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Strange undergraduate enrollment pattern

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Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 9:37 PM

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Cc: [School faculty]

Dear colleagues in HSS,

this is the enrollment breakdown by school in my course SOSC 1440, Introduction to Economics:

Bachelor of Engineering: 155

Bachelor of Science: 151

Business School: 0

UG Exchange Program: 14

Total: 320

Of the 320 students in my course SOSC1440, Introduction to Economics, not a single student is from the Business School. How come? Does the Business School have a blanket prohibition on their students taking SOSC classes? Or on courses taught by me? Do you have the same findings for your courses?

The Econ department has exclusion restrictions on SOSC1440 for its courses:

ECON2103 Principles of Microeconomics

ECON2113 Microeconomics

ECON2123 Macroeconomics

ECON3113 Microeconomic Theory I

ECON3123 Macroeconomic Theory I

ECON3133 Microeconomic Theory II

ECON3143 Macroeconomic Theory II

+ Almost every ECON course that doesn't have a SOSC1440 exclusion has ECON prerequisites which in turn have a SOSC1440 exclusion![1]

Does the Business School have a requirement for all their students to take one ECON course, which then implies that nobody in the Business School can take SOSC1440?[2]

An interesting additional finding is that the Econ department values my first-year undergraduate course as equal to its most advanced microeconomic and macroeconomics courses! The Econ department thus certifies that I am a genius!! I don't know of anybody else at HKUST who can pack a full 4-year undergraduate education into one first-year course!!! I.e., the quadrupling of my salary is now overdue by at least five years.

Let's go back to the draft minutes of the School Board Meeting of 6 Sept. 2017:

“According to the preliminary calculations under our university's standard budget model, the combination of our low teaching numbers and relatively small number of funded research projects put the annual SHSS budget something like HK\$15MM in the red.” [3]

(1) If the Business School systematically prevents their students from taking SOSC courses, then our “low teaching numbers” are the result of Provost Shyy Wei allowing (or requiring?) other Schools to systematically discriminate against HSS. Shyy Wei also conveniently ignored a formal(!) grievance procedure of mine against the ECON department discrimination of SOSC some years ago. This means the responsibility for a supposed 15MM HSS budget shortfall lies squarely with Shyy Wei.

(2) Shyy Wei invents budget formulas and plays with rules that imply a budget shortfall in HSS. Shyy Wei can equally well invent a formula that makes HSS 30MM in the red, or 50MM in the plus.[4]

(3) The Econ department offered to employ the economists in SOSC as their slave colony (we can teach their courses following their choice of textbooks and their syllabi). Let reciprocity rule: The Econ department faculty, by the Econ department’s choice of exclusions, is teaching our clientele. Therefore, student numbers in their ECON2103 through ECON3143 courses count as SOSC student numbers.

(4) Provost Shyy Wei decides the budget model.

* HSS faculty have no say in the budget model.

* HSS faculty have no budget approval authority.

* HSS faculty don’t even know what the budget is.

I.e., HSS faculty has nothing to do with Shyy Wei’s imaginary HSS budget. If there is a problem with his “HSS budget” and he projects his problems on us, then let’s call the police.

The current practice of Provost Shyy Wei (and Dean James Lee?) to use HSS faculty as whipping boys/girls—following Shyy Wei’s (and James Lee’s?) management fantasies, abuses, failures, or intentional discrimination and oppression—looks sick to me.

And since I am at it, the list of discriminations just never ends:

When Albert Park taught China’s Economic Transformation, the course was listed as ECON4204/SOSC4260. The moment I began to teach it, ECON4204/SOSC4260 became listed as SOSC4260 (only). ECON4204 gained an exclusion—no points for guessing correctly: SOSC4260—and it has prerequisites—no points for guessing those correctly, either: the prerequisites that rule out a student taking SOSC1440. I.e., when Albert Park teaches the course, Econ department students are welcomed; if I teach the course, Econ department students are prohibited from taking it. If you wish to evaluate for yourself the content and quality of ECON4204/SOSC4260 vs. SOSC4260, I can share both syllabi.

The students currently enrolled in SOSC4260 are exclusively GCS students (plus some exchange students). Only a couple of students (the exchange students?) have ever taken an economics course. As a fourth-year Chinese economy course, SOSC4260 should have standard undergraduate economics prerequisites. If I put those in, I have about three students left and my course would be cancelled. That looks to me like the targeted abuse of a faculty member, if not the intentional destruction of a faculty career.

Best,
Carsten

[1] <http://prog-crs.ust.hk/ugcourse/2017-18/ECON>, or <https://w5.ab.ust.hk/wcq/cgi-bin/1730/subject/ECON>.

[2] If Business School students can take some SOSC courses but just not mine, then that makes it harder for me to reach large student numbers. I.e., I am being penalized for the discrimination exercised/approved by Shyy Wei and condoned by dean and division head.

[3] Notice the phrasing “our university’s standard budget model” as if that were “our” model. The responsible person(s) shirk their responsibility. (As to citing the “draft” minutes: I never get the final minutes. And even the draft minutes, I only get with a 6-month delay.)

[4] In the past, Shyy Wei over summer shuffled many millions of extra HKD to the division. Now he chooses to make that a budget deficit.