

Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 16 January 2019 at 4pm at Room 1017A.

- Present : Prof Karl Tsim (Chairman), Prof Philip Mok, Prof Siu-Fai Leung, Prof Lam-Lung Yeung, Prof David Banfield, Prof Jin Wang, Mr Alpine Mok, Mr Terence Wan, Mr Ryan Ng, Prof King Chow (Member and Secretary)
- Apologies : Prof Emily Nason
- In Attendance : DSTO: Ms Grace Ling, Ms Helen Wong, Mrs Faith Ho, Ms Shirley Wu
- Resource Person : FMO: Mr Jerome Hon

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed new members – Prof Philip Mok from SENG and three student members Mr Alpine Mok, Mr Ryan Ng and Mr Terence Wan.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2. Prof King Chow updated on SU Welfare Company. The University took over the related issues previously held by the company which had been closed down. The vending service agreement is now under VPAB office and legal issues have been settled.
3. Minutes of the 62nd Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) was confirmed without amendments and there were no matters arising.

Reports on the Redbird Leadership Community and HKUST Connect in 2017-18

4. Members received report from Ms Helen Wong on the Redbird Leadership Community (CSA/63/1) and on HKUST Connect (CSA/63/2) for 2017-18.
5. It was observed that there was nil Gold Award of the Redbird and Ms Wong shared this gap year was due to the change from combined awards (Silver and Gold track simultaneously in 2nd year) to consequential progress to the Gold track in 3rd year after completing the Silver track in 2nd year. Ms Wong further clarified that students could continue after they returned from exchange program but it would be a bit difficult to engage them again. On the relationship of the scheme with careers, Ms Wong shared that it was more a mentorship training.
6. Members enquired the statistics of the Redbird including gender, school and admission status. Ms Wong shared that the gender percentage (Male 50% vs. Female 50%) was coincident and no quota was set for the gender. The lower percentage of students from SHSS (2%) and IPO

(3%) was due to fewer freshmen from SHSS and IPO joining in the 1st year Bronze track, although outreach to Schools during the orientation period was conducted. The percentage of International students (8%) matched the percentage of university community.

7. The Chairman enquired the number of hours of service of HKUST Connect compared with other universities. Ms Wong shared that it was difficult to compare as different universities had different strategies, for example, it was mandatory and credit-bearing in PolyU while we focused on quality and project delivery.
8. The Chairman proposed to endorse the reports. Members endorsed the reports unanimously.
(Ms Helen Wong was excused from the meeting. Ms Grace Ling and Mr Jerome Hon joined)

Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2019

9. The Chairman welcomed Ms Grace Ling and Mr Jerome Hon to the meeting.
10. The Chairman asked Mr Alpine Mok to present SU proposal for the Prof-P 2019. Mr Mok expressed that most of the proposal followed practice in last year and highlighted six key changes:
 - (i) Allocation of counter
 - (ii) New penalty system
 - (iii) New counter floor plan
 - (iv) Setting up of promotion items
 - (v) Counter height
 - (vi) Chanting flag height
11. The Chairman asked Ms Grace Ling to present the comments on SU proposal for the Prof-P 2019.
12. Members had a lengthy discussion on SU proposal, expressing concerns and seeking clarifications.
13. In relation to allocation of counter via lottery instead of bidding:
 - a. Student members noted that bidding went up to over \$20,000 in 2017 and \$40,000 in 2018 and it was estimated that the bidding could go up to \$70,000 this year. SU had concerns in keeping a large amount of money from bidding and proposed to allocate counters via lottery. A refundable deposit of \$4,000 would be collected from each nominated cabinet after lottery. Swapping would be allowed after lottery.
 - b. Faculty members had no objection to the lottery method as long as it was open and transparent but had major reservation on counter swapping on account of potential intimidation. Mr Jerome Hon shared that there was a complaint from one student society being forced to swap the allocated counter two years ago.
 - c. Student members explained that some societies' counters of the same theme could stay together via swapping. Prof David Banfield suggested to assign some zones and conduct two lotteries. The societies which preferred to stay together could form a group to join the

- 1st lottery to select the zone area. The group of societies could conduct the 2nd lottery to allocate the individual counters.
- d. The Chairman assured student members that the Committee was supportive of lottery but swapping should not be allowed. SU should facilitate the arrangement of the Prof-P and ensure that there would be no bullying and intimidation.
14. In relation to chanting and shouting, Ms Grace Ling shared that the University adopted a “zero tolerance” policy for illegal chanting and suggested to include “Shouting and any form of noise disturbances are also not acceptable” in SU Regulations. Student members agreed to include it.
15. In relation to counter set up:
- a. Ms Grace Ling commented that marquees should be used and set up by professional contractor for safety reasons. Mr Alpine Mok responded that last year the set up charge by FMO was \$8,000 which was an unexpected burden for SU. The Chairman proposed that DSTO might be able to help SU absorb the set up cost. Prof King Chow agreed that DSTO would consider to absorb the cost.
- b. Ms Grace Ling commented that dismantling and vacating from the Atrium should be completed by 3pm on the day before the Lunar New Year (LNY) holidays so that the on-duty staff could be released by 6pm. Student members requested that all counters and decorations in Atrium be kept since dismantling was both time and manpower consuming. Also it could be a safety problem for students to move big decorations down the slope to LG5 car park. Mr Jerome Hon supplemented that dismantling was requested due to potential danger. It was reported that last year some kids climbed over big decorations during LNY holidays and there was no security guard on duty during LNY holidays. The University shall bear the liability for accidents. Prof David Banfield suggested compromised solutions: (i) hire extra security guard, (ii) only big decorations should be removed from the Atrium. (*Prof Siu-Fai Leung was excused from the meeting.*) The Chairman urged student members to compromise and student members agreed to remove the big decorations from the Atrium and requested not to remove those from the Concourse. Mr Jerome Hon agreed that the big decorations in the Concourse with fence protection could remain. Ms Grace Ling supplemented that according to insurance terms, precautions should be taken to prevent accidents. Faculty members supplemented that SU should also bear the 3rd party liabilities.
- c. Ms Grace Ling commented if counter/big decoration not dismantled and removed as required, a clear-up fee of \$700 for each big decoration and each counter would be levied and all counter and big decoration would be disposed of. Student members agreed on this.
16. In relation to penalties:
- a. It was noted that last year the House Student Associations were suspended from booking all campus facilities for half a year due to 15 minutes of illegal chanting.
- b. Ms Grace Ling commented that SU should take action immediately upon receiving a report

- of violation from FMO or DSTO(SSA) and nominated cabinets would stop the violation.
- c. Ms Grace Ling commented that the proposed penalty system was too complicated and suggested to trim down to three levels. Student members responded that SU would consider to simplify the penalty system.
 - d. Ms Grace Ling suggested to elaborate Regulation 4.5 to make it clearer to students. Student members responded that the definition and measures of illegal chanting were not clear and SU reserved the right to suspend the right of individuals from being an official executive committee member if serious violation was observed. Faculty members reminded that SU should uphold the standards and take best measures to reduce the noise during Prop-P. The Chairman asked Ms Ling to forward the comments to SU and SU was required to circulate the revised proposal with necessary amendments for CSA endorsement as soon as possible.
17. In relation to counter height and chanting flag height, student members proposed to increase the counter height from 3.6m to 3.8m and the chanting flag height from 3m to 3.5m. Mr Jerome Hon shared that the height was set according to safety requirements. Student members supplemented that the height of chanting flag was 4m before. Ms Grace Ling would double check last year's record.
- [Post-meeting note: According to CSA meeting records, "3.10.1 Overall size of flag must not exceed 3m (H) x 2m (W)." was proposed by SU and approved by CSA for the Pro-P 2018.]*
18. The Chairman reminded that SU should take responsibilities of Pro-P activities. If SU could not manage it, FMO and other units would have to take action for safety and security reasons.
19. The Chairman asked Mr. Alpine Mok to amend the proposal, highlight the amendments and send to CSA members for circulation and endorsement.
20. The Chairman moved to accept SU's proposal in principle. Member agreed to the proposal in principle unanimously and the Chairman asked Mr Alpine Mok to work with FMO and SSA to incorporate the amendments and submit a revised proposal to the Committee for endorsement.
21. SU representative was reminded to submit a Report on Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2019 to CSA for the next meeting in March/April.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.