

Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes of the 73rd Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 17 May 2023 at 3:00pm at Room 5021, Academic Building (mixed-mode).

- Present : Prof. Arthur Lau (Chair), Prof. Allen Huang, Prof. Yaping Gong,
Dr. Benjamin Leung, Prof. Jinqing Huang, Prof. Zhongming Lu, Ms.
Yue Li, Mr. Po Yin Tsang, Mr. Ngo Chun Oscar Tse, Mr. Jiacheng Yang,
Prof. King Chow (Member and Secretary)
- Apologies : Prof. James Wong, Prof. Pedro Sander
- Resource Person : DSTO: Ms. Euphemia Chow, Ms. Helen Wong
Student group representatives: Mr. Tsz Kan Cheung, Miss Anna Wang,
Mr. Nathan Shih Hao Wong
- In Attendance : Ms. Shirley Wu

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting and Welcome

1. Minutes of the 72nd Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs were confirmed and there were no matters arising.
2. The Chair welcomed new member Prof. Zhongming Lu.

Report on Exchange and Study Abroad Program

3. Mr. Ngo Chun Oscar Tse shared his exchange experience that it was a bit hard to find a suitable host, as most universities do not offer Computer Science to exchange students. Mr. Tse also shared that the passing rate in the first year of his host university in Switzerland was around 40% and their students were more stressful than our students at HKUST. He further shared a good buddy program that his host university organized activities connecting current exchange-in students with their future exchange-out students. Prof. King Chow inquired Mr. Tse about the retention/drop-out rate of his host university. Mr. Tse shared that the drop-out rate of his host university was about 30% and their students who failed the course for second attempt would be dismissed. Prof. Chow commented that in Hong Kong the university drop-out rate was around 1%-2% while in Europe the general drop-out rate was from 15% to 30%.
4. Members received a report from Ms. Euphemia Chow on exchange and study abroad program. It was reported that regarding UG exchange program, the number of inbound students was still lower than pre-pandemic number (257 in Spring 2023 comparing with about 400 in a normal term before pandemic) due to various factors including high airfare. With regard to virtual study abroad, the number of outbound students was much higher than

the number of inbound students because a few universities such as Fudan University still offered many online courses. Prof. King Chow supplemented that we might offer more courses for virtual study as CEI would try to encourage faculty members to offer some online courses.

5. Ms. Euphemia Chow shared that the university signed four new student exchange agreements (one in USA, one in Japan and two in the Netherlands) and would offer two new summer credit-bearing study abroad programs (one in Vietnam and the other in Indonesia) sponsored by a donor which would like to support students to learn more about ASEAN region. Ms. Chow further shared that other than ex-out pre-departure sessions and study abroad fair, OGL (Office of Global Learning) started a new initiative HKUST Spark Global Leadership supporting students to meet new friends from different backgrounds and help them engage the community through activities.
6. The Chair suggested that OGL could share the activity information with student societies to reach out more students. Prof. King Chow supplemented that the information could be shared through SSA (Student Support & Activities) team, which had close connections with student societies. Dr. Benjamin Leung shared that from Residence Master's perspective, they could engage inbound students more in student hall activities if OGL could share a list of year-long inbound students with SHRLO. Prof. Chow suggested that we could promote activities/programs through different channels such as school/department e-boards, student societies via SSA team and student halls. The Chair also encouraged CSA faculty and student members to help spread out the information about the two new summer credit-bearing study abroad programs.

(Ms. Euphemia Chow was excused from the meeting. Ms. Helen Wong joined.)

Report on Community Engagement and Other Co-curricular Programs

7. Members received a report from Ms. Helen Wong on community engagement and other co-curricular programs. It was reported that flexible modular programs including Changemaker Pathway, Self-Leadership, Ripples Fellowship Program and various enrichment workshops were offered in 2022-23 to meet student needs, encourage peer support and connect with the community. Ms. Wong reported that new initiatives such as Lumina Spark and Project Extraordinary were piloted to develop a common language for student growth and self-discovery.
8. Ms. Helen Wong shared that besides facilitating student-driven projects over structured programs, the Co-curricular Programs (CP) team also partnered with 42 NGOs, corporate and government bodies to bring different types of service and community engagement opportunities to students. They established two new corporate partnerships with Innotier and Ecoinno to initiate SDG impact projects at HKUST.
9. Dr. Benjamin Leung inquired more details about new partnerships with Innotier and

Ecoinno. Ms. Helen Wong shared that regarding Ecoinno partnership, they piloted a program with different units at HKUST (American Diner, CSO, CMO, HKUST Connect, HKUST Sustainability) to recycle the zero plastic takeaway boxes. With regard to Innotier partnership, it was planning to recycle the antiviral materials to remake some goods such as bags and cushions for underprivileged users. Ms. Yue Li commented that Ecoinno pilot program was a good action and some incentives could be designed for the program to encourage students to return the takeaway boxes.

10. Prof. Zhongming Lu inquired about the background of students who participating the community engagement activities. Ms. Helen Wong responded that in a general impression, the participants were from various background and she would provide the participant distribution figures after the meeting. The Chair commented that he was impressed by the actual participation of 1,541 students in 2022-23 and inquired how we could attract more students to join. Ms. Wong clarified that 1,541 was student time. Prof. King Chow supplemented that based on the data analysis in Engage system, about 10%-15% students actively engaged in activities throughout four years, while another 25% students never participated in any activity for various reasons such as financial burden. Prof. Chow shared that we aimed to attract more students through on-campus internship program and financial aid assistance.

(Ms. Helen Wong was excused from the meeting. Mr. Tsz Kan Cheung, Mr. Nathan Shih Hao Wong and Miss Anna Wang joined.)

[Post-meeting note: the information about the two new summer credit-bearing study abroad programs and the participant distribution figures for community engagement activities were circulated to CSA members via email on May 18.]

Student groups to present their plan to engage students to create a more inclusive campus

11. Mr. Tsz Kan Cheung from Students' Union (SU) raised a few issues: a) student societies do not have enough storage space; b) what the allocation of common areas at LG5 will be after the renovation; c) the concerns about inconsistent teaching content of one course taught by different instructors. With regard to the concerns about inconsistent content, the Chair and faculty members suggested that students could raise this issue to the course coordinator/relevant department.
12. In relation to the storage space and the allocation of LG5 common areas, Prof. King Chow shared that LG5 renovation/reallocation aimed to encourage student societies fully utilize the areas. Prof. Chow suggested Mr. Cheung to get more information from previous session of SU as the floor plan and other details were shared with student societies in a few information sessions held last year.
13. Mr. Po Yin Tsang shared that from his experience as previous ex-co of one student society, they did need more working and storage space before large events such as welfare

delivering and O'camp. Prof. King Chow responded that we could consider keeping some temporary storage space for student societies' large events over a period of time. Mr. Tsang suggested sharing a full list of furniture and equipment items as some student societies would keep their own display boards and marquees instead of borrowing these large items from the university. Prof. Chow agreed that student societies should learn to balance resources in view of limited storage space.

14. Dr. Benjamin Leung suggested that student societies could contact the Sustainability Office to give away the left welfare goods if the nominated cabinets would not be able to give out. Prof. King Chow also suggested that student societies should consider storage/throw-out costs when over-ordering goods. The Chair remarked that DSTO and student societies would have better coordination when both sides could have mutual understanding and bear their responsibilities. Prof. Chow supplemented that the internal communications within student societies were also important as we noticed some ex-cos did not pass on the information to other ex-cos.
15. The Chair invited student group representatives to share their plans for engaging students to create a more inclusive community. Mr. Tsz Kan Cheung shared that SU was planning to build a website as a central platform for student societies promoting their activities. Mr. Nathan Shih Hao Wong from Southeast Asian Students' Association (SEASA) shared that they contacted other student societies such as Korean and Taiwanese Students' Association about co-organizing activities in September.
16. Mr. Nathan Wong inquired about funding scheme and facility booking for student societies organizing activities. Prof. King Chow responded that DSTO offered 1-HKUST Student Enrichment Activities Fund to support students for organizing activities. There are three-round applications each year and student societies can apply for the funding. In terms of sports facility booking, the demand is usually high because we have a large number of community members including students, faculty and staff especially in some peak hours such as lunchtime and after class. In view of limited facility resources, Prof. Chow suggested that student societies should plan the activity ahead of time and make the booking as early as possible.
17. Miss Anna Wang from Mainland Students and Scholars Society, UG Section (MSSSUG) shared that they hosted some sports activities in Spring Term inviting UG, PG and some faculty members to join. They also planned to host a singing contest "Endless Melody" and K-pop random dance in Fall Term. For these activities, they would like to invite all community members to join. The Chair commented that it was good to open up the activities to all members in our community. The Chair also encouraged student societies to have more collaborations with each other.
18. Prof. King Chow inquired student group representative about their effective channels for reaching out to students. Mr. Wong and Mr. Cheung shared that Instagram was the effective

channel but it limited to followers only. Miss Wang shared that WeChat was the main channel for mainland students, as they could not access to Instagram in the mainland China. The Chair commented that although there were many different social media channels, we might need to keep the communication channels simple and open to all.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.