physics).

*Concern:* Students reported that many of them could not access the Physics Building with their student ID cards.

*Deliberation:* Dr. F.C.C. Ling promised to follow up the matter. He will learn from the department the way of door access registration.

## **Feedback from teacher representatives**

- Dr. F.C.C. Ling received no response from students in the last year about their plan organizing a career talk. He prompted again that if the Physics Society would like to organize a career talk this year, the Department of Physics is very willing to provide support. Last but not least, the Physics Society should decide the scope of the talk first and then tell him to seek for speakers.
- Dr. J.C.S. Pun invited students to attend an Open Forum on Teaching and Learning issues of the Physics Department. The forum will be held soon. In the coming round, the forum will focus on undergraduate teaching. The external examiner will come too.
- Dr. J.J.L. Lim stated that most issues that we had discussed in the meeting could be solved during the semester. Students should contact the teachers early when they found problems and they should not wait and report the matter very late in the SSCC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

MK YIP (Temporary Secretary)

15<sup>th</sup> February, 2023