THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

COUNCIL

The following is a list of non-restricted matters discussed at the Council meeting held on June 28, 2016:

1. The Council WELCOMED Professor Henry H.L. CHAN, the newly elected member by the Court, to his first meeting of the Council.

2. The Council NOTED from the Chairman that the Review Panel on University Governance had completed its 5-day visit to the University in the week of June 20, 2016 and had met with Council members and different groups of University members to collect views and to hear their suggestions; and that members were invited to write to the Review Panel to submit their views, if they still wished to do so.

3. The Council

   (a) HEARD the President & Vice-Chancellor express his condolences on the death of the two firemen, one of whom was an alumnus of the University, in the firefighting at a Ngau Tau Kok industrial building; and

   (b) RECEIVED a report from the President & Vice-Chancellor on the recent activities of the University including

      (i) his comments on the recently released university rankings reported by the media;

      (ii) his participation as a speaker/chair at the Times Higher Education Summit which was held at HKUST on June 20 and 21 to mark HKUST’s 25th anniversary;

      (iii) his meeting together with the Council Chairman with UGC on June 1 to discuss implementation of the Newby report; the meeting with Sir Howard Newby and his taskforce on July 13; and his regular meeting with UGC together with fellow Heads of Institutions on June 2;

      (iv) the annual “HKU reunion at the races” day on June 5 and the annual HKUAA gala night on the June 11;

      (v) the ceremony in Loke Yew Hall on June 6 to present over 160 staff members with long service awards;

      (vi) his attendance at the US-China Summit in Beijing led by Madam LIU Yandong for China and Senator John KERRY for the United States on June 8;
(vii) his attendance at two events hosted by HSBC, namely the HSBC Business Case Awards on June 3 and the HSBC scholarships awarding ceremony on June 13 respectively, in which HKU students were participants and awardees;

(viii) the visit of the Research Grants Council to the University on June 16 to meet with senior team, research staff and students; and

(ix) the visit to HKU of representatives from universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Mainland China, Lithuania, Turkey and Australia as well as from the Danish ambassador to Beijing.

4. The Council, in hearing a presentation from Professor T.F. FLEMMIG, Dean of Dentistry, on the activities of the Faculty,

(a) NOTED in particular

(i) an overview of the Faculty including the projections of the numbers of UGC-funded students and academic staff, the current organisational structure of the Faculty and a new structure to be implemented in July 2016, the clinical expansion in the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, and the utilisation of spaces;

(ii) the vertically integrated dental education approach which provided comprehensive dental care and enhanced clinical training;

(iii) the plan to launch Massive Open Online Courses on the strategically chosen subjects such as materials in oral health and implant dentistry;

(iv) the three areas, namely biomedical and tissue engineering, infection and immunity, and public health and public ageing, in which academic/clinical groupings interfaced with research; and

(v) the educational programmes offered by the Faculty;

(b) further NOTED the following from Professor FLEMMIG in response to comments from members:

(i) that the Faculty would recruit strategically to cope with the increased student intakes and was working on filling senior positions;

(ii) that the Faculty might apply for the registration of intellectual property rights in certain areas; and

(iii) that the space of the Faculty had been reconfigured to maximise functionality to accommodate different activities of the Faculty and cater for the additional student numbers; and

(c) THANKED Professor FLEMMIG for the presentation.
5. The Council, in hearing a presentation from Professor S.J. ANDREWS, Dean of Education, on the activities of the Faculty,

(a) NOTED in particular

(i) an overview of the Faculty including its history, profile, vision, student enrollment for 2015-16, its unitary faculty structure and academic divisions therein, strategic research focal areas and new priority areas, and research performance;

(ii) the programmes offered, including new and revamped programmes;

(iii) the profile of academic staff and the number employed under different academic grades;

(iv) the rankings of the Faculty in the QS University Subject Rankings from 2014 to 2016 in which the Faculty had been ranked amongst the world’s best education schools; and

(v) the way to address the challenges faced by the Faculty and to embrace the “3+1 Is”, viz. internationalisation, innovation, interdisciplinarity and impact;

(b) further NOTED the following from Professor ANDREWS in response to comments from members:

(i) that the Doctor of Education programme was mainly intended for experienced professionals who aspired to further their career in the education field, while the Doctor of Philosophy programme was for individuals who wished to develop career along the research path;

(ii) that the Faculty had been successful in securing funding from the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Quality Education Fund for conducting various projects;

(iii) that the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences programme had an annual intake of 48; and that the offering of a similar self-funded programme by another UGC-funded institution had not affected its student recruitment; and

(iv) that the Faculty had been engaging with the community through different channels and had worked with the government in various areas and in shaping some of the education policies of the government; and

(c) THANKED Professor ANDREWS for the presentation.
6. The Council RECEIVED the preliminary income and expenditure forecast on block grant activities for 2016-17, which was revised to incorporate comments made by a member at the last meeting; and in light of the comments thereon, AGREED to refer the income and expenditure forecast back to the Finance Committee for further advice.

7. The Council

(a) RECEIVED a proposal from Dr. S.J. CANNON, Executive Vice-President (Administration and Finance), for establishing an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework of the University;

(b) NOTED that one of the recommendations in the Newby’s report was to invite the Council of each UGC-funded institutions to draw up a risk register which was reviewed at least annually, and ideally, more frequently; and

(c) AGREED that the Senior Management Team could discuss the ERM framework in general terms with the UGC in their coming meeting of July; and that relevant proposals be submitted to the Council for further consideration as necessary.

8. The Council

(a) RECEIVED a paper on the meeting dates of Council for 2016-17;

(b) HEARD the Chairman speak to his recommendation for meetings of Council to be held in every other month; and

(c) APPROVED that meetings of the Council be held in every other month, on the understanding that special meetings might be called to deal with urgent issues if necessary.

9. The Council RECEIVED a paper on the update on the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital project.

10. The Council APPROVED a recommendation of the Graduate School, supported by the Policy Board of Postgraduate Education, that the composition fees for part-time self-funded MPhil and PhD programmes be increased from $61,800 to $63,000 p.a., and that the new rate be applicable to new students who register on September 1, 2016 and thereafter.

11. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee,

(a) that the following be appointed/re-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 July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018 (unless otherwise specified):

(i) Miss K.K.Y. KONG, Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, for the period August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2018;
(ii) Dr. G.K.K. LEUNG, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery (re-appointment);

(iii) Dr. O.S.L. LEUNG, Principal Lecturer in the School of Business;

(iv) Dr. F.C.C. LING, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics (re-appointment);

(v) Dr. G. SONG, Associate Professor in the School of Chinese (re-appointment);

(vi) Dr. D.T.S. TANG, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology (re-appointment); and

(vii) Professor Q.Z.Q. YUE, Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering; and

(b) that the following be re-appointed as members of the University Health Services Committee under the respective membership categories for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018:

(i) “A member, nominated by the Academic Staff Association, appointed by the Council”

Dr. S.W. CHEUNG, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering;

(ii) “A member, nominated by The University of Hong Kong Staff Association, appointed by the Council”

Mr. P.Y. CHEUNG, Senior Clerk in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration; and

(iii) “A member, nominated by the University of Hong Kong Employees Union, appointed by the Council”

Ms. C.W.F. LEUNG, Instructor in Nursing Studies in the School of Nursing

(iv) “A general practitioner from outside the University who is a member of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, appointed by the Council”

Dr. LAU Ho Lim, a general practitioner and Vice-President of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians.
12. The Council RECEIVED a letter from the Chairman of Convocation, enclosing a Report of the Working Party on Motion 2D (the “Report”) which had been set up by the Standing Committee of Convocation in pursuance of a motion passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of Convocation held on September 1, 2015, for implementing some of the other resolutions passed at the meeting.


August 2016