

A Joint Message from HKUST Senior Administration (23 September 2019)

Monday, 23 September 2019 10:23 AM

Dear Members of HKUST:

On-going unrest in public venues has caused disruptions to many facets of Hong Kong society. Despite these challenges, HKUST began the academic year relatively smoothly. We are proud of the dedicated efforts of students, faculty, and staff to minimize disruptions to our educational and research activities.

However, it has come to our attention that several incidents last week raised concerns among members of our HKUST community. One specific incident involved the removal of a poster on the Big Character Poster (BCP) Wall, and subsequent posting of videos and related messages on social media. These postings have generated misleading rumors. Speculations that the University coerced the involved student to apologize are simply false. It was wrong for anyone to remove postings from BCP individually instead of reporting concerns to the Students' Union (SU) or the Dean of Students Office (DSTO). It was also wrong for aggrieved individuals to pursue the matter themselves without following due process.

The existing University policy regarding BCP which is under SU's management can be found at (http://su.ust.hk/old_website/files/BigCharac/guidelines_bigcharacterwall.pdf). In the meantime, understanding the concerns expressed by many members associated with this framework, we will monitor and resolve any disputes and misunderstandings in a timely and professional manner. It is important to reiterate that as an institution of higher education, the University upholds the principle of mutual respect for opposing viewpoints and opinions. In this spirit, the University has zero tolerance for discriminatory, hateful, insulting, and unlawful content in any form of communications, including those infringing personal data privacy, among its members.

Please partner with us to preserve HKUST's core values and de-escalate tensions when upsetting incidents occur. It is not constructive to circulate messages that are emotionally charged or denigrate a particular individual or group of people. If you observe or suspect any violation of University policy, please let the Administration know immediately by sending an email to dst@ust.hk.

What Hong Kong society is experiencing is unprecedented. If you feel distressed, exhausted, frustrated, or lonely, please come and talk to us. You are not alone. All students and colleagues can contact any one of us or talk to your Department Head and Office Directors. Let's join hands to overcome these challenges in solidarity. We will all emerge from this experience stronger and wiser.

With warmest regards,

Wei SHYY, President

Lionel NI, Provost

Mark HODGSON, Vice-President for Administration and Business

Nancy IP, Vice-President for Research and Development

Sabrina LIN, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement

Yang WANG, Dean of Science

Tim CHENG, Dean of Engineering

Kar Yan TAM, Dean of Business and Management

Kellee TSAI, Dean of Humanities and Social Science

King CHOW, Director of Interdisciplinary Programs Office cum Acting Dean of Students

Ricky LEE, Dean of HKUST Fok Ying Tung Graduate School

Roger CHENG, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning

Charles NG, Associate Vice-President for Research and Development

Enboa WU, Associate Vice-President for Knowledge Transfer

Andrew G COHEN, Director of HKUST Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study