

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

COUNCIL

The following is a list of non-restricted matters discussed at the Council meeting held on June 27, 2017.

1. The Council WELCOMED Mr. Ed C.T. WONG, the recently elected undergraduate representative, to his first meeting of the Council.
2. The Council RECORDED a vote of thanks to Mr. D.C.T. SO, Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Institutional Advancement) for his contributions to the University during the past 2 years.
3. The Council RECEIVED a report from the President & Vice-Chancellor on the recent activities of the University including
 - (a) the progress of the programme of reform under the “Smarter@HKU” title;
 - (b) the University’s positions in the latest rankings from the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings;
 - (c) the achievements of HKU students in athletic events;
 - (d) his attendance at the University Presidents’ Summit, the celebration ceremony of the 120th anniversary of Zhejiang University, and the “C9 + HK3” meeting in Hangzhou;
 - (e) his meeting with the then Chief Executive-elect together with Presidents of the 7 other UGC-funded universities and the Chairman of UGC on May 23, 2017;
 - (f) the annual Alumni Leaders’ luncheon held on May 26, 2017;
 - (g) his participation at the Times Higher Innovation Summit at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University together with university leaders from around the world on June 1, 2017;
 - (h) his joining of the visit led by Mrs. Fanny Law to the science and technology facilities in Guangzhou and meetings with officials from the Guangdong provincial government and the Guangzhou city government on June 5, 2017;
 - (i) his presentation of the long service award to University’s staff at the ceremony on June 6, 2017;
 - (j) the annual “HKU at the races” event at Sha Tin on June 11, 2017;
 - (k) his participation as a panel moderator at the SCMP Handover event to celebrate 20 years of the HKSAR on June 12, 2017; and

- (l) the visit to HKU by Mr. Dov Moran, the world-famous Israeli entrepreneur, and representatives of universities, research institutes and government from the Mainland, the U.S., the U.K and Finland.

4. The Council

- (a) HEARD a presentation from Professor J.P. BURNS, Dean of Social Sciences, on the development in the Faculty, and NOTED in particular
 - (i) the evolution of the Faculty since its establishment in 1967, outlining the setting up of its various departments and interdisciplinary centres;
 - (ii) the Faculty's recent developments in research, including the research clusters, research income for 2012-17, the UGC's RAE results in 2014, and the actions taken to enhance its research performance;
 - (iii) the Faculty's recent developments in teaching and learning and knowledge exchange, including the undergraduate and postgraduate education, the different projects undertaken by the Faculty including those commissioned by the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the HKSAR Government and HSBC, and the initiatives taken to produce more high impact academic research;
 - (iv) the ranking of the Faculty and its cost centres in the world university rankings, in which the Faculty was ranked 1st in Asia by the Times Higher Education in 2016;
 - (v) the analysis of scores of the Faculty's final year students in the Student Learning Experience Questionnaire from 2013-16 with a view to ensuring and enhancing the quality of students' learning experiences; and the overall employment distribution of the graduates;
 - (vi) the Faculty's future directions in research, teaching and learning, and knowledge exchange; and
 - (vii) the celebration activities of the 50th anniversary of the Faculty such as the capital fundraising campaign and the reunion dinner;
- (b) NOTED from Professor BURNS's response to members' comments on the Faculty's multi-disciplinary collaborations and its taught postgraduate curricula; and
- (c) RECORDED a vote of thanks to Professor BURNS, a long serving member of the University, who would retire from his Deanship upon the expiry of his current appointment on August 31, 2017, for his valuable contributions to the Faculty during his six years of Deanship.

5. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED the preliminary income and expenditure forecast on block grant activities for 2017-18, which had been endorsed by the Finance Committee;
- (b) APPROVED the preliminary 2017-18 income and expenditure forecast; and
- (c) THANKED Mrs. Margaret LEUNG KO and members of the Finance Committee for their advice.

6. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a paper on gender parity and family-friendly measures for the University;
- (b) NOTED
 - (i) that a number of gender parity and family-friendly measures were proposed to address the gender imbalance and to achieve greater gender parity across the campus with a view to removing arbitrary obstacles and fostering a fair, diverse and supportive environment for achieving academic excellence; and
 - (ii) that the measures so proposed were developed after research into the existing practices of top universities overseas and had incorporated useful suggestions from consultation with staff in two open forums, the Senior Management Team, Faculty Deans, and the Human Resource Policy Committee; and if adopted, would be reviewed periodically, say every five years; and
- (c) ENDORSED the recommendations on gender parity and family-friendly measures for the University, noting that detailed mechanism for the implementation of the recommendations would be worked out.

7. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a paper on the Policies and Guidelines on Donations, so that there be one set of common guidelines for use by the whole University to ensure the reputation of the University be duly protected while enabling donation activities to take place without being negatively affected;
- (b) NOTED that the set of Policies and Guidelines was based on the framework of the existing DFA No. 19 entitled "Solicitation and Acceptance of Donations and Sponsorships" and had taken reference from various policy samples and best practices of overseas universities, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the ICAC; and

- (c) APPROVED in principle the set of Policies and Guidelines on Donations, noting that senior management would look into matters concerning acceptance of donations for the work of the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital.
8. The Council
- (a) RECEIVED a paper on SMARTER@HKU, providing an update on the development of a revised financial strategy, the introduction of a new Resource Allocation Model and progress on the Efficient Resource Management and Leadership Development initiatives under the SMARTER@HKU banner; and
 - (b) THANKED Dr. CANNON for giving an update on SMARTER@HKU.
9. The Council APPROVED that the Non-Accountable Cash Allowance (NCA) be increased by 20% from July 1, 2017 and be applicable to serving and newly appointed staff who were eligible for NCA.
10. The Council
- (a) RECEIVED a paper on the restructuring of committees in the areas of information technology, infrastructure, and safety and health; and
 - (b) APPROVED
 - (i) the establishment of an Information Technology Policy Committee;
 - (ii) the disestablishment of the Accommodation Committee as a Council committee and its re-establishment as a Sub-Committee of the Campus Development and Planning Committee; and
 - (iii) the restructuring of the existing Safety, Health and Environment Committee and University Health Services Committee into a single Committee on Health, Safety and Well-Being, noting that this would be subject to the Senate's approval for the disestablishment of the University Health Services Committee which was established jointly by the Council and the Senate.
11. The Council
- (a) RECEIVED a paper on the annual submission of the UGC Capital Programme; and
 - (b) ENDORSED the recommendation that no new project be included in the 2018 UGC Capital Programme submission.
12. The Council HEARD a progress report from Dr. T. Brian STEVENSON, Chairman of the Search Committee for the next President & Vice-Chancellor.

13. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED a report from the Working Party on the Recommendations of the Review Panel on University Governance (the “Working Party”) chaired by Dr. T. Brian STEVENSON;
 - (b) AGREED
 - (i) in general with the recommendations of the Working Party, and noted that quite a few recommendations of the Review Panel had already been successfully implemented; and
 - (ii) that the full reports of both the Review Panel and the Working Party be released to the public; and
 - (c) THANKED Dr. STEVENSON and other members of the Working Party for their work and recommendations.
14. The Council RECEIVED a report on the financial update of the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital project.
15. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee,
 - (a) that Ms. Leonie M.F. KI be re-appointed as the Chairperson of the Discrimination Complaints Committee under the category “A Chairperson who shall be a lay member of the Council, appointed for a period of two years” for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019;
 - (b) that Mr. LIU Hengzhi be re-appointed as a member of the Graduate House Committee of Management under the category “One postgraduate student to represent the interests of the non-residents, nominated by the PGSA and appointed by the Council” for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018; and
 - (c) that Dr. Victor NG Hon be appointed as a member of the Committee for the Selection of Wardens and Hall Tutors under the category “Two members who are not employees or students of the University, appointed by the Council” for the period June 28, 2017 to June 27, 2020.
16. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the proposed amendments to Departmental Financial Administration (DFA).
17. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Committee on Student Affairs, that the daily lodging rates for 2017-18 (based on a total of 280 residential days from August 21, 2017 to May 28, 2018) for the Residential Colleges in Jockey Club Student Village III be \$75 (single room) and \$55 per student (double room) for undergraduates; and \$113 (single room) and \$87 per student (double room) for postgraduates.