



**Hong Kong University Students' Union**  
**Council, Session 2013**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting [CM9]**  
**Minutes**

Date: 23/10/2013 (Wed)  
Time: 12:45 - 14:00  
Venue: Sun Yat-Sen Place

Representatives from the University:  
Professor Roland Chin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost  
Mr. Henry Wai, Registrar  
Dr. Albert Chau, Dean of Student Affairs

Attendance:

CC, HS, P, IVP, EVP, GS, UAS1, EAS1, EAS2, SS, CAS, AS, SAP, ICAP, CAP, RSA1, RSA2, RICA1, RICA2, RCA1 (early leave with correspondence), RCA2, HHR\* (early leave with correspondence), LCHHR (early leave without correspondence), LHHR (early leave without correspondence), LHTHR, LSKHR, MHR\* (early leave without correspondence), RCLHR (early leave without correspondence), RHR, SCSHR, SJCR, SKYLHR, STHR, SWHR, UHR, WLHR, ASR, AAR, BEAR, DSR (early leave with correspondence), EDSR, ENSR, LAR, MSR, SSR, SSSR, CTVC, PC2, PC4, PC5, STUDENT SENATOR I

Absent:

FS (with correspondence), SWS (with correspondence), PPS (with correspondence), PP (without correspondence), ECU (with correspondence), PC1 (without correspondence)

0. Meeting called to order and Sing the Union Song

Session A

1. To read out the correspondences

Absent

- FS would be absent due to work.
- SWS would be absent due to lesson.
- PPS would be absent due to tutorial.
- ECU would be absent due to sickness.

Late

- SKYLHR would be late due to scheduled presentation in class.

#### Early Leave

- HHR would early leave at 1330 due to family issues.
- RCA1 would leave early at 13:45 due to personal matters.
- DSR would leave early at 13:30 to catch the flight of his overseas study tour in the afternoon.

#### 2. To report the motion(s) carried by circulation

- There have been no motions submitted for circulation.

#### 3. To receive and adopt the agenda

##### Motion 1

To receive and adopt the agenda of CM9.

Proposer: P

Secunder: IVP

Time Received: 12:58

No objection.

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 12:58

#### 4. To receive and adopt the minutes of CM8

##### Motion 2

To receive and adopt the minutes of CM8.

Proposer: IVP

Secunder: P

Time Received: 12:58

No objection.

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 12:59

#### Session B

#### 1. To hold the Annual Debate (Topic: The maximum intake of non-local applicants to HKU should be reduced /香港大學收生應調低非本地生限額)

- Speaking rights granted to all full members.
- CC suggested that since there were diverse opinions from councillors, there would be a first-

round opinion sharing of 1.5 minutes each.

- SJCR suggested that there would be a need to build more colleges. Since the residential halls and colleges could not accommodate all the non-local students, a considerable proportion of them already needed to live in flats rented in Saiwan, but there were still lots of local students who could not enter halls. When it was obvious that the university could not accommodate the students' needs, there should be more resources put in.
- LAR pointed out when the number of Non-local student has increased for 5 times, that of the local students has increased by 15% only. She agreed that there needed to be more chances of cultural exposure to non-local, but they should not be subsidized by locals.
- AAR was against the motion, since although 20% students in HKU were non-local, 16% were fully subsidized, and only 4% would be competing with the local applicants in JUPAS. Internationalization would be a widely adopted policy in HKU, but in current situation, the ratio was not fully utilized, 15.5% were not fully subsidized now.
- SSSR considered diversity as precious in HKU, and the opinions from international students were beneficial to local students, so they should not be excluded from the internationalized education in HKU.
- UHR agreed with the motion, but the problem of few non-locals staying to work in HK should be recognized. At the same time, only 18% of locals could get into universities, and the non-local places were monopolized by Mainland Chinese students.
- Student Senator I agreed with the motion, though he had no voting rights. He pointed out that although the 50:50 ratio was set between the Mainland and international students, it had not been enforced, so something was to be done to avoid a domination by Mainland Students. However in the current situation, the student intake was determined by professors, but the schools, including the universities apart from HKU, shall have the responsibility to strike the balance.
- P wanted HKU to increase places for non-local, so as to avoid using tax payers' money to subsidize non-local students. Comparing to Singapore (830k), Japan (800k) and Malaysia (540k), nonlocal in HK are paying little amount of tuition fees(while it was 40k for local, non-local only needed to pay 100k). Regardless of the background, all students with academic achievements should be recruited.
- EDSR wanted there to be an increase in places for locals. When the proportion of non-locals did increase throughout the years, the subsidization on locals' education decreased in proportion surprisingly. Tertiary education should emphasize on the idea exchange, so he agreed that the proportion of non-locals should remain as now.
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor raised 3 points:
  - 1) indeed in society there was only an intake of 18% of students as a whole,
  - 2) there were school staff all over the world recruiting proficient students all over the world,
  - 3) once the student was admitted, all should be treated equally, tuition fees collected should be used collectively. He hoped that the non-local students could also be participating actively in the community.
- Registrar pointed out that 50:50 is not a regulation, but only an aim-oriented policy. There were mainly 2 considerations: 1) It was hoped that the students would not be from one particular country, 2. To maintain the quality of postgraduate educations, as locals were not willing to do research (in fact it was wished that more locals would apply for PG) will try the

best to strike a balance among students all over the world. The amount of cost calculated as provided in the booklet would just be a rough number, which varied in different subjects, it should not be misled.

- Dean of Students Affairs pointed out that actually  $\frac{1}{3}$  hall places for non-local students,  $\frac{2}{3}$  residential college places for local students, which meant around 30% of residential places were distributed to non-local students, the figure included one-year based exchange. Eventually roughly 60% of the non-local undergraduates would work in HK, 19% of them would stay in HK, indeed they helped the development of HK economy. The fact would be local students would inevitably face fierce competition from both international and Mainland students
- CAS would consider the intention of debating on this motion as good, but it would not be concise enough. There would be things that could be done to remedy. On behalf of the University, the ratio between Mainland and international students could be more balanced. In terms of Government policies, it should treasure tax collected from tax payers, so should subsidize local students more, and do something to ensure the quality of private tertiary institutions. He believed the motion should be amended into increasing the total intake/ the ratio of Mainland and international students.
- LAM pointed out there was much harder threshold for Mainland students to get into HKU. It would only be due to financial consideration that they would choose HKU with such results. He found no valid reason to single out the Mainland students.
- P agreed that there should be a consideration on the origin of the students to ensure diversity, but he would also like to ask the school authority why there would be a ratio set on the background.
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor pointed out that if academic achievement was the sole consideration of recruitment, there would be only Mainland Chinese students. But top universities consider diversification more important, the 50:50 proportion could be adjusted up to the objective of HKU education.
- PC2 agreed that the Mainland Students did achieve great academic results in order to get into HKU, however the number of applicants of international students is much lower than that of the Mainland student, so she considered balance as more important.
- LAM asked P to suggest a reason why HKU was not attracting many international students.
- P considered tuition fee as not that cheap when compared with universities in Asian regions.
- LAM asked what would be the right way for local students to approach Mainland Chinese students.
- P believed messages could be transmitted and explained with publications in English, it would be normal for the local students to get used to communicating only within their own circles. He once tried to run for election together with the non-local students, but a pity that at last they quitted.
- PARK pointed out that there seemed to be a contradiction, actually it would be difficult to balance between the percentage of non-local intake and local students, while upholding the principle aiming at recruiting better quality students. If the recruitment was solely based on the proficiency, there should not be a proportion, but councillors were also demanding a discussion on the percentage. He agreed that there should be a fixture, and the proportion would not be important. On the debate motion, he also thought it was too confusing and

wide-ranged.

- LAM considered that there was the contradiction on whether the tuition fee of HKU is high or low. He criticized that it would be difficult for non-local students to join students' organizations as it would be difficult for them to go through a long campaign.
- P pointed out that actually English was used as the medium when carrying out discussion in the proposed cabinet. And they tried to translate questions asked in Cantonese in the Campaign into English.
- LAM asked P to promise something to be done to integrate the locals and non-locals.
- CC pointed out that most of the students' associations affiliated to the HKUSU had both local and non-local executives, and at least allows non-local students to run for office.
- SS stated that it would not be the councillors' question to answer why they would choose or not choose HKU. Most counillors and those who expressed opinion are only from Asian region.
- AS pointed out that the discussion should not focus only on HKUSU, but the big picture of the motion. Lifting up internationalization would not be forcing others to speak in a common language, but providing a chance for everyone to speak in own language but still being able to communicate.
- EVP believed the problem of imbalance of Mainland Chinese students and international students mainly exists in postgraduate. He asked what the principle for setting up self-financed courses would be. He queried if there were any contradiction between that and the virtue of tertiary education and whether the existence of University Grants Committee would still be necessary.
- SURE identified the fundamental question as whether HKU wanted to be a globally respected, or a top standing in local perspective university. He believed if the university was to fully adopt the internationalization, it should be adopting policies like those in universities in UK, which places went according to academic merits.
- KAM came to HK because he knew that English would be used in lectures, even if the lecturers were confident speaking in Chinese more, they still agree to speak in English. But he believed that even in official activities, it would be the organizers' responsibility to run in English.
- LCHHR asked the school authorities if there were any ways to raise the international ranking of HKU.
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor stated that HKU would like to train up leaders to have global outlook. However the running of the university would not be ranking-driven, creating knowledge would be the main objective instead.
- Student Senator I pointed out that in normal occasion, only mother tongue would be spoken. There would always be a struggle between consolidating local identity and continuing internationalization. There would always be a difference between host and guest, so most of the time the organizers of student activities should speak in mother tongue.
- WILLIAM believed that the only threshold for non-local students from getting into HKU should be the capacity of speaking English, once the ability was recognized, they should be recruited. The university was marketed as an international university, non-local students interested in joining HKU would be confident in communicating with English, only to discover that people in HKU communicate in Chinese after arrival.

- LAM pointed out that given how non-internationalized HKU was, the non-local intake should not be further limited.
- MS. KAM believed ranking would be a desirable way to evaluate how to university was doing, and would further attract international students.
- SSSR emphasized on the importance of equal opportunity. For example for the next proposed cabinet of the Social Sciences Society, there was a non-local student willing to get nominated, the language support was provided. He agreed that the recruitment should be solely based on the capability.
- CHAU found it unreasonable for a students' organization failing to integrate the 20%. People should consider oneself as an individual body but not grouped into local or non-locals.
- CAP clarified that Sub-organizations usually welcomed all non-locals, however tutors in the activities organized by the sub organizations would be Chinese-speaking. He disagreed with the motion, there were only 15.5% of non-locals in HKU, already a bit less than other top universities, should not be further decreased.
- AAR regretted that the motion had not been debated, the discussion was only on the internationalization and whether HKUSU should be bilingual. He encouraged members to express more opinion on HKUSU.
- ASR agreed with the motion. Whether or not having more intakes of non-locals would lead to internationalization is questionable. He demanded more resources on subsidized undergraduate places no matter what.
- LAR expressed the happiness to see full members. She believed Government subsidy should be increased, but she did not agree that they should be used to increase the intake of non-locals. It would not be a problem of how many non-local students would be staying in HK, but that locals who would stay here for their lives do not have a chance to get into universities.
- MSR suggested raising the proportion of international students. Apart from the capability, the cultural inspiration they brought would also be treasurable. It would be difficult to ask students to speak in English in daily life, as international students are minority.
- RCLHR would be against the motion. It would be rare that there could be idea exchange between local and non-local students, even in halls, especially in the case of Mainland Students who care much about their academic results. He believed any ways to raise the intention of non-local students being integrated into the community should be adopted.
- PC5 pointed out that in HK, there were only 18% of locals who could get the subsidized university places, incomparable to the cases of UK and US. Realizing leaders' dreams and creating knowledge would be the virtue of university education. He believed that there should have a balance of the interest of the 2 groups. The core question would be whether or not to prioritize subsidy of local students on their first degree over non-local students. There would be many other ways to accommodate the need of non-local students, like increase the proportion of exchange students.
- PC4 would be against the motion. The 3 suggestions of his had already been stipulated in the written opinion, which the most important would be to ensure the international students among different regions would be equivalent.
- STUDENT SENATOR I stated there was empathy on students who could not enter universities, but it would be impossible to balance on everything.

- DSA pointed out that training students into global leaders would be the main trend. It would be important not to provide the same thing to all students regardless of their needs, e.g. more reading time for disabled students. And the school would advocate in maximizing the opportunities, like overseas exchange.
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor was impressive of how the council runs. He hoped to see more non-local students in council. He commended the motion as a bit misleading, divisive, offensive. He hoped that students could do more on accepting those different from them.

### Motion 3

The maximum intake of non-local applicants to HKU should be reduced. 香港大學收生應調低非本地生限額

Proposer: WONG Wai Lun (ASR)

Seconder: WONG Zoi Lam (EAS2)

Time Received: 14:54

Vote by Simple Majority

Total Vote: 43

For:13

Against: 29

Abstain:1

Resolution: Motion Defeated.

Time Resolved: 14:59

2. To endorse the press statement “香港大學學生會《停止黑箱作業 立即開誠布公 履行公正程序 確保廣播自由》聲明 “ issued by Current Affairs Committee, HKUSU Council, Session 2013 dated 18th October, 2013

- CAS pointed out once again the 3 demands stated in the statement.
- SSSR suggested using 三緘其口 to describe the reaction of the Secretary of Commerce and Economic Development.
- STHR suggested identifying it to be the government’s responsibility on reporting the rationale to the public.
- EDSR suggested point out the problems so that the 3 criteria would fit.
- STUDENT SENATOR I asked whether it would be more appropriate to mention about the social discontent that the license should be given to HKTV.
- UHR believed the statement was not to fulfill public will/ speak for a certain TV Channel.
- CAS pointed out that the wordings did not affect understanding, and he agreed that the statement was not to speak for/endorse a certain TV channel. There had been a lot of happenings after Friday, difficult to follow with the trend.

Motion 4

To endorse the press statement “香港大學學生會《停止黑箱作業 立即開誠布公 履行公正程序 確保廣播自由》聲明 “ issued by Current Affairs Committee, HKUSU Council, Session 2013 dated 18th October, 2013

Proposer: YIP Kwan Kit (CAS)

Seconder: LEUNG Ching Him (EAS1)

Time Received: 15:10

No objection

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 15:11

- AAR asked if there were any follow up with the statement.
- EVP stated that there would be a leaflet given out in the campus. Since HKTV labour union is against external intervention, further actions would hand back to CAC for decision.
- LAR believed that the suggestion of full members in Annual Debate was considerable, she suggested they could be handed for follow up in council.
- SS suggested posting summary and stance on page, so that non-locals could feel the Council's real intent.
- CC suggested PCs to cooperate with Secretariat, in making a summary and putting onto the Facebook page.

The meeting ended at 15:17.

Prepared by,

Approved by,

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Leung Lai Kwok Yvonne  
Honorary Secretary  
HKUSU Council, Session 2013

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Li Wai Yan, Vivian  
Council Chairperson  
HKUSU Council, Session 2013