

Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes of the 65th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 15 January 2020 at 5:30pm at Room 5021.

- Present : Prof Arthur Lau (Chairman), Prof Ronald Lau, Prof Philip Mok,
Prof DY Yeung, Mr Yuting Cai, Prof King Chow (Member and Secretary)
- Apologies : Prof Ho Bun Chan, Prof Emily Nason, Prof Jin Wang, Mr Haoyu Liu,
Mr Alpine Mok, Mr Ho Yin Wan
- In Attendance : DSTO: Miss Silver Chan, Ms Grace Ling, Mr Gary Chung, Mrs Faith Ho,
Ms Shirley Wu
FMO: Mr Jerome Hon, Ms Jessica Li

Welcome

1. The Chairman introduced and welcomed new members – Prof Ronald Lau, Prof DY Yeung and Mr Yuting Cai.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2. Minutes of the 64th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) was confirmed and there were no matters arising.

Report on Counseling and Wellness Service

3. Members received a report from Miss Silver Chan on Counseling and Wellness Service. It was reported that around 10% of HKUST student populations are counseling clients and the number of counseling clients increased by 156% since 2012. Prof King Chow shared that mental health is a global issue. In general 1 in 5 persons experience a mental illness. 1 in 4 students at Harvard University and 1 in 3 students at one Ivy League school which Prof Chow visited recently have mental health issues.
4. It was reported that the average waiting time at Counseling and Wellness Center (the Center) is 3 weeks due to manpower constraints and the Centre targets to hire 4 more counselors from 2020 onwards. Members inquired the source of referral for new clients and more details about country of origins in each student group UG, RPG and TPG. Miss Chan replied to provide the data to CSA later.
5. Members suggested the Center to organize school-wide training and sharing with colleagues such as UG coordinators, program directors and school advising teams as the training and sharing help equip colleagues with the knowledge to identify students' mental

health issues earlier. Miss Chan shared that the Center organized some training for school and departments.

6. Members pointed out the importance of peer support and inquired about Peer Counselor Program. Miss Chan shared that the Center recruited about 40 peer counselors, provided training and organized caring projects. Members suggest the Center to collect data to analyze and assess the scale, for instance, how many cases were referred by peer counselors, how many more peer counselors shall be recruited to provide more peer support.
7. Prof King Chow suggest the Center to set a target or objective for next two years to improve the service, such as shortening the waiting time to one week.

(Miss Silver Chan was excused from the meeting. Ms Grace Ling, Mr Gary Chung, Mr Jerome Hon and Ms Jessica Li joined.)

[Post-meeting note: The data of source of referral for new clients and country of origins in each student group was circulated to members with the draft of meeting minutes.]

Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2020

8. As no SU representative was sent to attend the CSA meeting, the Chairman asked Ms Grace Ling to present the observations in 2019 Pro-P and compare the 2020 Pro-P proposal with the 2019 CSA endorsed version.
9. Members notice that the 2020 Pro-P proposal mainly follows the 2019 version. It was shared that in general the 2019 Pro-P was smooth besides a few incidents and the high level of noise during lucky draw. Ms Ling shared that a few complaints were received last year from the library users and faculty members regarding the noise disturbances in Atrium during lucky draw.
10. In relation to penalty, it was noticed that a complicated penalty system might not be effective and there was room for improvement in terms of penalty system and SU monitoring team.
11. Based on the observations in the 2019 campaign and sound level restriction in FMO regulations, a few amendments were recommended:
 - i. Simplify 5-tier penalties to 3-tier penalties which shall apply to all including counters, big decorations, big flags, chanting and lucky draw.
 - ii. No written warning for illegal chanting due to zero tolerance
 - iii. The University reserves the right to take appropriate actions on relevant nominated cabinets/executive committees/ individual students for violations or misbehaviors in the Pro-P activities
 - iv. During other periods of the day, sound level average must be held to 70 dB and a maximum peak level of 76 dB
12. Mr Jerome Hon supplemented that FMO approves the Prop-P venue booking subject to CSA endorsement and SU learned to be responsible over the past few years. As long as SU

keeps the similar practice like last year, the 2020 Pro-P should run smoothly. The Chairman thanked Mr Hon for his great efforts to coordinate on Pro-P in the past years.

13. The Chairman emphasized that beyond SU we need to balance the concerns raised by the other stakeholders like library users, faculty and staff members. CSA members agreed with the fair recommendations and endorsed the 2020 Prop-P proposal subject to a few amendments.

Any Other Business

14. Prof King Chow shared an incident in early January regarding a statue on bridge link. As many concerns were raised by some HKUST members regarding the statue, the University informed SU to remove the statue by a said deadline and used boards to block the scene in the meanwhile. After communication with SU, no action was taken and hence the statue was moved to SU office by the University. It is shared that a guideline/policy was drafted and discussed in multi-meetings among senior management.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Supplementary Figures on the Counseling and Wellness Service

Country of Origin

	UGD	NUGD*	RPG	TPG	Total
Local	552	0	69	12	633
Mainland	121	4	224	104	453
Overseas	180	14	89	11	294
Macau and Taiwan	16	0	1	1	18
TOTAL	869	18	383	128	1398

* NUGD = Visiting/Intern UG Students

Source of Referral for New Clients

(Can tick more than one options)

Self (Banner/Exhibition)	83
Self (Counseling Publications)	66
Self (Email)	154
Self (SMS)	2
Self (Psychological Assessment)	45
University Clinic	28
24/7 HEARing Helpline	11
Academic Registry	51
Classmates/Friends*	153
Residence Master/Residential Life	
Officer/Hall Manager/Hall Tutor	22
School/Department	100
TOTAL	715

* Including Peer Counsellors