

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

COUNCIL

The following is a list of non-restricted matters discussed at the Council meeting held on January 22, 2020.

1. The Council CONGRATULATED Professor Q.Z.Q. YUE on his receipt of the First Class Award of the 10th Science and Technology Award from the China Society for Rock Mechanics and Engineering.
2. The Council RECORDED a vote of thanks to Professor T.S.A. HOR, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), who had resigned from the University and would leave the University on February 1, 2020, for his invaluable contributions to the University in the past years.
3. The Council
 - (a) HEARD a presentation from the President & Vice-Chancellor on the University's initiatives to further its innovation and technology development and the recruitment of top scholars, and NOTED in particular
 - (i) the construction of the Tech Landmark, a complex of four buildings, to house ten new institutes which would significantly upgrade and expand the University's facilities for scientific and technological research;
 - (ii) the building of five student residential colleges in Wong Chuk Hang and Kennedy Town;
 - (iii) the plan to launch new Endowed Professorships and new Outstanding Young Professorships to nurture talents and recruit top academics from all over the world; and
 - (iv) his appeal to Council members for their support in enabling the University to recruit quality students and outstanding scholars to elevate the University's academic standing through various initiatives; and
 - (b) RECEIVED a report from the President & Vice-Chancellor on the recent activities of the University including
 - (i) the start of the new semester and his attendance at a welcome back event to greet students and staff;
 - (ii) the work of the University management to handle the impact of the recent social events on the University, and the activities of the University during this period in the areas of teaching and learning, recruitment of students and staff, donations, and research;

- (iii) the continuous exploration for funding opportunities for research and development across the border, particularly in the Greater Bay Area; and
- (iv) his thanks to Professor T.S.A. HOR, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), who would leave the University in February 2020, for his valuable contributions to the University in the past four and a half years; and the appointment of Professor A.H.W. NGAN to take up the acting position until the position was formally filled.

4. The Council

- (a) HEARD a presentation from Professor D.B. COLLINS, Dean of Arts, on the development in the Faculty, and NOTED in particular
 - (i) an overview of the Faculty including its rankings in the Times Higher Education and Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, the staff composition, the organisation structure of the Faculty, and the academic programmes offered including interdisciplinary and dual degree programmes;
 - (ii) the experiential learning opportunities provided by the Faculty for its students, including internships, field trips, study tours, arts and cultural events, and e-learning platforms;
 - (iii) the employment statistics of its graduates in 2018;
 - (iv) the Society of Fellows in the Humanities under the Faculty which attracted exceptional, early-career, post-doctoral scholars from around the world;
 - (v) the various arts and humanities events and initiatives of the Faculty, including the launch of the new taught postgraduate curriculum of Master of Arts in Art History, which was the first master curriculum in Hong Kong to focus on art history;
 - (vi) the review of the Faculty conducted in February 2019 and the Faculty's responses and actions with regard to the recommendations of the Review Panel; and
 - (vii) the distinguished alumni of the Faculty who made significant contributions in different fields of the community; and
- (b) THANKED Professor COLLINS for the presentation.

5. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED a report on the academic review of the Faculty of Arts; and
 - (b) THANKED all members of the review panel and the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor 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.

6. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED a paper on the mid-year budget review for 2019-20;
 - (b) APPROVED the revisions to the 2019-20 budget related to the block grant activities; and
 - (c) THANKED the Treasurer, the Finance Committee and the Director of Finance for apprising the Council of the budgetary position of the University.

7. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED a draft annual report for 2018-19 to the University Grants Committee (UGC) which was prepared by the Senior Management Team in accordance with the *Statement of Recommended Practice for the UGC-Funded Institutions*;
 - (b) NOTED that the annual report set out the major initiatives and development of the University in the past year in the areas of finance, operations and governance; and
 - (c) ENDORSED the report for submission to the UGC.

8. The Council RECEIVED an annual report on the outside practice activities of professoriate staff of the University for the year 2018-19.

9. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the President & Vice-Chancellor, that in recognition of an extra gift of \$20 million on top of the original \$100 million for Tam Wing Fan Innovation Wing from Mrs. May TAM in support of University development, phase two of the Tam Wing Fan Innovation Wing at the ground floor of Run Run Shaw Building be named “Tam Wing Fan Innovation Wing Two (譚榮芬創科翼二期)”.

10. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to the President & Vice-Chancellor on Endowed Professorships, that the following Endowed Professorship be established in appreciation of a generous donation of HK\$10 million from Venerable Yuen Hang Memorial Trust and with a matching fund from the University to fulfill the University's commitment:

Venerable Yuen Hang Memorial Trust Professorship in
Buddhist Studies
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學 圓行法師紀念信託基金教授席 (佛學研究)

11. The Council RECEIVED a report following the academic review of the Asian Institute of International Financial Law; and NOTED that the recommendations from the review panel, endorsed by the Senate, would be taken forward by the relevant parties within the University.
12. The Council RECEIVED for information a paper on the creation of a new position of Chief Information Officer & University Librarian.
13. The Council RECEIVED for information a paper on the Outstanding Young Professorships Scheme.
14. The Council RECEIVED for information the Annual Report for 2019 on the implementation of the University Accountability Agreement signed between the University and UGC for the 2019-2022 Triennium.
15. The Council NOTED that the Chairman had approved, on behalf of the Council, for the postgraduate student representative, who stepped down from his Council membership on October 16, 2019, to continue his service on the Search Committee for the Executive Vice-President (Administration and Finance) in his capacity as the postgraduate student member on Council at the time when the search first started, in order to maintain continuity.

March 2020