

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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Our Ref. 9/4/24

December 19, 2008

The Hon Cyd Ho Sau Lan
Chairman
Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Ho,

I refer to the decision of the Panel on Education on October 14, 2008 to urge the universities to, *inter alia*, make public the minutes and papers for their Council meetings to enhance transparency of their governance.

2. The Council of the University of Hong Kong supports the call for a higher degree of public transparency relating to the governance of the University, on condition that any action in response to such a call must not affect

- (a) the need to respect personal data privacy and to observe confidentiality (given that personnel, contractual and other sensitive matters related to institutional management are deliberated by the Council);
- (b) freedom of discussion at meetings of the Council; and
- (c) institutional autonomy.

3. Our Council is aware that there are established channels for its decisions to be made known within the University and, if appropriate, also to the public. Very often matters related to policies, regulations and statutory provisions of the University are communicated to the relevant parties by the respective administrative unit and/or lower level committees, or through open consultation, before recommendations on such matters are submitted to the Council for consideration and approval.

4. The Council is of the opinion that the best way of achieving the objective of enhancing public transparency is to *reinforce* the existing communication channels. *The Council therefore has agreed to release in future, through internet and after each meeting, a report summarizing all its decisions, except those on personnel matters relating to individuals and plans and proposals not yet finalized, on the understanding that for the latter, the disclosure would be made at a later stage when the proposals are finalized.*

5. We trust the new arrangement agreed by the Council would indeed enhance the existing communication channels and would enable the University to achieve a higher degree of public transparency relating to its governance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Fung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victor K.K. Fung
Chairman of Council
The University of Hong Kong

cc: Chairman, University Grants Committee
Vice-Chancellor, The University of Hong Kong