

Committee on Student Affairs

Draft Minutes of the 60th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 5 December 2017 at 2:30pm at Room 7341.

- Present : Prof Karl Tsim (Chairman), Prof Chi-Ying Tsui, Prof Siu-Fai Leung, Prof Shing-yu Leung, Prof Emily Nason, Prof Yongshun Cai, Miss Chloe Chan, Miss Jasmine Ho, Mr Kwong-Hoi Tsui, Prof Robert Wessling (Member and Secretary)
- Apologies : Prof Lam-Lung Yeung, Mr Ka-Shing Chan
- In Attendance : SAO: Ms Grace Ling, Mr Donny Siu, Ms Daisy Kwan
DSTO: Mr Arnold Tang (SHRL)
- Resource Person : FMO: Mr Jerome Hon

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed new members – Miss Chloe Chan and Mr Kwong-Hoi Tsui.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2. Minutes of the 59th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) was confirmed with amendments to typos in points 4a “Pro-P”, 14 “Prof CY Tsui”, and 15 “withdraw”.
3. There were no matters arising.

Update on the Structure of the Office of Dean of Students and Student Affairs Office

4. Prof Robert Wessling shared with Members the updated structure of the Office of the Dean of Students (DSTO) and the Student Affairs Office (SAO).
 - a. Considering global trends in student affairs and changing needs of students, DSTO and SAO units were regrouped into two teams – Student Success and Development Team and Campus Life and Wellness Team– for increased collaboration and synergy. The Dean of Students was concurrently appointed the Director of Student Affairs, and the Associate Dean of Students, another concurrently position, was appointed from within the units.
 - b. The formation of a faculty advisory board was under discussion.
 - c. Students would also share a role with the enhanced opportunities, such as being student ambassadors for the DSTO.
5. The Chairman clarified that the item was for Members’ information and commended that the two teams for DSTO and SAO complemented and integrated with each other to maximize resources and maintain balance.
6. The following Members’ enquiries were addressed by Prof Wessling:
 - a. In terms of having staff at the same office to facilitate the collaboration, it was noted that due to limitation to office space, colleagues were at different locations but regular meetings were held to encourage exchange.
 - b. The work scope of the Mainland & Belt and Road Opportunities unit included mostly cultural exchange (inbound and outbound) and also covered initiatives for the Bay area. There were plenty of eye-opening opportunities and external funding available for students.
 - c. Student Members were concerned about ways to reach the correct person for help and assistance. It was noted that a separate project was underway to construct a website for both DSTO and SAO for more effective communications. The feasibility for newer forms of

communication channels preferred by students, e.g. a WhatsApp enquiry line during office hours, was also being explored.

7. The Chairman commended the good works of the DSTO and SAO colleagues and thanked them for their contributions.
8. Miss Chan proposed to pass the item. The item was passed unanimously.

Proposed Changes to Hall Allocation Policy

9. Members received report from Mr Arnold Tang on Proposed Changes to Hall Allocation Policy (CSA/60/1).
10. Members discussed extensively on the item, seeking clarifications to the background principles of the proposed changes, the issues being considered, the process used to derive the proposal, and the mandate and representativeness of the Task Force. It was clarified that changes were in the proposal stage and consultation was ongoing.
11. Members remained concerned after the discussion if student's voices were effectively represented during the process. Also, the mandate and role of the Task Force were unclear to Members.
12. Members requested further information on the terms of reference, powers and composition of the Task Force on UG Hall Allocation Policy Review. The Student Housing and Residential Life Office to provide CSA with the information in the next meeting.

[SHRL]

13. Mr Tsui moved to pass the item. The item was passed unanimously.

Students' Union Proposal for Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2018

14. Members received report from Miss Chloe Chan the Students' Union (SU) Proposal for the Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2018.
15. There were concerns towards the chanting areas being located in the Atrium and within close proximity to the escalator which increased risks for accidents. Prof Emily Nason noted that some faculty members and students shared positive feedback towards last year's plan where the chanting area was at the Piazza. Respecting Miss Jasmine Ho's note that SU believed that chanting has its traditional value, Prof Nason suggested that SU consider using last year's plan as basis for their proposal.
16. The Chairman commented that the discussion related to chanting and its many alternative forms had been discussed since the first day when chanting appeared on campus. Last year's Pro-P was the year with the least complaints received. The Chairman reminded SU of the importance to address the views of different campus communities when putting together the proposal.
17. Mr Jerome Hon noted the Facilities Management Office had no prior communications with SU on the 2018 Proposal. He reiterated that moving the chanting area back into the Atrium would not be feasible considering safety issues. Last year was the only year where maximum noise level remained below 100dB, as required by the Law to maintain an acoustically healthy environment.
18. The Chairman suggested that Miss Chan, on behalf of SU, worked with Mr Hon for a revised proposal for the CSA in January. Due to time constraint, the Chairman recommended that SU to propose minor amendments based on last year's arrangement.
19. Prof Shing-yu Leung proposed to move the item. The item was passed unanimously.

Report on Student Leaders Program and Scheme on Sponsored Projects and Groups

20. Members received reports from Ms Grace Ling on the Student Leaders Program (CSA/60/3) and the Scheme on Sponsored Projects and Groups Student (CSA/60/4) respectively for 2016-17.
21. Prof Shing-yu Leung sought further information regarding the sponsored project PAG (Postgraduate Activity Group), which was terminated from the Scheme on Sponsored Projects and Groups:
 - a. Ms Ling noted that the termination of the group by the Panel on Sponsored Projects and Groups was due to PAG's unauthorized use of the University's name and repeated inaccurate claims to external parties that they represent the University's postgraduate population. Such claims were continuous despite of repeated reminders from SAO.
 - b. Ms Ling further shared that PAG aimed at organizing activities for postgraduate students. They also intend to become the postgraduate student association of the University, which required going through certain processes to seek recognition from students through consultation and respective offices.
 - c. SAO had facilitated various meetings for the group, e.g. with the Office of Postgraduate Studies, but there were not much progress. Recently, the group started exploring for SU affiliation. Miss Chan confirmed that the group had approached them for initial discussion.
22. Prof Wessling noted that some student groups shared with him that they would like to be affiliated with SU but they could not get booking rights for facilities to promote for their group:
 - a. Miss Chloe Chan clarified that groups could approach SU for arrangement of a counter during Pro-P so to attract more votes. She quoted the case for the Muslim Students' Group where SU had helped arranged a counter for their promotion during Pro-P in 2017. Unfortunately, the group failed to acquire enough votes from full members of SU to become SU affiliated.
 - b. Ms Ling shared that SAO had continued to support and advise the Muslim Students' Group and they would be seeking for votes again in Pro-P 2018.
23. Prof Emily Nason proposed to endorse the reports. The reports were accepted unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.