

Committee on Student Affairs

Draft Minutes of the 59th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 5 Jan 2017 at 2:30pm at Room 7341.

- Present : Prof Karl Tsim (Chairman), Prof CY Tsui, Prof Lam-Lung Yeung, Prof Emily Nason, Dr Robert Wessling, Miss Jasmine Ho, Mrs Pandora Yuen (Member and Secretary)
- Apologies : Prof Billy So, Prof Shing-yu Leung, Prof Yongshun Cai, Mr Kelvin Cheung, Miss Vanessa Wan
- In Attendance : SAO: Ms Grace Ling, Mr Donny Siu, Ms Daisy Kwan

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed faculty and student members for the Year 2017.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. Minutes of the 58th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) was confirmed unanimously.

Matters Arising

3. The demographic data of executive committee members of Student's Union (SU) affiliated societies were prepared and presented as CSA had requested. Data was grouped according to school, year of study, gender and origin (local/ non-local).

Students' Union Proposal for Student Election Campaign (Pro-P)

4. Members received SU's revised proposal for the Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2017 from Miss Jasmine Ho:
 - a. SU conducted a survey to collect views of the university community towards chanting. Invitation was emailed to all SU members (comprised of UG & PG students, except first year UG students) and to all staff. Respondents generally supported the continuation of the Pro-P but support towards chanting activities and its noise level were split. Support level towards big decorations as a culture in Pro-P was higher. SU noted that the result was for indicative purpose only as it was conducted using open-sourced survey form (google) without control for multiple replies from the same respondent.
 - b. Based on the survey result and past experiences, Pro-P arrangement was proposed as follows:
 - Duration remained at 15 days (1-21 Feb 2017) similar to previous years, to allow enough time slots for all societies.
 - Chanting would be down to one session per day, during lunch (1-2pm) at the Piazza instead of the Atrium and the last chant would be on a week day, during lunch.
 - Rules and regulations would be clearly explained to all participating student societies in advance and would be executed clearly. A 6-level penalty system, ranging from verbal/ written warning and confiscation of deposits to suspension of booking rights and bringing case to SU Court for further penalties/ judgement was proposed, pending agreement from FMO.
 - On-site investigation to be conducted jointly with HSEO and FMO on safety of set-up. A joint monitoring team with representatives from SU, FMO and SAO to monitor the situation. There would be 2 monitoring team members at the Atrium

from 9am to 6pm during the period and 3 members during every chanting session (1-2pm).

- Allocation of counters to be done through competitive bidding instead of lots-drawing, which was suggested by FMO. Payment would be waived, as an incentive, for societies that follow all rules and regulations without any violations.
5. Members discussed the proposed arrangement in details, exchanging views on alternatives and agreed on the following:
 - a. Regarding competitive bidding, instead of open bidding counter after counter, Members suggested variations to the bidding arrangement for a more effective and harmonic operation, e.g. highest bidder choose with priority or close bid. Miss Ho explained close bidding was considered but ruled out fearing of bid-rigging. Miss Ho agreed to explore open bid with highest bidder choose with priority for a more effective operation.
 - b. Regarding the 6-level penalty system, Members suggested reducing to four levels, e.g. combining levels two and three, as six seemed to invite violations.
 - c. Regarding chanting areas at the Piazza, enough space should be provided between chanting groups to reduce potential of conflict.
 - d. Regarding big decorations, SU to put in writing the limit of one decoration per society considering our responsibility to the environment and the University's goal of 50% waste reduction by 2020.
 6. Members strongly suggested setting up an appeal mechanism with a panel of representatives from students, faculty and staff to just handle appeals relating to violation and penalties. This was to maintain SU's autonomy while protecting the rights of all University stakeholders, as violations affect the entire community. The panel should consider the interest of all stakeholders within the University, foster a community spirit that abide by rules, and enforce consequences consistently and fairly.
 7. Members commended SU's effort. Miss Jasmine Ho moved a motion to accept the revised proposal with suggestions listed in paragraph 5 being incorporated. The motion was seconded by Prof Emily Nason, and carried unanimously.

Report on Scheme on Sponsored Projects and Groups

8. Members received report on the progress of the Scheme on Sponsored Projects and Groups for 2015-16 (CSA/59/1) from Ms Grace Ling.
9. The Chairman enquired the general response of students towards the Scheme. Ms Ling noted that most students expressed appreciation towards the chance to access campus facilities and amenities, and the advice from SAO. Unfortunately, there had not been much written feedback received to date.
10. Miss Jasmine Ho thought positively of the Scheme and expressed her hope that the Scheme could help promote groups to eventually choose to be affiliated with SU, such as MSSS UG and ISA. Members discuss the feasibility of MSSS and ISA joining with SU. It was noted that there were hurdles but all parties had been working towards the same goal.
11. Prof Lam Lung Yeung noted that some project organizers found it difficult to submit reports and enquired the possibility of providing templates with simple tables to simplify the process of report writing and focus on working together to organize events. Grace noted the possibility for this along with more detailed check on the financial aspect of the projects, for proper use of money collected.
12. Prof Lam Lung Yeung proposed to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Prof Nason, and carried unanimously.

(Ms Grace Ling left the meeting.)

Report on Student Enrichment Activities Fund

13. Members received report on the progress of the Student Enrichment Activities (SEA) Fund for 2015-16 (CSA/59/2) from Mr Donny Siu.
14. Prof CY Tsui noted there seemed to be more non-local student organizers than local student organizers. Mrs Pandora Yuen explained that because local students, eager to organize activities, would normally be more involved with SU affiliates student societies, where funding and resources were already available.
15. The Chairman enquired the reasons for declining projects, whether it was due to insufficient funding or yet-to-improve proposals/ project ideas. Pandora assured the Chairman that funding source was abundant for student projects. Rather, some projects will apply for different funds and if they were successful with one application, they would withdraw applications from the other.
16. Dr Robert Wessling enquired about the community service trips organized by student groups in relation to possible liabilities for the University. Mr Siu noted that the overseas community service trips receiving support were heavily advised and facilitated via HKUST Connect or other established volunteer organization such as the Chinese YMCA. Dr Wessling suggested strengthening the message of overseas support through iSOS and having SU maintaining a list of overseas trips/ visits by student organizers.
17. Prof CY Tsui proposed to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Prof Lam Lung Yeung, and carried unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:24pm.