

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

**4<sup>th</sup> SBM UG Student Representative Meeting 2018/19**

**Confirmed Minutes**

Date and time of meeting:	May 14, 2019, 12:30pm – 2:00pm
Minutes Prepared by:	Maggie Yim
Attendance of SBM UG Programs Office:	Anirban Mukhopadhyay, Emily Nason, Ka Yee Lee, Maggie Yim
CUP Faculty Members	-
Attendance of UG Student Representatives:	Daniel Chan, Sunny Chan, Tiffany Chan, Laura Cheung, Alexis Ho, Benny Hui, Dennis Lam, Winnie Lam, Anson Mak, Anna Moon, Jason Ng, Timmy Ng, Christine Poon, Rex Yeung, Lotus Yu, Ziquan Zhou
Absence with Apologies:	Taylor Choi, Wan-Yun Chou, Caroline Eleonora, Rennie Jiang, L Wong, Ivan Yeung
Absence:	Margaret Yau

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

As no further comment was received, the minutes of the 2018/19 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on March 11, 2019 was confirmed.

**2. Information Items**

**2a New Business Core Courses**

The Chair briefed members on the two new 1-credit Business Core courses to be added to the SBM School requirements in 2019-20 and onward. They are “ISOM 2020 Coding for Business” and “ISOM 2600 Introduction to Business Analytics”. All SBM students of both BBA and BSc programs will be required to take these courses. The changes were based on the recommendation made by the UG Curriculum Task Force formed in 2017 that graduates should be able to communicate with programmers. The Chair reminded members that it would be a major change in the SBM curriculum and students with peer mentor or student advisor roles were informed of such changes in advance so that they could share the information with freshmen.

**2b Migration of BSc Risk Management and Business Intelligence Program (RMBI)**

The Chair updated members on the migration of BSc Risk Management and Business Intelligence Program (RMBI) from IPO to SBM under ISOM Department beginning from September 1, 2019. RMBI would be a joint program offered by the SSCI, SENG and SBM, and hosted in ISOM starting from Fall 2019. Co-directors from each School were appointed to oversee the Program together. The existing administrative and teaching staff taking care of RMBI would be migrated from IPO to SBM as well.

The Chair highlighted that most SBM Business Core Courses would be incorporated into the RMBI curriculum and the changes were not major. A new FinTech Option would be offered in 2019-20. The Program would be available to all students for selection in the major selection exercises of all three Schools. More support would be provided to RMBI students after the transition, including the access to scholarship, career services and project courses. Beginning from the coming academic year (Fall 2019), a student representative from RMBI would join our meetings.

#### 2c New Student Orientation Activities 2019

The Chair gave members a brief account of the schedules of the new student orientation activities for different groups of students like JUPAS, non-JUPAS, senior year entry students, etc. Prof Emily Nason added that for students admitted to specific programs (PBA students), they would be invited to join an additional orientation activity organized by their major programs after the School Welcome & Orientation on Aug 27.

#### 2d Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

The Chair informed members that the Provost Office recently updated the Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity with immediate effect. Basically there were two types of misconduct, namely academic and non-academic. Prof Emily Nason expressed that there was an increasing number of misconduct cases including fabrication of medical documents. It was important to raise the awareness among the student community that they should strictly adhere to the regulations and understand that they would be held accountable and responsible for any actions taken. She alerted students that some misconduct behaviors might infringe the law in Hong Kong.

### 3. Discussion Items

#### 3a Summary Report on Online Suggestion & Feedback Form for SBM UG students

The Chair thanked Dennis Lam and Caroline Eleonora for their effort and contribution for initiating the online feedback form. The Chair expressed that the Online Suggestion & Feedback Form for SBM UG students was announced to the student community via mass email on March 26, 2019. The Sub-committee summarized and submitted all feedback received to the SBM UG Programs Office for further conveying to relevant departments or administrative units for responses (if any) of each feedback. At the meeting, the Chair went over the feedback and responses one by one and members exchanged their views on the feedback as follows:

- i. Guidelines and selection criteria for Major Selection Exercise (MSE)

- A student member agreed with the comment that there was lack of information about the weighting for interview, CGA as well as the priority of program choices for Major Selection exercise (MSE) for GBUS, ECOF and QFIN. Prof Emily Nason responded that for GBUS, the PPT presentation about program selection criteria shared at Major Selection Information Session was uploaded on the SBM UG website. It also contained information such as “only students choosing GBUS as first choice would be shortlisted for interview”. The UG Programs staff replied that they would follow up with the respective programs on the suggestion to post the requested program selection information on the website.
- A member commented that it was unfair that only ACCT2010 was taken into account for choosing ACCT, but not the second Accounting course ACCT2200 as students might improve and achieve good grade in ACCT2200. On the contrary, students could use either one of the two ECON courses (e.g. ECON2103/ ECON2113 and ECON2123) taken in the first three terms to be considered for ECON major at the MSE.
- The Chair replied that the suggestion would be conveyed to the ACCT department for consideration. However, in terms of the timeline, it might not work since there were other major foundation courses to be taken in the second term (ACCT2200 was offered once per year in Spring). If students were required to take the second accounting course in the second term, it might affect students’ choices in other majors. He also commented that once this option to consider a second course for major selection was opened up, other majors might follow suit, which would result in a serious problem on the study pathways. The Chair added that the current study pathway was the compromised solution about what would be acceptable as a business core for all business students. In addition, there might be resource constraints to offer ACCT2200 in an earlier term.
- A student member wondered if there was a policy for program transfer after the MSE. Prof Emily Nason replied that there were general guidelines and procedures provided by the University and students could submit a program transfer application to be considered by the respective Department or Program on a case by case basis. The information about program transfer is available on the UG Programs website but it is not publicized in a high profile manner.

ii. Coffee Cup Recycling bins

Since the feedback was anonymous, the sub-committee could not clarify what the student exactly referred to, that is, whether he/she was referring to the paper recycling of the disposable coffee cups or the use of reusable coffee cups. Prof Emily Nason added that the University has been trying out different innovative and sustainable ways to protect the environment, for example, the recycling of coffee grounds. It was also planning to place a food locker which could keep food warm. Among the 18 proposals to make UST a smart and sustainable campus, only one proposal came from SBM students, as mentioned by the Chair who was one of the committee members overseeing these proposals. He encouraged students to participate more actively and contact him for enquiries if interested.

iii. Microwave in LSK

There is a microwave in LSK near Pacific Coffee.

iv. FINA3203

The Chair went through the two feedback and responses from FINA Department. It seemed that there was a problem, but he said that SFQ would tell. Prof Emily Nason added that there would be four new faculty joining FINA department in January and hopefully there would be a better match of instructors for the courses.

v. Streaming of ACCT2010

The Chair explained that there might be constraints for the ACCT Department to offer different classes of ACCT2010 based on students' background due to accreditation reason. However, student members in general supported the streaming idea as they said that students without prior knowledge in accounting would be disadvantaged if taking the same course with others who have accounting background. The Chair expressed concerns because it was sometimes difficult to stream students into different classes based on this rationale. For example, should we stream students with more presentation skills (like IB students) in a different Marketing or Management class? A student representative responded that there were also problems with students' attitude and their efforts paid in the course. Another member reflected that the professor of her Accounting course stated in class that students were graded with reference to their peers, which made it more unfair. The Chair clarified that course grading should not be based on norm-referencing or bell curve as students should be graded according to assessment rubrics where students' performance was evaluated against achievement of learning outcomes. He reiterated that the grading message about criterion-referencing has been regularly disseminated to departments and instructors for two years. He appreciated the feedback from students and encouraged student representatives to express anything that was unfair so that we could follow up. The Chair would bring up the streaming request of ACCT2010 to ACCT Department for consideration again.

vi. Number of credits for Common Core

The Chair responded that it was an open question on what the best division would be between Business Major, University Common Core and Business Core. Unlike the Engineering and Science subjects which have had a long history, business disciplines have been available for less than 100 years. Hence, while students majoring in Science or Engineering programs would require more credits to have deep understanding on their majors, an UG business degree would cover broadly to include the foundation knowledge of every Major, i.e. Business Core. A student raised concerns on the credit transfer of Common Core courses taken during exchange. The Chair explained that the University was currently reviewing the University Common Core practices and might reduce number of options from the existing 160-200 Common Core courses.

vii. Promotion of the online feedback form

Members exchanged views on how to share the feedback and responses received to the wider community. Prof Emily Nason suggested that the sub-committee could compile a summary of feedback and responses received (in bullet point forms) to be posted online and to promote the online feedback form via the weekly e-news. The sub-committee was invited to consider the practicality of the suggestions. The Chair thanked all the valuable comments and was grateful that the abuse of the feedback form did not exist. To carry forward the initiative of the steering committee, Rex Yeung, Anna Moon and Anson Mak volunteered to be the new members of the sub-committee and they would work on the promotion and the dissemination of feedback and responses received before the next meeting to be held in Fall 2019.

#### **4. A.O.B.**

- 4a A member mentioned that more promotion could be done for the Major selection information session for Spring term since only a small number of people came to the information booths at the Karen Lee Student Mentoring Center. Prof Emily Nason added that it might be attributed to the fact that many students have already attended the sessions held in the Fall term.
- 4b Prof Emily Nason updated members that the hybrid model of Program-based Admission (PBA) and School-based Admission (SBA) for UG intake would continue after soliciting the feedback from different stakeholders. The only change was the admission quota for 2020 intake: a combined quota of 125 would be adopted for five programs, namely BBA in ECON, IS, MARK, MGMT and OM, to provide flexibility to adjust program intake sizes according to the actual strengths of the final applicant queues of these five programs.
- 4c The Chair thanked all student representatives who would be graduating in 2018-19, namely Taylor Choi, Benny Hui, Dennis Lam and Margaret Yau, for their fruitful contribution and active participation in the meetings.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm.

September 13, 2019