

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

COUNCIL

The following matters have been discussed at the Council meeting held on May 26, 2009:

1. The Council RECEIVED a verbal report from the Vice-Chancellor on the recent activities of the University, including
 - (a) the visit of a delegation of senior members of the University to the United Kingdom from May 4 to 8, 2009; and
 - (b) the naming of the University as the best university in the whole of Asia by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asian University Rankings.
2. The Council
 - (a) RECEIVED a report from Professor John NILAND on the “Five Year Review of *Fit for Purpose*” (the “Report”) which reviewed the effectiveness of the University’s governance and management structure since a major transformation programme in 2003 to align itself with international best practice in university governance and management structures;
 - (b) NOTED that of the 17 recommendations in the *Fit for Purpose* report, 11 had been implemented in full, 3 implemented in effect, 2 implemented but with concluding action yet to be undertaken and 1 not implemented; and Professor NILAND’s conclusion that given the implementation progress of these 17 recommendations, *Fit for Purpose* had been very well implemented;
 - (c) further NOTED the recommendations on some areas which required further attention, including the committee structure, the appointment of a full-time Director of Human Resources, development of middle-level managers, new IT systems, and internal communication and engagement strategies;
 - (d) AFFIRMED its decision of not proceeding with the recommendation of grouping Faculties into Colleges, noting that kindred developments of reorganizing departments/centres at Faculty levels had captured the interdisciplinary effects and generated some of the benefits;
 - (e) in accepting the recommendations in the Report, AGREED that a small group, chaired by the Chairman of the Council, be set up to study the recommendations in detail with a view to mapping out an action plan for the further consideration of the Council;

- (f) ACKNOWLEDGED the successful completion of the 2003 reform of the governance and management structures of the University as a whole; and
 - (g) THANKED Professor NILAND for the Report; and all members of the University family for supporting the implementation of the review recommendations, noting that the University would not have been able to successfully reform its governance and management structures without their concerted effort.
- 3. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the proposed amendments to the Departmental Financial Administration to reflect the updated operational procedures.
- 4. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Equal Opportunity Committee, that the University's Equal Opportunity Policy and Procedures be revised by making the following amendments to the definitions so as to bring them in line with the definitions of other types of discrimination/harassment in the Policy and Procedures:
 - (a) amendment to the definition of race discrimination/harassment following the enactment of the Racial Discrimination Ordinance in July 2008; and
 - (b) amendment to the definition of harassment on the ground of sexual orientation.
- 5. The Council APPROVED the following membership re-appointments to the respective Committees for the specified period:
 - (a) Professor F.Y.L. CHIN, as a member of the Computer Committee for the period September 1, 2009 to January 11, 2010; and
 - (b) Dr. Philip K.H. WONG, as a member of the Committee on Honorary University Fellows for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012.
- 6. The Council APPROVED, on the recommendation of the Committee on Student Affairs, that the lodging charges for University-administered halls for 2009-10 be frozen at the 2008-09 level, viz. \$9,108.00 for undergraduates and \$11,205.60 for postgraduates (based on a total of 276 residential days from August 21, 2009 to May 23, 2010).