

**THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT**

4th SBM UG Student Representative Meeting 2014/15

Confirmed Minutes

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| Date and time of meeting: | Mar 17, 2015, 6:05-7:20pm |
| Minutes Prepared by: | Vivian CHU |
| Attendance of SBM UG Programs Office: | Emily NASON, Ka Yee LEE, Sophia WAN and Vivian CHU |
| CUP Faculty Members | Mark MIHOREAN and Ronald LAU |
| Attendance of UG Student Representatives: | Kelvin CHENG, Sylvia CHOI, Zhenghao HUANG, Kristy LAU, Ray LIEW, Ken SHAM, Alex VALET, Cici XIE, Carmen WONG and Yuna WONG |
| Absence with Apologies: | Timothy CHAU, Aaron CHEUNG, David CHAU, Henry CHU Cherenade LAM, Pinky LEE, Vincent LEUNG, Harmony LI, Hugo MAR, Michelle NG and John SZ-TO |

1. Confirmation of Minutes

As no further comment was received, the minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Feb 16, 2015 was confirmed.

2. Updates from SBM

2.i SBM Learning Goals and Objectives

Although some student representatives heard of ABC LIVE before, they were not aware that ABC LIVE were the desired attributes of HKUST graduates. At the School level, there were also 8 learning goals that would be expected of our graduates to be able to accomplish. Members were updated that an additional objective (highlighted in the paper disseminated to members) was recently added to Goal number 6 as detailed below:

Goal 6: "Graduates will be effective in multi-cultural and international settings"

The additional objective: "*Demonstrate an understanding of international dimensions of core business functions and apply business concepts and theories to make proper business decisions in international settings.*"

2.ii Cancellation of 9-Credits of Business Breadth Requirements

With an increase in Business Core Courses in the 4Y curriculum and the requirement of 6 credits of Social Analysis in the University Common Core, the cancellation of the 9-credit Business Breadth requirement would give students more flexibility in choosing free electives or to pursue non-business minor. Such cancellation was also in response to students' comments about lacking room to take non-business courses that were of interest to them. This new policy would be effective in 2015-16 and affect newly admitted students only.

2.iii Wong Chak Chui International Enrichment Scholarship

The Wong Chak Chui Charitable Foundation had pledged a \$300,000 donation in 2015-16 to establish a scholarship to support business undergraduate students with financial needs to participate in overseas enrichment programs such as competitions, conferences, and community projects. Application would begin at the end of the following week. There would be review of the guidelines and scopes after the first round of exercise. Members were invited to suggest more different types of enrichment activities to expand the scope of coverage.

2.iv Update on Exchange

In the past meetings, there were concerns about insufficient exchange places due to the double cohort applications. However, statistics showed that about 45% of students in the 4Y program would have taken part in the exchange program by the time they graduated in 2016. The University as well as the School's target was 50%.

To facilitate more student participation in international exchange in the future, we were exploring the possibility of lowering the minimum CGA requirement from 2.65 to 2.5.

3. Updates from Subcommittees

3.i Academic Support

The sub-committee gave a brief report about the survey conduction progress. So far they collected less than 30 completed surveys from SBM UG Year 1 & 2 students. They would expand the survey period to another week and expected to have higher response rate after the mid-term peak season. From the current survey result, it showed that students would like to get help mainly on preparing for the exams. In the meeting, Professor Ronald Lau suggested to seek help from Teaching Assistants (TA) besides professors as TAs should be expected to support students as well. The survey also revealed that more than 50% of the respondents were not willing to pay for the tutoring.

Further, students recommended reserving Learning Commons in the Library (LC) or a classroom for optional tutorials or Q & A conducted by TA of selected courses/subjects because TA rooms were too crowded and not feasible for students to ask questions. LC was more conducive to learning. In addition, most of the classes taken by Year 1 students were held in the main academic building. Breakout rooms in LSK could also be an alternative if LC was not workable.

3.ii Career Support

New career portal for online job posting for SBM UG students was launched in the previous week. It might take some time for students to get familiar with the new portal. Students' comments would be welcome.

3.iii Class Streaming

Starting from the next cohort, students who took JEE would be pre-registered to MATH1013 instead of MATH1023. It was because, according to Program Coordinator of Mathematics Department, there was not calculus component in the syllabus of JEE Mathematics. Further, we followed the same practice currently done by the School of Engineering.

3.iv Cohort Bonding

New batch of cohort leaders was in the recruitment process. Cohort leaders were required to take part in training workshops before preparing for the orientation program and cohort electives for the freshmen. However, cohort activities would no longer be compulsory for freshmen. On the one hand, the student representatives were worried about the drastic drop of the participation rate; on the other hand, the activities would attract students who were genuinely interested to join. Hopefully, cohorts could establish their own culture so that more students could see the value and would be more willing to join the activities voluntarily. Cohort leaders could decide whether they would host team building camps.

There were some discussions about when the training workshops for the cohort leaders should be held as most international students were not able to join if they were held in the middle of Summer. However, no consensus was reached as both early June (after Spring term ended) and early August (before Fall term began) were suggested by members. Some members voiced that all cohort leaders should be available at least one month prior to the Fall term began for all the planning and actual work.

3.v Facility Enhancement

The Chair updated members on the new facilities installed in LSK, like new ATM machines, hot water function added to the existing drinking fountains and more new furniture outside the canteen. A new printer would also be installed at the end of the hallway outside SBM UG Programs Office on 1/F soon.

4. Discussion

4.i Overseas Learning Opportunities for all SBM Students

The School hoped to enable every single student to have some overseas learning experience; that is, 100% students would have joined exchange or other forms of overseas learning activities (such as winter/summer programs or non-local internship) by the time they graduated. To achieve this goal, members were asked what hindered students from taking part in overseas learning. Cost of these programs was the main reason while whether the courses taken overseas could be transferred back to UST was another important factor. For the former factor, students could apply for different funds, like Franklin Fund for international business studies, or scholarships, like Wong Chak Chui International Enrichment Scholarship. There were also the International Travel Grant offered by our School and the Overseas Internship Sponsorship offered by the Career Centre. Some members commented that a few students might not be interested in going on exchange, for example, international students who were already experiencing different cultures in Hong Kong and Korean students who resumed their study from military service.

Other recommendations included:

- negotiating with overseas institutes to offer discounted program fee;
- increasing quotas for summer programs if such programs were managed by our exchange partners;
- nominating students to the short-term study programs if applicable; and
- offering/exploring more different kinds of sponsorships.

There were also discussions about the amount of the sponsorships. The range was from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to \$20,000. However, the more the subsidy would mean the fewer the beneficiaries.

Students also proposed to have a website listing the administrative procedure for taking leave to join overseas visiting programs as well as links to some popular visiting programs/destinations.

4.ii Faculty Role in Student Advising

The School would like to explore ways to facilitate faculty-student engagement. Besides academic, students could be inspired by professors' own stories or other valuable experiences. It was suggested to have interesting topics or personal stories shared by faculty. Activities could be causally held at LC (or in a classroom setting) and limited to a group of 12 students or less. Students were quite interested in the idea of bringing a faculty to lunch or tea and 2 to 5 students were suggested for this initiative. Sponsorship would be available to cover part of the cost. There would be a pilot session to be held at the remainder of the current semester. Students would be invited to sign up for these sessions.

5. A.O.B.

Student representatives were reminded to propose discussion issues for the coming meetings if they had any.