

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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Tel : 3919 3300

Date : 13 April 2012

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

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**Council meeting of 25 April 2012**

**Motion on  
“Defending academic freedom and institutional autonomy”**

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong has given notice to move the attached motion on “Defending academic freedom and institutional autonomy” at the Council meeting of 25 April 2012. The President has directed that “it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in” on the Agenda of the Council.

(Mrs Justina LAM)  
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Defending academic freedom and institutional autonomy”  
to be moved by Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
at the Council meeting of 25 April 2012**

**Wording of the Motion**

That this Council condemns HAO Tiechuan, Director-General of the Publicity, Culture and Sports Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, for publicly criticizing a number of times the public opinion poll on Hong Kong people’s ethnic identity under the charge of Robert CHUNG, scholar of The University of Hong Kong, as ‘unscientific’ and ‘illogical’, and creating a chilling effect through political interference in academic pursuit, which is in contravention of the spirit of Article 137 of the Basic Law which provides that ‘[e]ducational institutions of all kinds may retain their autonomy and enjoy academic freedom’, as well as the provision of Article 22 of the Basic Law, i.e. ‘[n]o department of the Central People’s Government and no province, autonomous region, or municipality directly under the Central Government may interfere in the affairs which the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region administers on its own in accordance with this Law’; in this connection, this Council urges the Government and educational institutions to legislate for safeguarding academic freedom and to ensure that scholars can enjoy academic freedom in accordance with law, free from any interference and fear; academic freedom is the cornerstone for promoting social civilization and progress as well as an integral part of the autonomy of educational institutions, and therefore universities must not respond in silence to the interference and intimidation faced by their teaching staff and students, and not curry favour with and bow to the rich and powerful in the face of their enticement and pressure, in order to defend the legitimate autonomy and dignity of universities.