

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

COUNCIL

The following is a list of matters* discussed at the Council meeting held on October 30, 2012:

1. The Council RECORDED a vote of thanks to Dr. York LIAO, who would retire from his Council membership on November 6, 2012, for all the wise counsel and support he had given to the Council and the activities of the University in the past six years; and Mr. C.L. WONG, who would retire from his Council membership on November 4, 2012, for his participation in the work of the Council.
2. The Council RECEIVED a report from the Vice-Chancellor on the recent activities of the University including
 - (a) his attendance at the Peking University Health Science Centre Centenary Celebration in Beijing together with some 50 university presidents or their representatives around the world, in which he was invited to speak at the Gala Dinner on behalf of the University;
 - (b) his meeting with Professor YUAN Guiren, Minister of Education, to discuss various issues, such as the HKU-China 1,000 Exchange Programme, the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital, *etc.*; and
 - (c) the presentation of a specially commissioned tartan to HKU as a gift by the University of Aberdeen in a ceremony held on October 29, 2012.
3. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED the University's audited accounts for the year ended June 30, 2012;
 - (b) HEARD Dr. Paul CHOW, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee, take members through the audited accounts;
 - (c) further HEARD from Dr. CHOW that the University management had adopted a prudent approach in the management of resources; that the continuous dialogue amongst members of the Senior Management Team and the Faculty Deans had enabled the University to better utilize its resources and reserves; and that the University should map out its funding requirements for the say next five years, as a holistic view in this regard would facilitate effective financial planning and better management of investment;
 - (d) NOTED from Mr. K.M. WONG, Chairman of the Audit Committee, that the Audit Committee supported and approved the University's audited accounts; and
 - (e) APPROVED the University's Annual Accounts for 2011-12.

4. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a paper from the Director of Finance on the Letter of Representation in respect of the 2011-12 audit of the University's financial statements;
- (b) NOTED that both the Senior Management Team and the Audit Committee had endorsed the Letter of Representation; and
- (c) APPROVED the Letter of Representation, noting that the Director of Finance, with delegated authority from the Council, would sign the Letter accordingly.

5. The Council RECEIVED a paper on the development of research institutes in the Mainland and WAS APPRISED of the latest development of HKU-Shenzhen Institute of Research and Innovation and HKU-Zhejiang Institute of Research and Innovation.

6. The Council

- (a) RECEIVED a report on the review of the Faculty of Arts;
- (b) NOTED that
 - (i) the Review Panel was chaired by Professor L.C. CHAN and comprised two external members from overseas, two internal members from cognate Faculties and a lay member from the University Court;
 - (ii) the Review Report had been considered in detail by the Senior Management Team, the Advisory Group on Academic Reviews (AGAR) and the Academic Board, in addition to the Faculty of Arts; and
 - (iii) the Review Panel had identified a number of issues of concern for the attention of the Faculty;
- (c) HEARD Professor K.H. LOUIE, Dean of Arts, on behalf of the Faculty, thank the Review Panel for the thorough academic review exercise conducted; inform members that the Report of this second review was forward looking and outlined a number of good observations that would greatly assist the Faculty of Arts to advance further; that all staff of the Faculty had been working very hard to improve the Faculty since the last review, which was best illustrated by the good results achieved in the ranking exercises; and that most recommendations were welcomed by the Faculty, with some in the process of being implemented;
- (d) NOTED that the Senate, in its consideration of the Report, had endorsed in full all the recommendations therein; and
- (e) THANKED the Review Panel for its work and for the report, noting that the recommendations would be taken forward by the relevant parties of the University.

7. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED from the Audit Committee its annual report for the year 2011-12;
 - (b) HEARD Mr. K.M. WONG, Chairman of the Audit Committee, highlight the salient points of the report; and
 - (c) THANKED Mr. WONG and members of the Audit Committee for their work.

8. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED a progress report from the Search Committee for the Next Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) NOTED that this was the third report in furtherance to the ones made to the Council in May and August 2012; and
 - (c) THANKED Dr. CHOW and all members of the Search Committee for updating the Council of its work.

9. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the amended Departmental Financial Administration (DFA) No. 4, which had been updated to take into account the new model for protected on-costs contained therein.

10. The Council APPROVED, for submission to the Court, a recommendation of the Senate that Statute III “Degrees and Other Academic Distinctions” be amended by the inclusion of the title “Doctor of Public Administration (公共行政學博士)” in paragraph 1(c) thereof.

11. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee,
 - (a) that the following be appointed as members of the Grievances Panel for Students under the membership category “One member from each Faculty appointed by the Council on the nomination of the Board of the Faculty concerned from among its members” for the period ending June 30, 2014:

Dr. C. MAO, Teaching Fellow in the School of Business; and
Dr. O.W.Y. KWO, Associate Professor in the Faculty of
Education; and
 - (b) that Mr. P.E. SIDORKO, the Librarian, be re-appointed as a member of the University Press Committee under the membership category “Two persons appointed by the Council of whom at least one shall be a non-academic member” for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014.

12. The Council RECEIVED a letter from the Secretary General of the Legislative Council, informing the University that the following Legislative Council members had been elected at the meeting of the House Committee of the Legislative Council on October 19, 2012 as members of the University Court in the category “Five persons elected by the Members of the Legislative Council from among their own number”:

- Hon. Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, B.B.S., M.H., J.P.;
- Hon. IP Kin-yuen;
- Hon. Abraham SHEK Lai-him, S.B.S., J.P.;
- Hon. James TO Kun-sun; and
- Hon. Paul TSE Wai-chun, J.P.

* *Excluding personnel matters relating to individuals.*

November 2012