

# THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## COUNCIL

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

1. The Council WELCOMED Ms. Vivien CHAN and Mr. T. Brian STEVENSON, the newly appointed members; and Mr. Eric T.M. CHEUNG and Professor Timothy E. O'LEARY, the newly elected members, to their first meeting of the Council.
2. The Council RECORDED a vote of thanks to Professor S. KWOK who would retire from his Deanship from February 1, 2016, for his contributions to the University as Dean of Science for a decade since 2006; and Mr. K.Y. NG, whose membership on the Council as a full-time employee representative ended on January 9, 2016, for his contribution to the Council in the past 3 years.
3. The Council also RECORDED a vote of thanks to Mrs. Margaret M.Y. LEUNG KO and the Hon. Abraham L.H. SHEK for discharging Council business during the period when the Council was devoid of its Chairman.
4. The Council HEARD from Professor the Hon. Arthur K.C. LI on his first meeting as Council Chairman, after his appointment since January 1, 2016, his reasons for taking up the Chairmanship, his responses to various views expressed by different parties on his Chairmanship appointment, his stance of resisting any political pressure which interfered with the University's matters, and his aim to ensure that HKU was the premier university not only locally but internationally.
5. The Council RECEIVED a report from the President & Vice-Chancellor, on the recent activities of the University including
  - (a) the two "Meet the SMT" sessions in the first week of February at which the vision document would be a major agenda item;
  - (b) his attendance at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos;
  - (c) the league table assessing international outlook by the Times Higher Education Supplement in which the University was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world;
  - (d) the progress of work of HKU's Asia Global Institute (AGI);
  - (e) his participation in a panel with the Presidents of Tufts University and Beijing Normal University on January 16, 2016, in which lively debate on various issues of higher education were conducted;
  - (f) the participation of over 2,100 HKU runners at the 20<sup>th</sup> Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon on January 17, 2016; and

- (g) the visits to the University by high-level delegations of universities overseas and other international agencies.

6. The Council

- (a) HEARD a presentation by Professor I.M. HOLLIDAY, Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning), on the teaching and learning of the University;
- (b) NOTED from Professor HOLLIDAY his portfolio and the two major events which had taken place since his taking on this portfolio, *viz.* the submission of the Academic Development Proposal of the University for the next triennium to the UGC, and the Quality Assurance Council Audit which had completed recently; and the initiatives undertaken in the areas of internationalization, the common core curriculum as well as innovation;
- (c) RECEIVED, tabled at the meeting, the Institutional Submission made by the University for the Quality Assurance Council Audit 2015;
- (d) NOTED from the Chairman that Council members were welcome to convey their comments and suggestions relating to the teaching and learning of the University to Professor HOLLIDAY; and
- (e) THANKED Professor HOLLIDAY for the presentation.

7. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED, tabled at the meeting, from Dr. S.J. CANNON, Executive Vice-President (Administration and Finance), the document “Asia’s Global University - The Enabling Platform”;
- (b) HEARD Dr. CANNON take members through the salient points therein, which included *inter alia* the University fund balances, sources of income and items of expenditures of the University in comparison to the UK counterparts, the institutional priorities of the University, the risk management approach to be adopted to modernise and reform the professional and administrative services, and the financial initiatives to be explored; and seek support from the Council to give a mandate to enhance revenue growth, reduce operating margins, maximise asset efficiency, and manage expectations and strength in order to achieve the University’s academic ambition;
- (c) SUPPORTED the general direction set out in the document; and
- (d) THANKED Dr. CANNON for the presentation.

8. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a paper from the Finance Committee on the mid-year budget review for 2015-16;
- (b) APPROVED the revisions to the 2015-16 budget related to the block grant activities; and

- (c) THANKED the Finance Committee and the Director of Finance for apprising the Council of the budgetary position of the University.
9. The Council RECEIVED a letter from the Chairman of Convocation regarding the results of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of Convocation held on November 29, 2015; and NOTED the results of the EGM of Convocation.
10. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED a paper on the issues with relation to the motions proposed at the Court meeting of December 17, 2015;
  - (b) HEARD the Chairman recapitulate the background, in that the Hon. Abraham L.H. SHEK, with delegated authority of the Council, indicated at the meeting of the Court on December 17, 2015 that the Council would be invited to consider whether matters relating to the Hon. IP Kin-yuen's three motions (which were about the principle of confidentiality, the document signed by the Council members to undertake the upholding of the principle of confidentiality, and the signing of the *Magna Charta Universitatum* by the University) be discussed at a Council meeting; and
  - (c) AGREED to set up a small group, chaired by the President & Vice-Chancellor and comprised Mr. Eric T.M. CHEUNG and the Hon. Abraham L.H. SHEK, and with the assistance of the University's legal advisor, to consider matters relating to the principle of confidentiality as well as other principles which the Council should uphold, and in light of the recent incidents, the possible review of the "*Guide and Code of Practice for Members of the Council*".
11. The Council APPROVED the changes as endorsed by the Human Resource Policy Committee to the guidelines for the appointment and re-appointment of Faculty Deans.
12. The Council RESOLVED by majority vote
  - (a) that Mrs. Margaret M.Y. LEUNG KO be appointed as a member of the Nominations Committee under the category "One lay member of the Council, appointed by the Council, for a period of two years" from as soon as possible for a period of two years; and
  - (b) that Professor C.M. LO be appointed as a member of the Nominations Committee under the category "One academic member of the Council, appointed by the Council, for a period of two years" from as soon as possible for a period of two years.
13. The Council RESOLVED that Professor Terry K.F. AU, Chair of Psychology in the Department of Psychology, be appointed as the interim Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Staffing and Resources) with immediate effect until the arrival of the new Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Staffing and Resources).

14. The Council
  - (a) RESOLVED that Professor Matthew R. EVANS, currently Head of the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, and Professor of Ecology, at the Queen Mary University of London, be appointed as the next Dean of Science for a fixed term of five years; and
  - (b) THANKED all members of the Search Committee for the Dean of Science for their efforts over the search and the selection exercise.
15. The Council RECEIVED a report on the monthly expenditures of the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital project.
16. The Council RESOLVED unanimously to set up an independent review panel to study the governance of the University and its effectiveness, which was in the spirit of the Niland reports and timely in the light of the forthcoming Newby Report on a review of governance of universities in Hong Kong which was commissioned by the University Grants Committee, and related issues.

February 2016