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THE HONG KONG
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香港理工大學

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3 November 2009

Ms. Joanne Mak
Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Ms. Mak

Bills Committee on Public Officers Pay Adjustment Bill

I refer to your letter dated 28 October 2009 which was addressed to the President and was subsequently passed to me for attention.

We understand that the Bills Committee is currently scrutinizing the Public Officers Pay Adjustment Bill and if the Bill is passed, the Administration will reduce the amounts of subvention of the University.

As the subvention provided by the University Grants Committee is a major source of income of the University, if the Bill is passed and thus the funding is reduced, the University is highly likely to follow the decisions of the government to reduce staff's salaries in order to maintain a viable financial status and the existing level of manpower.

We would however wish to express our grave concern on the possible reactions of those staff members being affected. It is envisaged that some of them may have strong resentment or even disagreement if we are to reduce their salaries in line with the pay reduction in the civil service since the local economy has revived in recent months. As subvented organisations are not covered by the proposed Bill, the University will inevitably be placed in a very difficult situation in handling this pay reduction issue without jeopardizing our well established staff relations and affecting staff morale, not to mention the possible legal actions stemming from it.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Wong
Vice President (Management)

c.c. President

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Motto: *To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind.*