

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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大

學

校長：徐立之教授  
Vice-Chancellor  
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July 14, 2003

Clerk  
Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Attn: Ms Dora Wai

Dear Ms. Wai,

**The Director of Audit's Report  
on the results of value for money audits (Report No. 40)**

**Chapter 8: University Grants Committee funded institutions -  
Governance, strategic planning and financial and performance reporting**

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 2003.

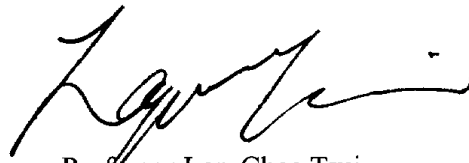
2. To facilitate the deliberations of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the attendance rates of the Council members of the University, I enclose herewith the duly completed form, showing the attendance of lay members *vis-à-vis* internal members for the past three years, *viz.* from July 2000 to June 2001, July 2001 to June 2002 and July to November 2002, as requested.

3. As you can see from the present composition of the University Council, among the existing 54 members, 30 are lay members. It has always been the intention of the University to have a governance body with lay members constituting the majority of the membership. However, as the number of Council lay members is only marginally greater than that of internal members, it was quite often the case where there were more internal members attending meetings of the Council. However, it should be mentioned that it was not uncommon in the past for members who were not able to attend Council meetings to submit written comments before the meetings.

4. The Council recognized this inherent consequence and in its earlier review of the University governance and management, resolved to revamp both the size and the composition of the Council. Following the international trend which is towards smaller governing bodies, the size of the Council is now reduced to 24, with a clear majority, *viz.* 16 being lay members. All members, whether internal or external, will be appointed/elected *ad personam* and serving as trustee rather than delegate or representative of a particular constituency. This will not only provide for adequate presence of lay members on the Council (ratio of lay and internal members being 2:1), but also ensure that internal members, serving as trustee, will operate with the interest of the entire University (instead of sectoral interest) at heart.

5. I hope this provides the Public Accounts Committee with an adequate account. Please let us know if any additional information is required.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Lap-Chee Tsui  
Vice-Chancellor

Encl.

Name of institution: The University of Hong Kong

Attendance rates of external and internal members at Council meetings

Date of meeting	Total no. of Council members	External member		Internal member		
		No. of external members present at the meeting	No. of external members present at the meeting No. of Council members present at the meeting X 100%	No. of internal members present at the meeting	No. of internal members present at the meeting No. of Council members present at the meeting X 100%	
2000-01 (July 2000 to June 2001)						
(1)	July 25, 2000	52	17	50%	17	50%
(2)	September 1, 2000	52	23	52%	21	48%
(3)	September 6, 2000	51	21	50%	21	50%
(4)	October 31, 2000	47	16	43%	21	57%
(5)	December 19, 2000	50	16	48%	17	52%
(6)	March 27, 2001	49	13	39%	20	61%
(7)	April 24, 2001	47	12	39%	19	61%
(8)	June 26, 2001	45	13	45%	16	55%
2001-02 (July 2001 to June 2002)						
(1)	September 25, 2001	49	18	46%	21	54%
(2)	November 27, 2001	48	15	45%	18	55%
(3)	January 29, 2002	48	16	44%	20	56%
(4)	January 29, 2002	48	15	47%	17	53%
(5)	May 13, 2002	46	16	46%	19	54%
(6)	May 28, 2002	46	14	45%	17	55%
(7)	May 28, 2002	46	11	41%	16	59%
2002-03 (July to November 2002)						
(1)	July 30, 2002	45	8	35%	15	65%
(2)	August 12, 2002	44	11	42%	15	58%
(3)	September 24, 2002	45	16	46%	19	54%
(4)	November 26, 2002	45	16	52%	15	48%