

# In Conversation with Students



In a bid to bring senior management a step closer to the students, FASS initiated 'Deanery-Connect' in Academic Year 2009/2010.

This is an informal session for students to converse with members of the Deanery and to share their expectations and learning experience in the Faculty. They can choose to discuss any topic and the dialogue is conducted in a casual and relaxed setting. In Semester 1 (September/October), some 50 students participated in four sessions, with a Deanery member taking on 10 to 15 students each session.

The sessions proved to be very insightful as the Deanery heard feedback on tutorial formats, curricular rigour, module bidding, career opportunities and school facilities. Some came with interesting suggestions while others sought advice on graduate studies and career mapping. With the success of this series, the senior management in the Faculty will continue with Deanery Connect in the following semester and encourage Department Heads to have similar informal conversations with their students.

"The session with the students was so beneficial to me as a teacher and administrator. The students were extremely candid in expressing what they liked about the faculty and what they would also like to see improved. It struck me that our students are really not shy at all in providing feedback if there is a platform to do so, such as the Deanery-Connect session."

Assistant Dean Assoc Prof TC Chang  
started the first session on 4 September 2009

"We should hold these sessions regularly, so that we have an open channel of communication with our students. I was very pleased to meet this group of students, many for the first time. They had insightful comments, and it was refreshing to hear directly from these students."

Vice Dean Assoc Prof Paulin Tay-Straughan  
enjoyed the wide range of topics covered in the session

# Feedback from Students

“I went with an open mind, and it definitely was a session worth going for. Not only did I get to interact with fellow Geography Majors whom I’ve never met before, I thought the session brought me closer to FASS. With such a huge intake annually, one can’t help but feel like a digit in this massive cohort we belong to and Deanery-Connect is definitely one avenue to bring us back to the Faculty. It was an enjoyable session after a tiring day and week from school. Conversations were nothing intensive, yet chilling out with Assoc Prof Chang and fellow FASS friends brought me new insights on the different ways of coping in the university system. It’s a session, I recommend, for every semester, and for every FASSian to participate in.”

Tan Ying Peng (Year 2, Geography)

“It was an appropriate avenue for me to provide my opinion on the pedagogy at NUS, and I was comforted knowing that the Dean himself will be expressing the opinions of the students to the relevant departments. At the same time, I became more aware of the wider concerns one has to take into account as a National University – implications of closing, merging or setting up departments.”

Dawn Lee Yi Min (Year 2, Economics)



Deanery members connect with students



Sessions 2010	Deanery member present
9 February	Assoc Prof TC Chang
25 February	Assoc Prof Hendrik Meyer-Ohle
19 March	Prof Brenda Yeoh
31 March	Assoc Prof Paulin Straughan