

Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes of the 67th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs held on 14 July 2020 at 3:30pm online via Zoom.

Present : Prof Arthur Lau (Chairman), Prof Ho Bun Chan, Prof Ronald Lau, Prof Philip Mok, Prof Emily Nason, Prof Jin Wang, Mr Yuting Cai, Ms Vanessa Ying Ho Liu, Prof King Chow (Member and Secretary)

Apologies : Prof DY Yeung, Mr Haoyu Liu, Mr Chun Ming Tsang

Resource Person : DSTO: Ms Grace Ling, Dr Frank Lam, Mr Ricky Yeung, Ms Helen Wong

In Attendance : Ms Shirley Wu

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed a new student member – Ms Vanessa Ying Ho Liu.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2. Minutes of the 66th Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) were confirmed and there were no matters arising.

Improve Student Integration through Student Societies

3. Members received a summary from Ms Grace Ling on Integration through Students' Union (SU) & Student Societies. It was shared that SU organized some activities and forums to engage all students such as My First Day Party, coordinated internal meetings and activities among affiliated societies including Orientation Week and Promotion Period, and also provided funding for each society to support their activities. There are over 100 student societies affiliated with SU but some are inactive as no Executive Committee (exco) elected. Although SU provides a good platform for affiliated societies to connect their excos and work together, the collaboration between student societies is not frequent.
4. Ms Grace Ling shared the objectives of some student societies and pointed out that they focused on building friendship among their members and organizing activities mainly for their members. Ms Ling also shared the feedbacks of a short survey in early July and an interview survey in 2013 from student societies that main barriers in organizing activities for integration were lacking of funding, difficulties in reaching out other student groups, language barriers and cultural differences. Prof Ronald Lau commented that besides the listed barriers, the major barrier could also be the leadership of student excos including their motivation.

5. The Chairman commented that in order to facilitate student societies from the university side, we need to help them identify the gaps and may reach out more student excos to collect the information. Prof Emily Nason pointed out that the initial goal could be inclusive to all students and in terms of language it should be welcoming and accessible for all students. Prof King Chow alerted that comparing the recent survey with the 2013 survey, the gaps were not closed and continued over past few years. Prof Chow also shared the observations that both sides no matter local or non-local students didn't reach out to each other sufficiently. It was not unique to Hong Kong but also similar in UK or US when the number of international students increased enough to form their own groups. Prof Chow agreed with Prof Nason that instead of deep integration we should remove the barriers first.
6. Mr Yuting Cai shared that when Postgraduate Association organized activities, they posted in English on its Facebook page. During activities students might speak English at the beginning but would speak their mother language at the end. Ms Vanessa Liu shared that some non-local students approached the Humanities and Social Science Students' Union last year but quitted later due to language barrier. Prof Philip Mok suggested that the University could set up some funding as an incentive for student societies to organize some activities for integration. Ms Grace Ling shared that the University did offer 1-HKUST Student Enrichment Activities (SEA) Fund and over 60% applications were from student societies. For the funding of activity courses such as choir course through General Team Assistance Scheme, it was now required that medium of instruction should be English.
7. Prof Jin Wang inquired what kind of activities were intended to attract more international students. Ms Grace Ling shared that social and sports activities could attract more non-local students and 16 student societies had a mix of local and non-local students in their excos, 7 of them were sports clubs and a few others were arts and cultural. The Chairman suggested to use common interests/hobbies to integrate the student groups, for example, try more integration activities at halls. Prof Ronald Lau shared that when House III organized activities and sought for funding, one of criteria was that the activities should be promoted and conducted in English. Prof Philip Mok also shared that some departments at School of Engineering would give more funding to departmental societies if they can get more non-local students involved. Members suggested to set up some criteria for the funding to encourage student societies to organize activities for integration.
8. It was noticed that one suggestion for enhancing the integration was to recruit a non-local student as international secretary in the exco. The Chairman commented that it should be collective efforts of DSTO colleagues, school/department colleagues and student societies to improve student integration. Prof King Chow suggested to write up a number of issues/suggestions to share with the student societies.

(Ms Grace Ling was excused from the meeting. Mr Ricky Yeung joined.)

Report on HLTH1010 and Sports Activities

9. Members received a report from Mr Ricky Yeung on HLTH1010 and sports activities. It was reported that HLTH1010 Healthy Lifestyle course was first implemented in 2003 and have 5 modules: Orientation, Wellness, Fitness Training, Sports Skill Class and Activities. Students shall obtain pass in the 5 modules and accumulate at least 45 hours in the academic year. Mr Yeung shared that for the wellness module, 83 workshops were offered by the Co-Curricular Program team and Counselling & Wellness Centre in 2019-20. There were 192 HLTH1010 applications of wellness activities from departments and student groups, and 45 of them were conducted online. Mr Yeung also shared that there were 91 sessions of fitness training and 159 sports skill classes conducted in 2019-20 with 34 classes via online mode. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional 312 sports workshops were offered online from February 2020.
10. In relation to sports activities, Mr Ricky Yeung reported that Intramural Sports were co-organized with HKUSTSU Sports Association and there were six major events annually including Campus Run, Annual Aquatic Meet, Intramural Basketball Competition and etc. For Inter-varsity Sports, 521 local and 87 non-local student athletes formed 66 sports teams in 2019-20 via Sports Teams Assistance Scheme. HKUST sports teams obtained 50 medals and 24 trophies in 2018-19 but unfortunately all major sports competitions were cancelled in 2019-20 due to social movements and COVID-19. For Sports Leader Training Program, sports leader forums would be organized to facilitate the communication among sports leaders across sports. Sports injury prevention workshops and sports team fitness training program would also be offered to sports leaders.
11. Prof Ronald Lau inquired whether or not sports clubs joined together to organize activities and supplemented that a popular sport like American football in US could easily bring students together. Mr. Ricky Yeung shared that sports clubs did work with Sports Association to organize intramural sports. The Chairman inquired whether or not cheering team could be another opportunity to engage and integrate students. Mr. Yeung shared that cheering team was not popular in Hong Kong but the dance society could be an example to engage students.
12. Mr Yuting Cai inquired how non-sports society could book sport venues for activities. Mr Yeung explained that the booking of sports venues was demanding and only sports association/clubs could have block bookings for trainings. Non-sports societies could book sport venues via flexibility scheme but the priority was lower. It was shared that the sports development team was aware of this situation and tried to approach some non-sports societies and coordinate the booking needs. The Chairman encouraged Mr Cai to further discuss with Mr Yeung on non-sports societies' booking needs. Mr Cai also shared that it was hard for some postgraduates to join some local sports clubs. Mr Yeung explained that the recruitment of student societies' members was on their own but he would convey the

message of reaching out more non-local students to sports leader through the forums. Besides the recruitment of sports teams welcomed all students and quite a number of non-local students joined.

(Mr Ricky Yeung was excused from the meeting. Ms Helen Wong joined.)

The Value of Character Education: #U2.0

13. Members received a report from Ms Helen Wong on a new initiative #U2.0- journey to co-create the version 2.0 for ourselves and our learning experience-a journey to character building. Ms Wong shared that #U2.0 Journey is a comprehensive program co-created by 32 students, 27 faculty and staff this summer to help the university reimagine the future role of education and its sustainable transformation under the “new normal”. It guided participants through a design thinking process in a series of online panel discussion, workshops and projects to create the blueprint of #UniLifeLAB (University Life: Learn Apply Build-on). The Chairman inquired whether the students joined by invitation or by open recruitment. Ms Wong shared that it was by invitation this round and staff in related work areas were asked to identify students to join this program.
14. Ms Helen Wong reported that 59 participants worked together to reframe and redesign the new normal learning experience by using 6 learning tools over 35 hours in two weeks. There were 16 program ideas co-created by students and staff, 4 of them received the highest votes from all participants – 1. Arts Lab: an envision to transform whole HKUST campus into a living arts gallery by organizing experiential activities and using e-visuals; 2. The HKUST Clan: a game-based program for students to develop their full potential by joining different Lumina-scored activities to gain points for their clans and themselves; 3. C Me: a platform to redefine the traditional CV by helping students capture their reflections and achievements in a coherent and persuasive way; 4. HKUST Running Men: a university community building event to help new students explore the campus and get to know each other through interactive group games. DSTO will support the implementation of the four highest-voted programs and also form a #U2.0 alumni community to foster further exchanges between students and staff.
15. Prof Ronald Lau inquired the timeline of implementation. Ms Helen Wong shared that each team would have their own timeline of program implementation, some were already kick-started like Arts Lab and some might take longer like the HKUST Clan. Ms Wong indicated that we might see small initiatives within a big program in coming fall and would keep CSA updated. Prof Lau further inquired any capacity problem as it sounded very resource intensive. Ms Wong explained that each team might have different way to fully utilize resources such as expanding the current program and collaborating to avoid program overlapping.
16. The Chairman inquired about the integration with other projects, for example, the

Sustainable Smart Campus (SSC) also have similar project like the Arts Lab. Ms Helen Wong shared that they have already worked with some SSC projects and two SSC staff were invited to join the visual art session. The Chairmen also commented that School of Engineering already had clans and the program team of the HKUST Clan might learn from the school and invite school colleagues to join. Ms Wong shared that definitely the HKUST Clan program would be working with schools but this program would take longer due to the budget for Lumina Spark assessment. Prof King Chow supplemented that currently students focused on acquiring knowledge/skills but character building/self-discovery was missing, DSTO started #U2.0 with small-scale pilot program but would bring schools in down the road. Ms Wong further shared that her team had regular meeting with school colleagues in co-curriculum programs and would update them about this project #U2.0.

(Ms Helen Wong was excused from the meeting.)

17. The Chairman wrapped up that CSA meeting would be a platform to share the information/idea related to non-academic issues and CSA members can bring it back to their own schools and share with colleagues/peers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.