



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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5 March 2021

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Angel Wong)

Dear Ms Wong,

**Legislative Council Panel on Education
Follow-up to the Special Meeting on 19 January 2021**

At the special meeting on 19 January 2021, Members of the Panel on Education requested the Government to provide supplementary information regarding the agenda item of “Governance and security issues relating to recent incidents on university campus and follow-up work”. The Government’s reply is set out below.

Implementation of national security education in Universities

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“the National Security Law”) aims to prevent, suppress and impose punishment for acts and activities that endanger national security. In order to reduce the need for suppression and punishment, prevention takes precedence in which schools and universities have a pivotal role. According to Article 10 of the National Security Law, “The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall promote national security education in schools and universities and through social organisations, the media, the internet and other means to raise the awareness of Hong Kong residents of national security and of the obligation to abide by the law”. As such, universities are covered in the relevant provision of the National Security Law.

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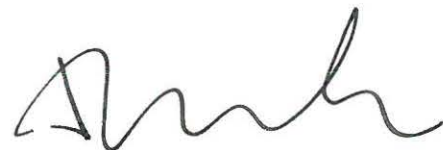
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Universities should offer content or activities relating to national security education for students so as to raise students and staff members' awareness of national security and of the obligation to abide by the law. While enjoying autonomy in their management, universities are responsible for ensuring that their operations meet the requirements of the law as well as the interests of students and the community at large. Under the principle of upholding academic freedom and institutional autonomy, the Education Bureau is in close communication with the University Grants Committee funded-universities to ensure that the relevant legal obligation in relation to safeguarding national security is fulfilled and to provide appropriate support for this purpose.

Student disciplinary actions by the University of Hong Kong since the second half of 2019

According to information provided by the University of Hong Kong, the University initiated disciplinary procedures in respect of two cases since the second half of 2019, in which the students concerned were convicted in the Court¹. As regards the events of disturbances that took place on campus earlier on, there is yet sufficient evidence for the University to trigger disciplinary procedures against any student in accordance with the relevant statute.

Yours sincerely,



(Derek Lai)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

¹ The university referred one case to its Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053). The Disciplinary Committee will conduct hearings after conclusion of relevant pending legal proceedings (including the appeal against Court ruling). Another case involved a non-local student, and the relevant disciplinary procedures were completed. The Disciplinary Committee considered the relevant facts and factors, and resolved that no additional penalty be imposed on the student.