

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

2nd SBM UG Student Representative Meeting 2017/18

Confirmed Minutes

Date and time of meeting:	Dec 5, 2017, 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Minutes Prepared by:	Frankie Man
Attendance of SBM UG Programs Office:	Anirban Mukhopadhyay, Emily Nason, Ka Yee Lee, Frankie Man, Wyatt Lee
CUP Faculty Members	Ekkachai Saenyasiri
Attendance of UG Student Representatives:	Ince Chan, Annabelle He, 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:	Ho Sing Law, Eddy Lee
Absence	-

Confirmation of Minutes

As no further comment was received, the minutes of the 1st Meeting of Oct 16, 2017 was confirmed.

Information Items

1a. Pre-registration of Major Required Courses in Spring term after Fall Major Selection Exercise (MSE)

There were concerns in the past about course pre-registration arrangement in Spring for students who received a major offer in Fall MSE. In Spring 2018, ARO would be able to pre-enrol first major required courses. However, ARO could not guarantee that it could be done in the future as the process could be hindered by the number of business working days in January due to Lunar New Year holiday.

Students also raised the concerns for course registration on self-declaration of additional major because course quotas were always full. The School representative clarified that self-declaration was an option for students who were able to complete all program requirements of a major on their own and it would not be possible that departments could add quotas in order to guarantee students' self-declaration. For some majors, specific courses are intended for their major students only. Students without these specific courses would not be able to declare the major. Prof. Ekkachai Saenyasiri responded to a student's question that FINA did not support self-declaration. However, he mentioned that they did accept a few program transfer cases. The Chair reiterated that additional major was optional for students as it is not necessary to have an additional major upon graduation. Self-declaration was an option for those who managed to complete a program's requirements to be given the degree. Students should apply for a major through the formal channel, i.e. Major Selection Exercise (MSE), to declare a major. He also commented that student should choose majors that they wanted to pursue, rather than playing against the numbers in MSE.

BIBU student representative mentioned that it was difficult for them to swap classes during the course registration period as they were not included in the quotas reserved for SBM students, and therefore the pool for class swapping during course registration was small.

A representative enquired if SBM students could apply for additional major in other Schools. The issue was raised in the past and the relevant information was already posted on the UG Programs' website.

Discussion Items

2a. Major Course Enrolment for Program-based Admission (PBA) Students

A representative proposed this topic for discussion and the focus was on Professional Accounting (ACCT) major. PBA students in ACCT would like to take some advanced accounting courses during the first 3 terms so that they could apply for an internship in accounting areas such as taxation and auditing during summer breaks. However, those courses were usually taken up by Year 3 and 4 students only. Students also commented that all 60 PBA ACCT students were assigned to the same section of ACCT2010.

Prof. Emily Nason explained that the study pathways were designed to ensure all SBM students, whether PBA or those who would declare a major at a later stage, would have the same pace during the first 2 to 3 terms to gain fundamental knowledge. PBA admission was not intended for students to accelerate completion of their programs. She added that PBA students who identified their major interest upon admission could enjoy early engagement with the major faculty and senior students. They were recommended to take common core courses at the beginning of their study if there were free slots.

Prof. Ekkachai Saenyasiri added that course quota was an issue if the department were to offer course quotas and sections earlier for PBA students.

2b. Canvas Discussion Threads

The Chair asked previously about what should be done in Spring by this Committee and invited members to create threads on Canvas to share and discuss issues or their concerns. Three threads were created on “Tips to survive in UST and Hong Kong”, “Whether this Committee should organize large-scale events such as graduation balls” and “How to integrate local and non-local students” respectively. About organizing large-scale events, there were comments about the timing of the graduation dinner which should be arranged during study break instead of the end of the Spring term. Succession was also an issue as the members who initiated the idea could not follow through the entire project.

3. Comments on Business Core Courses

During the discussion in the committee meeting, students pointed out that there was a wide range of differences in some courses in terms of teaching methods and materials, especially for ISOM 2500 where a faculty used programming to teach the course. Some students agreed that professors with different backgrounds should have the flexibility to bring in new ideas and insights through different teaching styles. However, they also reported that at times different sections of the same course might use different textbooks and grade students differently. Therefore, students suggested that as Business Core courses were fundamental, students across different sections should share common knowledge and a similar foundation for advanced-level courses. In this connection, the department should narrow down the variances and provide a set of curriculum or list of topics as reference for professors.

Most of the students agreed that professors should be allowed to have flexibility in teaching because professors with different backgrounds, experience and interests should know what would be their best ways to pass the knowledge to students. At the same time, students could gain exposures in new tools and ideas for a fruitful learning experience.

4. A.O.B.

The Chair invited members to stay in the committee if they would not be on exchange in Spring 2018.

Next Meeting

6 pm, March 5, 2018

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

February 22, 2018