

# THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## COUNCIL

The following is a list of matters\* discussed at the Council meeting held on February 3, 2012:

1. The Council
  - (a) RECEIVED, on table,
    - (i) a report from the Review Panel on the Centenary Ceremony held on August 18, 2011 (the “Report”) and its executive summary, which members had been given access to peruse before the meeting from 12:30 p.m.;
    - (ii) a letter dated February 3, 2012 from the Registrar; and
    - (iii) a letter, also dated February 3, 2012, signed by a group of senior administrators of the University;
  - (b) HEARD the Chairman recapitulate that the Council resolved at its meeting held on August 30, 2011 to set up a Review Panel on the Centenary Ceremony held on August 18, 2011 (the “Review Panel”) to review the areas of concerns in the light of the controversy surrounding the Visit of the Vice-Premier LI Keqiang to the University with a view to making recommendations to the Council on means of improving arrangements and establishing appropriate mechanisms and policies for future University events to make sure that the University would continue its commitment to freedom, liberty and diversity and would remain a place for freedom of expression; and apprise members that the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar had written to him, indicating their wish to be excused from the meeting to enable Council to have a full deliberation of the Report;
  - (c) NOTED the declaration of interest from the Hon. Abraham SHEK in respect of this item as he was the Vice-Chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Council;
  - (d) HEARD Mr. Lester HUANG, Convenor of the Review Panel, take members through the salient parts of the Report, of which members had had the opportunity to peruse before the meeting and the discussion; and speak to the Review Panel’s findings on the background leading to the visit of the Vice-Premier, the event and security arrangements, the Stairwell Incident, and the crisis handling and management for the August 18 event, as well as to the conclusions and recommendations as set out in Chapter 8 of the Report;
  - (e) NOTED in particular from the Report
    - (i) that the Review Panel was impressed by the dedication,

- loyalty and enthusiasm of the staff members in the organization of the ceremony;
- (ii) that there was no integrity problem of all the staff involved;
  - (iii) that there was no evidence to suggest any external parties, for example, the Chief Executive's Office and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, had exerted any undue pressure on, or interference with, the University's arrangements; and
  - (iv) that there was no evidence of any conscious attempt by the University or any of its staff to ingratiate the University with either the rich or the powerful;
- (f) NOTED also in the course of discussion, the following comments from individual members:
- (i) that as the event on August 18, 2011 was a ceremonial event which had not touched on the core functions of the University, *viz.* teaching, learning, research and knowledge transfer, the Council should consider adopting the recommendation of the Review Panel that no further disciplinary sanctions be taken against any of the staff involved;
  - (ii) that it was hoped that the event would not discourage the enthusiasm and creativity of the staff members involved, whom they had full confidence in and appreciation of all they had done for the University;
  - (iii) that the University should indeed look into the governance and management issues with a view to clarifying the roles and relationships between various administrative offices, and the relationship between the Senior Management Team and the Council, as recommended by the Review Panel, and to strengthening its management and administrative structures; and
  - (iv) that it was hoped that the University could now move forward to scale new heights of excellence;
- (g) NOTED from the letter of the Registrar that as there could be possible factual discrepancies in some sections of the Report and that it might need time to identify all these discrepancies, the administration be allowed to submit a detailed list of such discrepancies at a later stage; and AGREED that such list, when received, be duly put on record;
- (h) ACKNOWLEDGED that the University was indeed fortunate to have a group of dedicated staff who had always worked in the interest of the University, in particular the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar, who were highly respected by staff of the University; and RECORDED its appreciation of the dedication,

loyalty and hard work of the University staff at all levels for the University over the years, specifically those involved in organizing the ceremony on August 18, 2011 and the centenary celebration activities;

- (i) RESOLVED unanimously
  - (i) to thank Mr. HUANG and all other Review Panel members for their work, including many hours of fact finding, collecting comments and formulating recommendations to the Council;
  - (ii) to accept in principle the good will and the recommendations of the Report; and
  - (iii) to invite the management to set up a task force to look at the feasibility and ways of implementing the recommendations of the Review Panel; and
- (j) AGREED to release the full report to the public in view of the interest and concern from the community and the stakeholders; and NOTED that the Chairman, Mr. HUANG, and members of the Review Panel, Mr. P.Y. CHEUNG and Mr. C.F. MAN would leave the meeting at this juncture to join the Vice-Chancellor to meet the press.

2. The Council

- (a) RESOLVED that Professor Norman C. TIEN be appointed as the next Dean of Engineering for a fixed term of five years tentatively from June 2012; and
- (b) RECORDED a vote of thanks to Professor L.G. THAM, Dean of Engineering, for his contributions to the Faculty of Engineering during his term of Deanship.

3. 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 “Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences (生物醫學學士)” in paragraph 1(a) thereof.

4. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the following membership appointments/re-appointment:

- (a) Mr. Brian LI Man-bun, Deputy Chief Executive of the Bank of East Asia, 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 February 4, 2012 to February 3, 2015;
- (b) Mr. Andrew LEE King-fun as a member of the Graduate House Committee of Management under the category “Two persons not being officers or teachers, appointed by the Council” for the

period February 25, 2012 to February 24, 2015 (re-appointment);  
and

- (c) Mr. CHOI Sau-yuk, Chairman of Convocation of The University of Hong Kong, as a member of the Committee for the Selection of Wardens and Hall Tutors under the category “2 members who are not employees or students of the University, appointed by the Council” for the period February 4, 2012 to February 3, 2015.
5. The Council APPROVED a recommendation of the Hong Kong University Students’ Union Council, that the “Regulations Governing the Conduct of Election of Undergraduate Student Membership to the Boards of Faculties” be amended as set out in document 359/106 re-amended to provide mainly for the inclusion of a new section “Electoral Subsidy” therein to reflect the current practice.

\* *Excluding personnel matters relating to individuals.*

March 2012