

Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes of the 72nd Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 15 November 2022 at 3:00pm at Room 5021 (mixed-mode).

- Present : Prof. Arthur Lau (Chair), Prof. Allen Huang, Prof. Yaping Gong, Dr. Benjamin Leung, Prof. Jinqing Huang, Prof. James Wong, Prof. Pedro Sander, Prof. Pengyu Zhu, Ms. Yue Li, Mr. Ngo Chun Oscar Tse, Mr. Jiacheng Yang, Prof. King Chow (Member and Secretary)
- Apologies : Mr. Po Yin Tsang
- Resource Person : DSTO: Mrs. Ruby Lam, Dr. Cindy Lam
Student group representatives: Miss Huiyi Lily Liang, Mr. Siyuan Feng
- In Attendance : Ms. Shirley Wu

Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed new members – Prof. James Wong, Ms. Yue Li, Mr. Ngo Chun Oscar Tse, Mr. Jiacheng Yang and Mr. Po Yin Tsang.
2. The Chair remarked that on this platform, CSA members could share issues related to students, enhance education quality and propose new ideas.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

3. Minutes of the 71st Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs were confirmed and there were no matters arising.

Report on Internships and Recruitment

4. Members received a report from Mrs. Ruby Lam on Recruitment, Internships and Career Mosaic. It was reported that the post-COVID recruitment was recovering quickly and the virtual or location-independent opportunities were growing. The Career Mosaic was held from 10 to 14 October with 170 employers and the upcoming Career Mosaic would be held from 13 to 17 March 2023. In summer 2022, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) STEM Internship Scheme subsidized about 660 students with HK\$16.4 million, which doubled the size in summer 2020.
5. Dr. Benjamin Leung inquired about ITC STEM Internship Scheme. Mrs. Lam explained that the Scheme was launched in 2020 by the government and it provided subsidies to STEM students to enroll in short-term internships. These internships usually last four weeks in winter and two months in summer. In 2021-2022, the government increased the total

funding amount from 40 million to 80 million. HKUST was granted about 25% of the funding among participating universities.

6. The Chair asked if the student members knew about this ITC STEM Internship Scheme. Mr. Ngo Chun Oscar Tse responded that to his knowledge this Scheme had a capped limit for non-local students and inquired about the limit. Mrs. Lam shared that in 2020, non-local students were not qualified for the Scheme but in 2021-22, non-local students were qualified with a cap at 20%. The Career Center closely monitored the number of non-local students and so far, all applications for non-local students could be accommodated.
7. Prof. King Chow inquired if postgraduates had any issues related to career advising. Mrs. Lam shared that TPG students needed more support in job seeking, as they were new to Hong Kong. The Chair inquired about undergraduates career advising. Mrs. Lam shared that it was really challenging to reach out students during online teaching but they were slowly catching up when students were back to campus.
8. Ms. Yue Li inquired about the support to RPG students who were looking for academia jobs. Mrs. Lam shared that the academia field was very specific and the supervisors would be a good source when RPG students looked for postdoc or faculty positions while the Career Center could help RPG students with CV writing, interview skills and other general career supports. Prof. Chow supplemented that the journals, conferences, academia networking could also be job search channels.
9. Mr. Jiacheng Yang inquired if there would be more opportunities for SHSS students in upcoming Career Mosaic. Mrs. Lam shared that the hiring at Career Mosaic reflected what kind of skills the companies were looking for. It was noted that the companies intended to hire the students who were open to learn STEM skills such as basic coding and basic data analysis. Communication or interpersonal skills were also important to distinguish some students from others. The Chair further shared that companies were looking for students' attributes instead of specific majors.
10. Prof. Allen Huang inquired about the impact of the change of graduation dates. Prof. Chow supplemented that the mainland government would no longer accept the Award Certification Letter issued by Academic Registry from 2023 onwards. Therefore, the University was proposing a few graduation dates to facilitate the timely distribution of degree diplomas. Mrs. Lam shared that some students who had specific job expectations like ibank would keep delaying their graduation until they found satisfying jobs. The Chair suggested that students could be a bit more flexible on job hunting.

(Mrs Ruby Lam was excused from the meeting. Dr Cindy Lam joined.)

Report on Student Activities and Support

11. Members received a report from Dr. Cindy Lam on Student Activities and Support. It was reported that New Student Orientation website was revamped and launched in late June

providing all need-to-know information including orientation activities and enrichment workshops to new students. There were 35 student societies organizing on-campus orientation day and some pre-arrival briefing sessions for non-local new students. Some training, mentoring and activity support were provided to student societies/groups such as leadership advancement camp, outbound study tour and Student Enrichment Activities Support Scheme.

12. Mr. Tse inquired about the pandemic restriction measures for orientation week at sports hall as some new students queued for a long time to get into the sports hall. Dr. Lam shared that there were two types of capacity for sports hall – about 200 for seated persons and 120 for moving-around persons. It was advised to Students' Union (SU) that ex-cos could use the quota for seated persons instead of the quota for moving-around persons. SU also adjusted the time to half an hour per session in order to let students get into the sports hall faster.
13. Mr. Tse also inquired about LG5 renovation as some SU-affiliated societies mentioned they did not know about LG5 renovation plan. Dr. Lam explained that there might be miscommunications between two sessions (previous session and current session) of student ex-cos. Some feedbacks were collected from around 40 different student societies regarding LG5 renovation last November. Prof. Chow met with both the current and previous president of SU in May, and talked about LG5 renovation again. Two information sessions about LG5 renovation were held in mid-October and more feedbacks were collected from student societies. The updated proposal was sent to Campus Development Office to check if it was feasible.
14. Prof. Chow supplemented two issues about the LG5 renovation. One issue was that the Library was running out of space and so the proposal included converting part of LG5 to library extension as student working space. The other issue was that the allocated rooms to school/department societies at LG5 were underused while some independent student societies raised that they did not have enough space. Therefore, co-working space was proposed for LG5 renovation and registered student societies could make full use of the space. It was also noted that the allocated rooms for SU court and council were underused and so some of SU space would be changed to co-working space. The Chair commented that we should consider the benefits of a large community and make some changes.

(Miss Huiyi Lily Liang and Mr Siyuan Feng joined.)

Student groups to present on their activities and plans

15. The Chair invited student representatives to present their activities and plans. Miss Huiyi Lily Liang briefly introduced that AIESEC had 57 members at HKUST this year and would organize exchange programs in winter and summer break. Mr. Siyuan Feng briefly introduced that MSSS organized or planned to organize 10 club activities, 5 festival activities, 4 orientation activities, 2 lecture activities and 1 visiting activity for 2022-23.

16. Prof. Chow asked Mr. Feng how MSSS and MSSSUG coordinated on activities. Mr. Feng shared that MSSSUG focused more on UG activities and MSSS more on PG activities, while for large-scale activities such as orientation they might coordinate to hold together. Prof. Chow further inquired about the coordination between Graduate Students and Alumni association (GSAA), MSSS and MSSSUG. Mr. Feng shared that GSAA usually focused on academic lectures and MSSS/MSSSUG focused on helping mainland students to accommodate their life in Hong Kong and HKUST. Prof. Chow encouraged MSSS to have a clear direction to differ from GSAA and MSSSUG.
17. Mr. Yang shared his observation that MSSS held many activities within mainland student community, and inquired if MSSS would organize activities to help mainland students integrate into the local culture. Mr. Feng shared one example that MSSS had Cantonese club holding lessons every two weeks and organizing visits to some local cultural sights.
18. Prof. Chow also inquired about the collaboration between AIESEC and business student societies. Miss Liang shared that AIESEC was collaborating with some offices like Entrepreneurship Centre and they welcomed any collaboration opportunity with other student societies. The Chair encouraged both AIESEC and MSSS to co-organize some activities with other student societies such as ISA, SU to benefit bigger student population.
19. The Chair invited student representatives to share how the university could further facilitate and support student societies. Miss Liang shared that they needed more logistics support such as activity and meeting venues, working area and storage space. Mr. Feng shared that the most important support was facility/venue booking because sometimes they had to book outside venues due to limited places on campus. The Chair encouraged student representatives to communicate more with Dr. Lam and other colleagues to voice out their needs for improvements.
20. Dr. Leung inquired if AIESEC had any faculty advising on their sustainability. Miss Liang shared that AIESEC programs could be more sustainable as AIESEC usually had 3 or 5 year plan and got support from its regional or international organization.
21. Mr. Tse shared his observation that there were big bubbles for local, mainland and international students at HKUST. Mr. Tse commented that cultural diversity and inclusion was very important and encouraged student societies to try collaborating more with others. Prof. Yaping Gong also commented that although different student societies had to serve their own members, they should explore to co-organize to provide opportunities for different student groups mingling. Dr. Lam suggested that some incentives like funding could be provided to promote diversity and inclusion. The Chair wrapped up that our CSA members shared the same vision and we could share with other university members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.