

Clarification to the false statement on election of Student Member to Council

Wednesday, 30 October, 2019 9:06 AM

Dear members of HKUST,

In response to the allegation made against the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) in a joint statement released by the Students' Unions of Higher Institutions (Joint Statement) on Oct 22, 2019, claiming that the University was "*attempting to suppress political dissidents such as interrupting the democratically elected student to take office in the HKUST Council*" ([link](#)), we would like to take this opportunity to clarify the false statement and explain the actions we have taken to address the concerns over the recent election of the Student Member to the Council of the University.

The polling for the said election took place from Oct 9 to 11, 2019, and the University has received a large number of complaints, more than 100, from HKUST students by the specified deadline. Under the Election Regulations, HKUST is duty bound to carry out an investigation into such complaints before any appointment of the Student Member can be made. Such a decision has been communicated with students through an announcement on the web and two subsequent messages to all students on Oct 14, 18, and 20, 2019 respectively ([link](#)). It is clearly stipulated in the Regulation that no name will be submitted to the Chairman of the Council for appointment until such a time as the investigation into the complaints has been concluded with the election result confirmed.

The investigation being conducted in response to the filed complaints is in progress. The outcomes will be announced as soon as it is concluded.

We would like to reiterate that HKUST has been taking necessary actions to ensure an open and fair election in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Election of Student Member to the Council. We regret that the allegation made against HKUST in the Joint Statement is entirely unfounded and untrue.

Election Office

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology