

Legislative Council Brief on the
Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) proposes to amend the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (“Statutes”) contained in the Schedule to the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053) (“Ordinance”) as set out in the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2013 (“Amendment Statute”).
2. Section 13(2) of the Ordinance stipulates that “The Council may propose to the Court additions to, or the amendment or repeal of, any of the statutes, whereupon on the recommendation by the Court to the Chancellor, the Chancellor may make any such addition, amendment, or repeal as recommended by the Court”. The HKU Court, on the proposal of the HKU Council, has made a resolution for making the Amendment Statute, which was approved by the Chancellor on October 29, 2013. The Amendment Statute is now submitted to the Legislative Council for negative vetting.

THE AMENDMENT STATUTE

3. In the Explanatory Note of the Amendment Statute, it is stated that:

“This Statute amends the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong in the Schedule to the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053) –

 - (a) to add certain degrees and academic distinctions, which may be conferred and awarded by the University of Hong Kong; and
 - (b) to change, and to provide for the specification of disciplines of studies in, the titles of certain degrees and academic distinctions.”
4. The background information concerning the Amendment Statute is as follows:
 - (a) HKU, as a comprehensive University, offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The University has always been working towards offering more diversified programmes to meet the demands of graduates geared for the future in this rapidly changing world. The addition of the degrees and academic distinctions as set out in the Amendment Statute is proposed in recognition of the rising needs of academic education and training in the respective disciplines.
 - (b) The Amendment Statute also intends to provide for more articulated Chinese titles for the programmes of “Master of Science in Computer Science” and “Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Computer Science)” which correspond with their respective English titles.

- (c) The Faculty of Dentistry of HKU is currently offering different disciplines of studies in the degree of Master of Dental Surgery, including Endodontics, Implant Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics, Paediatric Dentistry, Periodontology, and Prosthodontics. The specific discipline of study is not included in the degree title, and therefore is not listed in the degree certificate. The Amendment Statute intends to allow disciplines of studies to be specified in the titles of the degrees to accord identity to the respective disciplines of studies.

CONSULTATION

5. The proposed Amendment Statute has gone through the proper procedure in HKU which involved its relevant departments and faculties, Senate, and Council. HKU has also consulted the Education Bureau and, through the Bureau, the Law Draftsman. Their comments on the Amendment Statute have been incorporated as appropriate.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

6. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	November 15, 2013
Tabling at the Legislative Council	November 20, 2013

Subject to negative vetting by the Legislative Council, the Amendment Statutes will come into operation on January 10, 2014.

ENQUIRIES

7. Any enquiry on this brief can be addressed to Mr. Henry Wai, Registrar of HKU (Telephone: 2859 2222).

The University of Hong Kong
November 2013