

A statement by Public Affairs office on behalf of various relevant offices

Friday, 27 September 2019 6:48 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

Over the past two days, additional incidents have occurred that violate HKUST's core values. These include malicious disclosure of personal information in the public domain, and hateful social media postings on an account that implies official endorsement by HKUST. In efforts to stop these unacceptable behaviors, we wish to update you the measures that the University has taken.

1. The University is requesting that Facebook remove the social media account ProgressUST that infringes upon the use of HKUST's logo as a registered organization, and violates Facebook's own rules against offensive content that promotes hatred and discrimination. For the same reasons, the University is demanding that the HKUST Students' Union remove this former student group from its list of affiliated societies.
2. The University has commenced disciplinary procedures against recent violations of HKUST's code of conduct – including improper removal of materials and subsequent bullying, coercion and physical offense. The Dean of Students of Office is compiling evidence for submission to the Senate Student Disciplinary Committee.
3. HKUST members whose privacy is being violated, or have safety concerns (on or off campus) can come to us for help. The University is working with relevant law enforcement agencies to offer support and assistance. Meanwhile, the DSTO hotline 3469 2840 remains available in case of emergencies.
4. To avoid disruptions to our normal operations and ensure safety, the University is enhancing security on campus.

We once again call for mutual respect. Now more than ever, we need to stand together as a community of scholars united by intellectual curiosity and human empathy.

With warmest regards,
Public Affairs Office on behalf of various relevant offices