

STUDENT STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (PHYSICS)

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL, 1.00PM Room 225 PHYSICAL SCIENCES

PRESENT: Present: Gareth Stephens (Year 0) (Chair), Alexander Pitchford (PG), Charlotte House (Year 3), Nicolina Chrysaphi (Year 3), Lloyd Woodham (Year 3), Christopher Lorch (Year 2), Connor Bentley (Year 1), Naveen Vijayan (Year 1)

STAFF: Eleri Pryse, Chris Finlayson, Edwin Flikkema, Xing Li, Sahm Nikoi, Balazs Pinter, Dave Langstaff

In attendance: Myfanwy Cowdy

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Katie Hope

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

No.	Minute No	Action	Whose Action	By	Action Status
3	3.1	SN to investigate the possibilities of group study areas.	SN		Completed
3	3.2	the library door could cause accessibility problems	SN		Completed
3	3.3	Students to be encouraged not to leave before the end of sessions	CF		Completed
3	3.4	Ask Prof Evans to consider making the notes on uncertainties in measurements available on Blackboard to Year 1 students.	AE		Completed
3	3.5	Demonstrator support - To be raised at the next Departmental L & T meeting.	CF		Completed
3	3.6	Stock take to be done on lab equipment	DL		Ongoing
4	4.1	a message to be sent to Year Tutors asking them to stress the importance of punctuality	CF		Completed

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting on the 25 February were accepted

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES

The Student representatives on the SSSC had compiled a survey which had been sent to students on whether they would like more areas for group study or whether to keep individual study areas. The majority had voted for Group Work areas.

4. STUDENT MATTERS

Year 1

4.1 Library Group Study areas – A Group study space would be trialled over the summer. An empty shelving unit would be removed therefore there would be space in the right corner which could be used for Group study. For the trial to be effective students attending the summer University would be encouraged to use the library.

4.2 A Yes/No questionnaire on Group Working had been handed out and collected in a lecture. A copy of the survey would be sent to IS

4.3 'Chatting Space' on Blackboard – The 'chatting space' didn't prove to be as popular with 1st years as compared to 2nd and 3rd years.

4.4. Professor Evans' notes on 'Uncertainties' had been placed on Blackboard. A request was made for more to be made available.

4.5 Data Handling – Instead of organising an extra lecture students were advised to contact the lecturer directly.

4.6 Demonstrator Support- This was raised at the L & T and will be passed on to the Institute.

4.7 Erasmus – Usually there were more links abroad but not speaking another language could be a problem. Yr3/4 can often be taught in English.

4.8 ID Cards – The new swipe card ID was well received and it was hoped that it would be implemented in other places.

4.9 PH11120 Forces of nature – a request was made for more questions be made available to practice on.

4.10 MP12910 – The content of The Career skills module was queried as a few students found the content quite basic. The module is currently under active consideration.

Year 2

PH25520

4.11 The Experimental Physics 2nd year X ray kit was currently being updated. Discussions were currently being undertaken with the technician regarding updating other Experiments.

4.12 Assignment Deadlines – It was noted that a few deadlines were close together in one week. Also Students had presentations to do in the same week. Staff illness had contributed to this with the consequence that deadlines got pushed back with a couple of Modules. The date when Easter falls was also a contributing factor to setting deadlines.

Year 3

4.13 The delay with the mark for Condensed Matter from last Semester has been passed to the Learning & Teaching Committee along with the delay in providing past papers.

4.14 Lab equipment – As the 3rd years do not use the lab as much in Semester 2 the stock take would be looked at next academic year

4.15 Astrophysics – If telescope skills were incorporated into a module then it would have to be assessed. It was therefore suggested that could be incorporated into the proposed Gregynog field trip.

4.16 A help desk like the computer Science/Maths help desks could be another option but it would need staff/student volunteers to man it. The Maths Help desk was held on a Wednesday afternoon as there were no lectures.

4.17 A problem with IDL(?) was reported as not working on Campus. It was unresolved but the re-wiring could have affected it.

Year 4

4.18 No issues were reported

Postgraduates

4.19 – Demonstrators – A list would be created and a 'Vacancy Alert' passed on to relevant people for them to apply. A "C" module was planned for next year which would need additional demonstrators. The manning of help Desk could be done by volunteers as it would be good teaching experience which could be added to CVS

5. STAFF MATTERS

5.1 Questionnaires – As the no. of returned questionnaires were fairly low it was asked if there should be more than one opportunity to fill them in. It was decided that an e-mail reminder would be sent rather than using Blackboard as Blackboard wasn't anonymous like Survey Monkey. Some third years would like to be able to write more on the Questionnaires.

Welsh medium Students – A Welsh-medium SSCC representative would be sought from all years to obtain feedback.

5.2 Employability Skills – Students were asked to think over the summer about what they perceived as good employability skills and gather a collective view. Examples were suggested – skills such as CV writing (careers service would help with this- also the Library's effective study collection had developing of CVs in their main collection). PDFs and presentations – some unmarked presentations would be useful as it would be good practice.

A pre-arrival survey of skills students have is done every year. Top of the survey list is usually Presentation skills as students always want to do more.

5.3 Aspire Reading list – Attention was drawn to the new reading List Management system which is integrated with Primo on Blackboard

6. A.O.B.

6.1 Dissertation binding – 3 days' notice is needed for Dissertations to be bound at Hugh Owen. There is usually a quick turnaround of 24 hours.

6.2 Book reservation – If a book is out to staff for a long time the book can be 'recalled'. The member of staff then gets an e-mail to say that the book has been requested.

The meeting came to a close at 3.30pm. A huge thank you was given to the Chair and committee for their input over the year.

No.	Minute No	Action	Whose Action	By	Action Status
4	4.1	Deborah Croft to be contacted about using the library for the Summer University. student representative offered to contact her and also to obtain feedback from her and students after the Group study trial.	Student Rep.		
4	4.2	Survey of Student preference for Group or Individual Work study to be sent to IS	SEP		
4	4.4	Year 1 requested more notes about 'uncertainties' to be made available	DL		
4	4.6	SEP will speak to Institute about various procedures	SEP		
5	5.1	A Welsh Representative would be sought from all years to obtain feedback.	SEP/CF		