

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

1st SBM UG Student Representative Meeting 2017/18

Confirmed Minutes

Date and time of meeting:	Oct 16, 2017, 6:00-8:03pm
Minutes Prepared by:	Frankie Man
Attendance of SBM UG Programs Office:	Anirban Mukhopadhyay, Ka Yee Lee, Frankie Man
CUP Faculty Members	-
Attendance of UG Student Representatives:	Ho Sing Law, Eddy Lee, JC Chia, Davidson Kuo, Samantha Steptoe, Savio Ho, Alissa Ng, Anna Wong, Mandy Tsui, Taylor Choi, Dennis Lam, Ka Yan Lam, Hin Ching Wong, Nikki Wu, Jason Mak, Parcae Sin, Margaret Yau, Sam Choi, Leonard Liu, Michael Robertson
Absence with Apologies:	Ince Chan, Annabelle He
Absence	-

Information Items

2a. Membership of Student Representative Committee

The Chair welcomed all continuing and new student representative members who joined the meeting. Committee members introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting. The Chair presented an overview of the Committee and its accomplishment in previous years. He explained that the Committee was to share school updates and consult student representatives on emerging issues to enhance students' UG experience as well as a platform for students to give feedback to the School. Student representatives could form sub-committees or working groups to follow up on issues and propose suggestions for actions and relay the discussions with the School to the students that they represent. The Chair added that this Committee could make a difference and encouraged students to help make UST a better place before they leave. The Committee meets twice per semester and the memberships are staggered so that half of the members stay in the Committee each term for better follow-up and coordination on action items. 2-3 departmental UG Program Coordinators may sometimes join the meetings to listen to student feedback.

2b. Major Selection Information Week in Fall 2017

Information week would be held from Nov 7 to 9, 2017 outside LTJ & K. There would be booth counters from 4:00-6:00 pm, information sessions in LTJ starting from 6:00pm and mingling sessions conducted by different SBM programs every day. The information would be posted on UG website as well as on Canvas.

2c. Admission – 2017/18 Intake

In 2017/18 cohort, 893 students (as of Sep 18, 2017), an all-time high intake number, were admitted to SBM. The number would slightly decline throughout the Fall term because of withdrawal, mainly due to overseas study. The new intake comes from 21 different countries. We used to admit 20% of non-local students (about half from Mainland, Taiwan & Macau) and this year, we were requested by the University (upon UGC's request) to admit more international students (22.5%, up to 25%). Including the 52 students admitted to WBB, our student community is very diverse which is our strength.

2d. Karen Lee Student Mentoring Center Activities

Prof. Karen Lee, one of the SBM faculty members actively involved in student mentoring activities, passed away from illness. Her family donated money to the School to fulfil Prof. Lee's passion to support student mentoring events and activities and the construction of a student mentoring center.

The School has identified an architect firm to design the Center. There would be two small rooms for one-on-one advising sessions, an area for seminars or meetings, a relaxation zone and a staircase connecting the ground floor and the first floor. The construction would be held in Summer 2018 and we expected that the physical space would be ready at the beginning of Fall 2018.

Even though the physical space was not ready, there have been a number of programs and activities held under Karen Lee Student Mentoring Center, for example, Career Mentoring Program, Public Service Internship Scholarship, Peer Mentoring Program, UG Get-together, Take Faculty to Lunch and etc. Student representatives were invited to attend the UG Get-together held on October 31 and take pictures at the photo booth from 1pm to 5pm with Halloween costumes provided.

Discussion Items

3a. Hall Policy 2018/19

About two weeks ago in September, the Dean of Students announced the new proposal of hall allocation policy in 2018/19, after a year's consultation with various stakeholders. Several information sessions for School related student societies were separately held in different Schools, including SBM.

The Chair briefly went over the presentation slides prepared by the Dean of Students. A guest pass scheme would be implemented in all halls which allowed non-hall residents to pay \$25 a night to stay overnight at the halls. There were five important principles for the new hall policy:

- Open to All Undergraduates
- Address the Transitional Needs of New First Year Students
- Address the Hardship Created by Home Distance in the First Two Years of Study
- No Guaranteed Pathway
- Mechanism for Residence Master (RM) Discretion

While student members were in general supportive to the compulsory hall arrangements for first year students, they were very upset about cancellation of the hall point system as well as the housing arrangements for non-local students (no guarantee of hall places for the 3rd and 4th year).

A student representative (non-local) commented that non-local students chose UST over other top universities in Hong Kong because they were informed upon admission that the point system would allow them to stay in the hall throughout their studies even though housing was guaranteed for the first two years only. She indicated that unlike the system in the US or elsewhere overseas, finding affordable housing in Hong Kong was not easy. The support and information provided by the housing office on off-campus accommodation was not sufficient and helpful because the housing office only provided a list of phone numbers and the contact persons listed did not speak English. In addition, the notification was sent to them in April/May which was too late for the students to make their own arrangement for the following term.

Some students also mentioned that there was a black market to sell hall places from hall residents and the lottery system could create even more unfair issues. The Chair strongly encouraged student representatives to make use of the online platform to voice out their opinions so that changes could be made if there were enough requests and recommendations.

3b. Orientation Arrangement in 2018/19

Students shared that there was integration issue between Cantonese and non-Cantonese speaking students as the majority of student societies were run by local students who do not want to speak English. It was therefore very difficult for non-local students who could not speak the language to take part in these activities.

Due to the lengthy discussions on the new hall policy, the Committee did not spend time on discussing the new orientation arrangement for 2018-19.

3c. Proposed Initiatives for the Academic Year

During the meeting, the following issues were raised:

- WBB Students would like to join events and activities organized for exchange-in students;
- The water runs too slow from the filling stations on campus and the waiting line is thus long;
- MAEC & BIBU students would like to join SBM's programs and activities as they also belong to the Business School. The student representative particularly mentioned about the exchange arrangement;
- A student enquired whether DDP students were informed of SBM's events and the UG Office clarified that DDP students were included in the distribution list of our weekly news and announcements;
- Student members requested staplers available at the printer areas on G/F & 1/F of LSK;
- A student requested that the cross-school additional major policy should be available online for students' access.

[Post-meeting notes:

- *The Global Student Programs Office (GSPO) confirmed that WBB students are welcome to join the orientation and city tours arranged at the beginning of the term. Due to the funding sources, however, the monthly activities are not open to all students. Nevertheless, WBB students are welcome to join UG Office's buddy program which is a platform for them to expand their network to other international and exchange-in students so that they can join students' self-organized activities or trips;*
- *More water filling stations are being added on campus;*
- *SBM UG Office has met with MAEC Program Directors and we are working to modify the exchange arrangements;*
- *ITSC set up an electric stapler on G/F and SBM UG Programs Office arranged a stapler on 1/F near the photocopier;*
- *The information about cross-school additional major has been posted on UG website under "Curriculum Overview".]*

After gathering student members' input, the Chair suggested opening the following discussion threads on Canvas for members to provide feedback:

- Tips to survive in UST and Hong Kong
- Whether this Committee should organize large-scale events such as graduation balls
- How to integrate local and non-local students

Next Meeting

Dec 5 (Tue), 12:30pm – 2pm, LSK1036 (updated).

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.