

# THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## COUNCIL

The following is a list of non-restricted matters discussed at the Council meeting held on September 24, 2019.

1. The Council CONGRATULATED Professor the Hon. Rosie T.T. YOUNG on her being awarded the Honorary University Fellowship by the University in recognition of her contributions and dedicated services to the University.
2. The Council CONGRATULATED all members of the University family concerned for their respective awards on the 2019 Honours List of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
3. The Council RECORDED a vote of thanks to Dr. S.J. CANNON, who resigned from his position as Executive Vice-President (Administration and Finance) with effect from October 1, 2019, for his contributions to the Senior Management Team and the University in the past years.
4. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED a report from the President & Vice-Chancellor on the recent activities of the University including
    - (i) the admission of a new cohort of undergraduate students and his participation in some of the Faculty welcome receptions to greet the freshmen;
    - (ii) the advancement of the University's rankings in the latest world University rankings of Times Higher Education and Quacquarelli Symonds;
    - (iii) his participation in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Presidents' Meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) at University of California in Los Angeles; and HKU's hosting for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidents' Meeting of the APRU in June 2020;
    - (iv) his continuous engagement with Faculties, Departments and the administration to improve communication at all levels of the University, including his planned visits to the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science to explore possible initiatives of the University in the development of big data;
    - (v) the assumption of the role of Acting Executive Vice-President (Administration and Finance) by Professor R.Y.C. WONG, Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor after the departure of Dr. S.J. CANNON; and the setting up of the Search Committee for the position which would work expeditiously to identify a suitable candidate; and

- (vi) his appeal to members of the University for support in maintaining and protecting the core values of the University and to build trust, mutual respect and cooperation through constructive interaction and dialogues/discussion forums in this difficult times of Hong Kong; and
- (b) further NOTED from the President & Vice-Chancellor that the Search Committee for the next Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) had commenced its work; and that an acting appointment would be made in the interim period and would be announced shortly.

5. The Council

- (a) HEARD a presentation from Professor W.G. HAYWARD, Dean of Social Sciences, on the development in the Faculty, and NOTED in particular
  - (i) an overview of the Faculty including the organization structure of the Faculty, the academic programmes offered, its student population, and rankings of the disciplines it offered in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings;
  - (ii) the research centres of the Faculty focusing on different subjects and disciplines, such as the State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences in collaboration with the Medical Faculty and the Centre for Water Technology and Policy in collaboration with the Engineering Faculty;
  - (iii) the multiple impacts brought by the offering of taught postgraduate programmes, which in providing training to the professionals, had attained knowledge exchange in the process, and generated income that could be used for supporting core activities of teaching and research in the Faculty;
  - (iv) the joint programmes launched with very strong academic partners which provided top students with in depth learning experience;
  - (v) the experiential learning opportunities for students under the Social Innovation and Global Citizenship scheme and other exchange/internship programmes with different community partners, which had been commended as world-leading in its provision in the recent academic review of the Faculty;
  - (vi) the various knowledge exchange activities including the community projects undertaken by the Faculty, making positive impact on society;
  - (vii) the review of the Faculty conducted in December 2018 and the Faculty's responses and actions with regard to the recommendations of the Review Panel; and
  - (viii) the initiatives made by the Faculty to respond to the current social crisis, such as the organisation of forums, workshops and seminars, with a view to supporting and connecting with staff and students, and engaging with all stakeholders;

- (b) NOTED comments and views, as well as responses with regard to the approach adopted by the University in responding to the current political and social issues in Hong Kong, and the possibility for the University to contribute more by providing a discussion platform for academics and the wider community; and
  - (c) THANKED Professor HAYWARD for the presentation.
- 6. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED a report on the academic review of the Faculty of Social Sciences; and
  - (b) THANKED all members of the review panel, the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and the Dean of Social Sciences, for undertaking the review and for drawing up the report, noting that the recommendations would be taken forward by the relevant parties of the University.
- 7. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED the University's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2019;
  - (b) HEARD Mrs. Margaret M.Y. LEUNG KO, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee, take members through the audited financial statements which had been considered and approved by the Finance Committee at its meeting of September 20, 2019;
  - (c) NOTED from Mr. Edward K.F. CHOW, Chairman of the Audit Committee, that the Audit Committee approved the adoption of the financial statements at its meeting of September 11, 2019 for submission to the Council; and
  - (d) APPROVED the University's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2019.
- 8. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED a paper from the Director of Finance on the Letter of Representation in respect of the 2018-19 audit of the University's financial statements; and
  - (b) APPROVED the Letter of Representation, noting that the Director of Finance, with delegated authority from the Council, would sign the Letter accordingly.
- 9. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED from the Audit Committee its annual report for the year 2018-19; and
  - (b) THANKED Mr. Edward K.F. CHOW, Chairman of the Audit Committee, and members of the Audit Committee for their work.

10. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED from the Campus Development and Planning Committee its annual report for the year 2018-19, which also enclosed the report of its sub-committee (the Accommodation Committee); and
  - (b) THANKED Professor Edward K.Y. CHEN and members of the Campus Development and Planning Committee and its sub-committee for their work.
11. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED from the Finance Committee its annual report for the year 2018-19, which also enclosed the reports of its two sub-committees (the Investments Sub-Committee and the Tenders Board); and
  - (b) THANKED Mrs. Margaret M.Y. LEUNG KO, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee, and members of the Finance Committee and its sub-committees for their work.
12. The Council APPROVED the re-appointment of Professor I.M. HOLLIDAY as the Vice-President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) for the period from January 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023.
13. The Council MADE a resolution to remove legal uncertainty about the power of delegation of the President & Vice-Chancellor.
14. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the President & Vice-Chancellor, that in recognition of a generous gift of \$15 million from Mr. Anthony CHEUNG Kee-Wee in support of the development of the Medical Faculty, the atrium of the William M.W. Mong Block on 21 Sassoon Road be named “Cheung Chin Lan Hong Atrium (蘭庭)”.
15. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee,
  - (a) that Ms. Wendy K.S. GAN be re-appointed as a member of the Finance Committee under the category “4 members who are not employees or students of the University, of whom at least one shall be a member of the Council, appointed by the Council” for the period ending August 10, 2022; and
  - (b) that Dr. Albert T.C. YEUNG be appointed as a member of the Committee on Health, Safety and Well-Being under the category “A member, nominated by the Academic Staff Association, appointed by the Council” for the period September 25, 2019 to September 24, 2022.