

Legislative Council Brief on the
Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2018

INTRODUCTION

1. The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) proposes to amend the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (“Statutes”) contained in the Schedule to the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053) (“Ordinance”) as set out in the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2018 (“Amendment Statute”).
2. Section 13(2) of the Ordinance stipulates that “The Council may propose to the Court additions to, or the amendment or repeal of, any of the statutes, whereupon on the recommendation by the Court to the Chancellor, the Chancellor may make any such addition, amendment, or repeal as recommended by the Court”. The HKU Court, on the proposal of the HKU Council, has made a resolution for making the Amendment Statute, which was approved by the Chancellor on 19 January 2018. The Amendment Statute is now submitted to the Legislative Council for negative vetting.

THE AMENDMENT STATUTE

3. In the Explanatory Note of the Amendment Statute, it is stated that:

“This Statute amends the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong in the Schedule to the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053)—

 - (a) to add 2 bachelors degrees, 7 masters degrees, 1 doctors degree and 1 postgraduate diploma which may be conferred or awarded by the University of Hong Kong; and
 - (b) to amend the Chinese titles of 4 diplomas of the University to conform to the new standardized titles requirements of the Award Titles Scheme of the Qualifications Framework introduced by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region since 1 January 2016, so as to enable the diplomas to be listed on the Qualifications Register under the Qualifications Framework.”
4. The background information concerning the Amendment Statute is as follows:
 - (a) HKU, as a comprehensive University, offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The University has always been working towards offering more diversified programmes to meet the demands of graduates geared for the future in this rapidly changing world. The addition of the degrees/diploma as set out in the Amendment Statute is proposed in recognition of the rising needs of academic education and training in the respective disciplines.

- (b) With effect from 1 January 2016, all curricula/ programmes listed on the Qualifications Register (QR) should adopt titles that conform to the requirements of the Award Titles Scheme (unless prior approval is obtained from the Review Panel on Award Titles) before they can continue to be listed on the QR. The Amendment Statute seeks to amend the Chinese titles of four diplomas of HKU to conform to the new standardised titles requirements so as to enable these diplomas to be listed on the QR under the Qualifications Framework.

CONSULTATION

5. The proposed Amendment Statute has gone through the proper procedure in HKU which involved its relevant departments and faculties, Senate, and Council. HKU has also consulted the Education Bureau and, through the Bureau, the Law Draftsman. The Law Draftsman's comments on the Amendment Statute have been incorporated as appropriate.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

6. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	January 26, 2018
Tabling at the Legislative Council	January 31, 2018

Subject to negative vetting by the Legislative Council, the Amendment Statutes will come into operation on 1 April 2018.

ENQUIRIES

7. Any enquiry on this brief can be addressed to Mr. Henry Wai, Registrar of HKU (Telephone: 2859 2222).

The University of Hong Kong
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