



秘書長室 Office of the Secretary

Your Ref.: CB2/PL/ED

Our Ref.: SEC010/09

January 21, 2009

Miss Odelia Leung  
Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Education  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

Panel on Education  
Grievance and Complaint Mechanism of  
the University Grants Committee-funded Institutions

With reference to your letter addressed to the Chairman of the Council of The Chinese University of Hong Kong dated October 16, 2008 on the captioned subject, I have been instructed to furnish you with the following reply:-

1. The Council of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (the Council) supports the call for a higher degree of transparency relating to the governance of the University, on the condition that any action in response to such a call must not affect
  - (a) the need to respect personal data privacy and to observe confidentiality (given that personnel, contractual and other matters related to institutional management that need to be kept confidential are deliberated by the Council);
  - (b) freedom of discussion at Council meetings; and
  - (c) institutional autonomy.
2. The Council is aware that there are established channels for its decisions to be made known within the University and, if appropriate, also to the public. Very often, matters related to policies, regulations and statutory provisions would have been communicated to the relevant persons by the respective administrative units and/or lower level committees, or even through open consultation, before recommendations on such matters are submitted to the Council for deliberation and approval.

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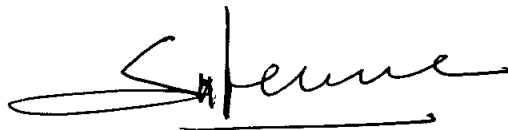
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3. In addition to the efforts to enhance the existing communication channels, the Council has agreed that in future, a summary report of the Council's decisions will be placed on the University's web after each Council meeting, except decisions relating to personal privacy, plans and proposals not yet finalized and any item the immediate release of which after the meeting or disclosure of such an item is considered inappropriate by the Council. We believe these measures will be an effective way to achieve the objective of enhancing transparency relating to university governance.
4. Regarding the proposed establishment of an elected independent inter-institutional complaints committee, the Council noted that the Heads of Universities Committee (HUCOM) had presented their common stand on the said matter to the University Grants Committee and the Education Bureau on October 16, 2008, and had asked them to convey HUCOM's stand to the Panel on Education of the Legislative Council. The Council agreed with HUCOM on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Leung', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jacob Leung  
Secretary of the University

JL/mm

c.c. The Honourable Michael M.Y. Suen, Secretary for Education  
Mr. Michael V. Stone, Secretary-General, University Grants Committee  
Dr. Edgar W.K. Cheng, Chairman of the Council, CUHK  
Professor Lawrence J. Lau, Vice-Chancellor, CUHK