

校長辦公室
Office of the President



香港科技大學
HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY

香港九龍清水灣
Clear Water Bay,
Kowloon,
Hong Kong

電話 Tel: (852) 2358 6101
傳真 Fax: (852) 2358 0029

8 March 2004

Mrs Percy Ma
Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council, HKSAR Government
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

**Panel on Education
Meeting on 15 March 2003**

On behalf of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), I am pleased to indicate my support for the general principles contained in *Hong Kong Higher Education – To Make a Difference, To Move with the Times* (UGC, January 2004). We also welcome the vision for the future of higher education expressed in this document.

Two of the principles are, we believe, key to achieving that vision: role differentiation and greater (and deeper) collaboration among the institutions that make up Hong Kong's diverse higher education system. The UGC report provides a new Role Statement for each institution, with some elements common to all, but with others clarifying that there should be differences in emphasis and development. HKUST is very comfortable with its agreed role, and we are confident that in adhering to it, the University will continue to grow in stature and contribute even more significantly to the economic development of Hong Kong. This agreement on role statements is not new: such a statement for each institution was included with the UGC's Interim Report on Higher Education in 1991. However, the new statements elaborate on the roles and draw clearer distinctions among the institutions. Furthermore, there appears to be a greater commitment to holding institutions accountable for adhering to their roles.

Collaboration becomes a major consideration upon the recognition that Hong Kong cannot afford to bring every program in every institution to a level able to compete at the highest levels internationally. To ensure that we can achieve that level of competitiveness within the sector as a whole requires that institutions focus more on their strengths and collaborate to combine those strengths where appropriate. This has been a way of life for HKUST since it was established—we began as a university specializing in science, engineering, and business studies and we have remained focused on those areas. Indeed, within those broad subject categories, we have further specialized on areas of scientific and technological innovation that have the promise

