

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

COUNCIL

The following is a list of non-restricted matters discussed at the Council meeting held on April 26, 2016:

1. The Council WELCOMED Mrs. Ayesha M. LAU, who was recently appointed as a member to the Council under the category “6 persons, not being students or employees of the University, appointed by the Council”, to the meeting.
2. The Council, arising from the press conference of the Chairman held on January 28, 2016,
 - (a) NOTED from the Chairman that
 - (i) the Hon. IP Kin-yuen had written in again, seeking Council’s response on a number of questions and that Mr. IP’s latest open letter addressed to Council had been circulated to members by email; and
 - (ii) in pursuance of the Council’s decision at the last meeting, legal advice had been sought and it was confirmed that the Council needed not and should not consider the matter as the views he expressed at the press conference were those of his own; and
 - (b) CONFIRMED that it be neither necessary nor appropriate for the Council to discuss the issue.
3. The Council RECEIVED a report from the President & Vice-Chancellor on the recent activities of the University including
 - (a) the good international standings of the University as reflected in the recently released The Times Higher Education Supplement and Quacquarelli-Symonds (QS) rankings by subject;
 - (b) the clarification of the misconception that there had been a fall in the University’s income from philanthropic donations;
 - (c) his visit with a large HKU delegation to the Mainland to a number of universities and institutes, and to meet with school principals, HKU alumni and students, and exchange students from Mainland universities who had attended HKU;
 - (d) an update on the latest development of the Centennial College;
 - (e) the view of the Senior Management Team that with the adoption of the document “Asia’s Global University, HKU: the next decade, our vision for 2016-2025” to be the public declaration of the University’s principles of aims, it was not necessary for the University to seek to become a signatory to the *Magna Charta Universitatum*;

- (f) the recruitment of distinguished individuals from various prestigious backgrounds to join HKU;
- (g) Professor N.M. MOK being elected as academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; and Professor V.W.W. YAM being awarded “Leader of the Year 2015” by the Sing Tao News Corporation Limited;
- (h) an update on the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital project;
- (i) his two meetings together with the Council Chairman with one student from each Faculty and the HKUSU Executive Committee respectively;
- (j) his attendance at the launch in Hong Kong of the proposed Jao Tsung-I Center at Jesus College of the University of Cambridge; and
- (k) the recent publication of the report on the review conducted by Professor Sir Howard NEWBY commissioned by the UGC on the governance of the UGC-funded higher education institutions in Hong Kong.

4. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a paper on the setting up of the review panel on the effectiveness of the University governance;
- (b) INVITED Professor Sir Malcolm John GRANT, the current Chancellor of the University of York, as Chairman of the Review Panel; and Professor William C. KIRBY, T.M. Chang Professor of China Studies and Spangler Family Professor of Business Administration at Harvard University; and Mr. Peter Van Tu NGUYEN, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court during 1998 to 2009, as members of the Review Panel; and
- (c) AGREED that the terms of reference of the Review Panel be set out as follows:

“To conduct an overall review of the governance structure of the University, and specifically

- a. to review the effectiveness of the current governance structure of the University, following the implementation of the recommendations in the Niland Reports (2003 and 2009);
- b. for the purpose of the review, to
 - i. receive information, advice and suggestions from relevant committees and members of the University (including staff, students and alumni) and other stakeholders of the University;
 - ii. take into consideration findings and recommendations of relevant reviews of university governance in recent years (including the review conducted by Professor

Sir Howard Newby commissioned by the UGC) and the review by the University's Working Group on Confidentiality, as well as best practices of publicly funded universities around the world;

- iii. review the provisions in the University Ordinance and Statutes relating to the University's governance, management and operations, and their appropriateness; and
 - iv. conduct reviews in any other areas which relate or affect the effectiveness of the University's governance; and
- c. to make recommendations which would enhance the effectiveness of the governance of the University as appropriate.”

5. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a report from the Working Group set up by the Council to consider matters relating to the principle of confidentiality and other principles which the Council should uphold (the “Working Group”); and
- (b) AGREED to refer the report from the Working Group to the Review Panel on University Governance for its comment and advice, noting that the Review Panel would be informed of the wish to have this accorded priority in the review and that members could convey their comments to the Review Panel direct.

6. The Council

- (a) HEARD a presentation from Professor T.K.F. AU, Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Staffing and Resources), on her portfolio; and NOTED in particular
 - (i) the principles of hiring, nurturing and promoting academic talents which included setting and upholding high standards and the importance of having happily productive staff;
 - (ii) the initiatives to set and uphold high standards, such as the tenure and promotion review, forum on Research Assessment Exercise, leadership workshop, experience sharing between members of University Selection and Promotion Committee and Promotion and Tenure Panel chairs, and addressing gender imbalance at a University level; and
 - (iii) the engagement with colleagues through mentor and experience sharing to nurture happily productive staff; and
- (b) THANKED Professor AU for the presentation.

7. The Council

- (a) HEARD a presentation from Professor T.S.A. HOR, Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), on his portfolio ; and NOTED in particular
 - (i) an overview of the strategic intent of research and innovation of the University, including building peaks of excellence, synergistic partnership, and delivering community value;
 - (ii) the key outlines on a number of areas of research of HKU including innovation and entrepreneurship, interdisciplinary research, collaboration and convergence for impact, graduate research education, impactful research and community engagement;
 - (iii) the vision and strategic approaches of the HKU-Zhejiang Institute of Research and Innovation;
 - (iv) the SWOT analysis, setting out the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats the University had in different aspects of research; and
 - (v) the three primary drivers of HKU research and innovation, which were research at the international frontiers, a campus-wide innovation and entrepreneurial culture, and the recruitment and retention of top talents; and
- (b) THANKED Professor HOR for the presentation.

8. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a paper on “Academic Appointments” from the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor which covered proposals on the introduction of two new specialist professoriate categories, *viz.*, a teaching professoriate category and a research professoriate category; and the operational principles relating to tenure appointments, re-appointments after normal retirement age, fractional appointments, and equal opportunities issues; and
- (b) APPROVED the proposed framework for professoriate categories and the proposed operational principles, on the understanding that the descriptions of contributions made by staff as criteria for the appointment to the two new specialist professoriate categories be refined as suggested for clearer differentiation.

9. The Council HEARD the President & Vice-Chancellor report on the latest development of the Centennial College.

10. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED from the Director of Finance an annual report on the outside practice activities of professoriate staff of the University for the year 2014-15; and
 - (b) THANKED the Director of Finance and the Finance and Enterprises Office for compiling the report.
11. The Council RECEIVED a paper on the update on the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital project.
12. The Council NOTED from the Chairman that the Court hearing for the application for an Injunction Order to deal with the unauthorised audio recordings of several Council meetings was scheduled to be held on May 23, 2016.

May 2016