

Press Releases

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CUHK to Launch School of Law

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has just received advice from the University Grants Committee (UGC) on the University's Academic Development Proposal for the 2005-08 triennium. The University is pleased that the UGC believes there is merit in establishing a third law school and that it has recommended acceptance of CUHK's proposal to do so in the coming triennium. The establishment of a School of Law is a key element of the University's Ten-Year Vision.

The rule of law is a major competitive advantage for Hong Kong and there is a growing demand for legal talent. CUHK will train quality legal professionals, by recruiting the best students, providing them with the best learning experience, and leveraging on the University's strengths in the humanities and social sciences to enrich the study of law within a broad socio-cultural context. The School of Law will also contribute to the learning and development of law through research, particularly in the context of the different legal and constitutional traditions of the region.

CUHK is grateful to the community, especially the legal profession including some of its most senior members, for their support and advice, and for their confidence in CUHK.

A Planning Committee for the School of Law will be set up under the chairmanship of Dr Anthony Neoh SC, a member of the CUHK Council. Dr Neoh is a senior member of the bar, and has been chairman of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission as well as the chief adviser to the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Dr Neoh is currently Nomura Visiting Professor of International Financial Systems at Harvard Law School. He is also visiting professor in many major universities in Mainland China, including Peking and Tsinghua.

Generous donations from Dr QW Lee and Dr Simon Li will enable the founding of two named Chairs in Law. Dr QW Lee has been for many years the Chairman of the University Council; Dr Simon Li was a senior member of the Hong Kong Judiciary and a major benefactor of CUHK.

In addition, Mr Warren Chan SC has made a generous donation in support of the School of Law. CY Kwan & Co. and Mr KK Chu have donated major collections of law books. The late Dr CY Kwan was the Founding Chairman of the University Council and Mr Chu is a solicitor in Hong Kong.

The LLB programme will admit students in 2006 and the PCLL in 2007. A JD programme to provide legal education for graduates in non-law subjects will be offered in 2006. Other postgraduate programmes will include a one-year taught LLM that offers a selection of specializations, as well as the MPhil and the PhD, all to be launched in 2007.

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UGC-funded Institutions Responded Positively to Community Needs

The University Grants Committee (UGC) met in April to examine the Academic Development Proposals (ADPs) submitted by the eight UGC-funded institutions for the 2005-2008 triennium. The institutions have moved with the times and responded positively to community needs.

"The UGC put in place a rigorous process to examine the ADPs. A Core Group comprising both overseas and local members was set up under the UGC to examine carefully all the ADPs. The Convenor of the Group met with each institution in mid March for an information sharing session. Then at the UGC meeting last week, individual sessions of half a day each were arranged for each institution to participate in in-depth face-to-face discussions with the Core Group. There were a lot of useful exchanges on their plans for academic offerings," Dr Alice Lam, Chairman of UGC, said.

Briefly commenting on the ADPs, Dr Lam said that apart from responding positively to the Administration's advice on specific manpower requirements including nurses, teachers, lawyers etc., the institutions had also put forward proposals on growth/priority areas including logistics, tourism, visual arts and creative media. Dr Lam and her Committee were also glad to see that the institutions are playing a very active role in supporting Hong Kong's transition to a knowledge-based economy.

* On legal education, the Committee believes there is merit in establishing a third law school and therefore recommends acceptance of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)'s proposal to do this. The Committee looks forward to seeing a healthy level of competition in legal education in the wider interest of Hong Kong. The Committee was also guided by outside expert advice and took account of the role and ability of CUHK to mount such a programme.

"Overall speaking, the institutions are well focused on their respective roles and have concentrated their proposed academic offerings in their respective areas of strength. They have sound plans to achieve international competitiveness in teaching and research. They have also demonstrated genuine interest in developing deeper collaboration with institutions, both locally and overseas."

A spokesman for UGC also highlighted the enthusiastic feedback from institutions for the provision of articulation opportunities for sub-degree (SD) graduates, where the Administration had provided additional places. Allocation of senior year undergraduate places for direct admission of SD graduates was made on a competitive basis, having regard to factors including the roles of institutions; institutions' experience in admitting SD graduates; as well as whether the programmes proposed meet what the Government sees as growth/priority areas, align well with institutions' areas of strengths and ensure a diversity of choice for SD graduates.

According to the UGC's work plan, its final views on the ADPs, together with the funding recommendations for the 2005-2008 triennium, will all be subject to the Government's endorsement later in the year.

The Committee's next major exercise will be to assess the institutions' performance against their roles in August. The primary emphasis of the Performance and Role-Related Funding Scheme is to recognise and encourage performance against role. Every opportunity will be taken to facilitate the institutions to develop themselves. According to the UGC spokesman, the recent submissions that the UGC received from the institutions on this exercise showed that they have a good understanding of the scheme and are positive to the ideas.

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