

Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes of the 64th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 22 March 2019 at 5pm at Room 5021.

- Present : Prof Karl Tsim (Chairman), Prof Siu-Fai Leung, Prof Philip Mok, Prof Emily Nason, Prof Lam-Lung Yeung, Mr Alpine Mok, Mr Terence Wan, Mr Ryan Ng, Prof King Chow (Member and Secretary)
- Apologies : Prof David Banfield, Prof Jin Wang
- In Attendance : DSTO: Ms Grace Ling, Ms Clara Mak, Mr Raymond Tang, Mr Sunny Tseung, Mrs Faith Ho, Ms Shirley Wu

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

1. Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) was confirmed and there were no matters arising.

Student Member Representative on the Panel on Sponsored Student Projects and Groups

2. Members were invited to appoint a student member representative to serve on the Panel. Mr Terence Wan was nominated to serve on the Panel and all other members agreed.

Report on Student Enrichment Activities Fund 2017-18

3. Members received report from Mr Sunny Tseung on Student Enrichment Activities (SEA) Fund 2017-18 (CSA/64/1). It was noticed that the number of withdrew projects and the unspent balance was high. Mr Tseung explained that some students withdrew as they got other financial support or the projects were not carried out. Prof King Chow shared that the budget planning and project execution might not be confirmed when students submitted the SEA fund applications. Members suggested to have more promotion/publicity to get more applications. Prof Chow further shared that SEA fund would merge with President's 1-HKUST Student Life Award and become 1-HKUST Student Enrichment Activities Fund from Fall 2019. Application procedures would be simplified and funding better utilized.
4. It was noticed that there was discrepancy between approved and claimed amounts in Appendix I. Mr Tseung clarified that it was due to column mismatched. The Chairman asked Mr Tseung to revise it and send out to members. The Chairman proposed to endorse the report and members endorsed it unanimously.

(Mr Sunny Tseung was excused from the meeting. Ms Grace Ling and Ms Clara Mak joined.)

[Post-meeting note: The revised report was circulated to members on 27 March 2019.]

Report on Sponsored Student Projects and Groups 2017-18

5. Members received report from Ms Clara Mak on Sponsored Student Projects and Groups 2017-18 (CSA/64/2). It was noticed that Muslim Students' Group attempted to apply for SU affiliation but failed twice. Mr Terence Wan shared that HKU allowed student society's partially affiliated with SU before the full affiliation process was completed. Partial affiliation was under discussion in HKUSTSU council. Faculty members suggested SU to encourage a wide variety of student societies.
6. Members enquired that in the new guideline, Department-associated Groups were not allowed to use "Society" and "Association". It was shared that there was a formal process for student societies to be affiliated with SU. This new guideline is intended to avoid confusion and separate long-term student societies with short-term interest groups.
7. The Chairman proposed to endorse the report. Members endorsed the report unanimously.
(Prof Lam-Lung Yeung and Ms Clara Mak were excused from the meeting. Mr Raymond Tang joined.)

Report on Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2019

8. Members received report from Mr Alpine Mok on Student Election Campaign (Pro-P) 2019.
(Prof Siu-Fai Leung was excused from the meeting.) The Chairman asked Mr Raymond Tang to present the observations in Pro-P 2019. Members had a lengthy discussion about Pro-P 2019.
9. In relation to promotion counters, it was noticed that many counters were vacant and nominated cabinets were allowed to move to vacant counters on first-come-first-served basis. Mr Mok shared that the number of counters could be reduced next year to solve this problem. It was also suggested that barricades should be set around counters during Lunar New Year and extra security guards could be hired.
10. In relation to chanting and flags, the chanting activities were generally in good order but it was reported that a few students had light heat stroke and two students got very excited to take off their clothes. A few oversized flags were found about 6 meters high instead of 3.5 meters which was mentioned in SU's Pro-P proposal. Both FMO and HSEO raised safety concerns on this. Mr Mok shared that the nominated cabinets holding these oversized flags were warned and penalized.
11. In relation to lucky draw, it was measured that the noise level was close to the chanting level and the limit for use of sound system. It was suggested that the format, location and duration of lucky draw should be improved.
12. In relation to monitoring and penalty, it was shared that the monitoring team helped a lot but it was reported that some nominated cabinets were not able to find/contact monitoring team for assistance and support. It was suggested that monitoring team to wear badges.
13. In relation to sustainability, it was reported by HSEO that few recycle items were collected this year and most nominated cabinets did not separate/classify items for recycling.

14. In relation to incidents:

- a. DSTO received 3 incident reports during Pro-P:
 - i. Unauthorized removal and use of FUSION Supermarket's pallets and trays
 - ii. Vandalism of Taiwanese Students' Association (TSA)'s counter
 - iii. Misuse of Personal Data
- b. Prof King Chow shared that for the first incident, warning letters were issued by DSTO and for the third incident, the concerned student society had been reminded of data privacy and use of personal data.
- c. Prof Chow further shared that for the second incident, TSA and SU posted it on their facebook and the incident was also widely covered in social media. Investigation was carried out by Provost and Acting DST, in view of the sensitivity, as vandalism. Case was closed with a meeting for the concerned parties and apology being accepted. Mr Ryan Ng insisted that SU should be informed of incident details as Pro-P was under SU jurisdiction. Faculty members reminded that some incidents were beyond Pro-P due to the nature of incidents. (*Prof Emily Nason was excused from the meeting.*)
- d. Faculty members suggested SU to direct any inquiries regarding the second incident to Prof King Chow. Mr Terence Wan clarified that SU did not want to disclose any information to the media but SU wanted to be updated.

15. The Chairman concluded that Pro-P 2019 was in good order and there was still room for improvement. The Chairman thanked Alpine and Raymond for their great efforts.

16. Faculty members suggested SU to submit next year's Pro-P proposal in November to allow more time for discussion and touch-up.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.