Vision

The University of Hong Kong, Asia’s Global University, delivers impact through internationalisation, innovation and interdisciplinarity. It attracts and nurtures global scholars through excellence in research, teaching and learning, and knowledge exchange. It makes a positive social contribution through global presence, regional significance and engagement with the rest of China.

Mission

The University of Hong Kong will endeavour:

• To advance constantly the bounds of scholarship, building upon its proud traditions and strengths
• To provide a comprehensive education, benchmarked against the highest international standards, designed to develop fully the intellectual and personal strengths of its students, while extending lifelong learning opportunities for the community
• To produce graduates of distinction committed to academic / professional excellence, critical intellectual inquiry and lifelong learning, who are communicative and innovative, ethically and culturally aware, and capable of tackling the unfamiliar with confidence
• To develop a collegial, flexible, pluralistic and supportive intellectual environment that inspires and attracts, retains and nurtures scholars, students and staff of the highest calibre in a culture that fosters creativity, learning and freedom of thought, enquiry and expression
• To provide a safe, healthy and sustainable workplace to support and advance teaching, learning and research at the University
• To engage in innovative, high-impact and leading-edge research within and across disciplines
• To be fully accountable for the effective management of public and private resources bestowed upon the institution and act in partnership with the community over the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge
• To serve as a focal point of intellectual and academic endeavour in Hong Kong, China and Asia and act as a gateway and forum for scholarship with the rest of the world
Cultivating Our Potential

I have completed my first full year as President of HKU against a backdrop of challenging times for Hong Kong as a whole. Yet despite these events, the University has kept its focus on our academic mission and had a fruitful and productive year. HKU (and Hong Kong institutions as a whole) welcomed large, new and unprecedented injections into research funding by the Hong Kong government, as well as improved access to funding from Mainland China. We launched innovative undergraduate programmes built around interdisciplinarity and leadership development. We also boosted our support for incubating start-ups and spin-offs by HKU students and staff. Our academic output remained strong and we continued to attract top students. There is much to look forward to as the University works to capitalise on these opportunities and move towards reaching its great potential.

Research Opportunities

The headline development of the year was the legislative approval of the government’s InnoHK scheme, which provides up to $500 million to each research project in the fields of medicine and engineering. This is well beyond any previous funding provision by the government. HKU submitted very strong proposals and we are confident that several of these will be approved. At the same time, we continued to perform strongly in other government-funded schemes, including the General Research Fund which granted us $163 million for 217 projects in 2019, the most of any Hong Kong institution. We were also the first to benefit from new rules that allow Hong Kong scholars to apply directly to the National Key R&D Program of the Ministry of Science and Technology for funds that will be used for research conducted in Hong Kong, when Professor William Lu Weijia from the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine received a RMB27.44 million grant.

While these results are very satisfying, the University can and must do even better to ensure we carry our momentum forward and capitalise on the new opportunities before us. Recruiting the best scholars from around the world remains a top priority and we added fuel to that effort in 2018–19 with the launch of the Presidential PhD Scholarships and Post-doctoral Fellowships, which will provide substantial funds to support young scholars and their research in addition to that provided by the Hong Kong government. We plan to recruit up to 100 scholars in each category over three years. We also invited young scholars to visit Hong Kong in October, for the Meeting of Minds@HKU Forum, to present their research and check us out. And we will soon launch a very ambitious programme to recruit 50 leading senior scholars from around the world – the cream of the crop. Enriching our talent pool will ensure we have solid foundations for future success. Another priority is to focus our energies in our areas of strength, where we can have the most impact addressing the grand challenges of our times. This year, we launched InnoTech, through which we will establish 10 interdisciplinary research institutes over the next five or six years. We have already received a $150 million donation from the Lee Shau Kee Foundation for the Institute of the Mind, which will bring together scholars from medicine, engineering and social science to investigate the workings of the brain to benefit both people and computer chip development. To support the InnoTech institutes and our other research, we plan to build the Tech Landmark, which will contain a cluster of four buildings on the Main Campus. Funding has already been secured for two of the buildings and construction will start very soon.

‘Out-of-the-box’ Learning and Innovation

Our teaching and learning programmes also continued to go from strength to strength in 2018–19. HKU continues to attract top students from Hong Kong, the Mainland and abroad because of the very rich learning experience we offer, including guaranteed overseas and Mainland learning experiences for students who wish to pursue this. Innovative forms of teaching and learning, opportunities to learn beyond their major, support for student entrepreneurs and more. The quality of our teaching was recognised in 2019 when the Common Core team was awarded the UGC [University Grants Committee] Teaching Award. The Common Core was launched in 2012 and attracts global acclaim for its innovative, interdisciplinary approach to learning. The experience we gained from this has given us the confidence to launch a full programme in September 2019 based around interdisciplinarity and leadership development – the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences. Graduates of this programme will have skills in critical thinking, leadership and big data analysis, which will enable them to tackle the challenge of our times.

On innovation and entrepreneurship, the University has been supporting students, as well as staff and alumni, through iDendron, which provides space, networking and training...
and acquisition of knowledge. Our utmost priority is to promote the creation of our scholarship, but our utmost activities, whether that be teaching or research, are natural extensions and learning or research. Innovations are at the heart of HKU’s development of our research and innovation at HKU and supporting entrepreneurship. We have also created a new post of Chief Innovation Officer to provide intensive mentoring and training for budding young entrepreneurs. We have also created an incubation programme to provide intensive mentoring and training for budding young entrepreneurs. Having said all that, I believe it is also important to bear in mind that scholarship is at the heart of HKU’s activities, whether that be teaching and learning or research. Innovations and applications are natural extensions of our scholarship, but our utmost priority is to promote the creation and acquisition of knowledge.

Valued Partnerships
A key factor in the University’s ability to develop new knowledge, recruit the best scholars and teachers, and have impact in society is our partnerships and relationships. At any given moment, our scholars are engaged in hundreds of research collaborations with partners from around the world. Our InnoHK proposals include partnerships with Harvard, Cambridge, MIT and other outstanding institutions. The Greater Bay Area is determined to mitigate our impact and contribute to the future of the planet.

Moving Forward
One final thing to note is that while our scholars and students are working towards a better future, the University also must ensure its in-house operations are aligned with that goal. This year’s Review reports on our ongoing efforts towards achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. This will be a long-term project and progress may not be immediate, but we are committed to having so many enthusiastic friends and supporters from the community. I will continue to seek external support beyond the government to help HKU secure much-needed support for our research and teaching ambitions. HKU has a great pool of talent, energy and ambition. My task ahead will be to work very hard, in collaboration with the University community, to steer HKU towards new heights of excellence and fully realise its potential.

Professor Xiang Zhang
President and Vice-Chancellor
December 2019
In July 2019, 15 students from the Faculty of Science adopted the role of eco-leaders and teamed up with 17 HKU alumni and HKU Foundation members in the HKU East Africa Wildlife Eco-Tour led by Dr Billy Hau from the School of Biological Sciences to experience the legendary Great Migration and promote nature conservation.

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

New interdisciplinary degrees launched in 2018–19, in addition to our existing requirement that all students learn beyond their major, are enabling HKU to produce graduates with the critical thinking skills and adaptability to address the challenges of the 21st century.
Teaching and Learning

HKU is a leader in Hong Kong in embracing interdisciplinary education. Our innovative Common Core, which attracted widespread interest from around the world when it was launched in 2012, has given us deep experience in bringing together students from different disciplines to address the complexities of 21st-century life from multiple perspectives. In 2019 we ramped up that approach with the launch of the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BASc), a rigorous curriculum that crosses intellectual boundaries and cultivates leadership abilities.

More than 100 top-performing students were admitted to the BASc programmes in September 2019, which include a general BASc and five BAScs in Financial Technology, Applied Artificial Intelligence (AppliedAI), Design+ Global Health and Development, and Social Data Science. Students acquire both broad and specialised knowledge – for example, in the BASc(AppliedAI) they learn the fundamental science and engineering skills for building AI systems, as well as the philosophical and ethical questions that AI evokes – and undergo training in leadership and big data and attend a Foundations of Human Knowledge course that looks at intellectual development across human history, from ancient China and ancient Greece up to the present day.

The Common Core itself, meanwhile, continued to gain recognition and evolve in 2019, when it received the UGC (University Grants Committee) Teaching Award (Team) for teaching excellence. Only three teaching awards are bestowed across Hong Kong each year, so this was a great honour. The Common Core also expanded beyond our campus, with the launch of the China Liberal Arts Summer Sessions (CLASS) with partner institutions in the Mainland and of Responsive4U, a UGC-funded $15 million programme to share General Education and Common Core courses among HKU, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (see page 14). In addition, the Common Core team has taken the lead to bring together research-intensive universities from around the world that are committed to enhancing holistic liberal arts education through the formation of the Global Liberal Arts Design Experiments (GLADE), which held its inaugural symposium at HKU in June 2019. The team is now initiating collaborations on sharing modules, courses and projects through the co-creation of a Global Core University that will focus on relationships between universities and their host urban localities.

Apart from encouraging students to cross disciplinary boundaries, the University also wants them to cross physical ones. Our Horizons programme provides every student with the opportunity to have a learning experience in Mainland China and overseas if they so wish. To support that goal, the highly successful Project Mingde – which originated in the Faculty of Engineering in 2003 and has built schools, dormitories, toilets and bridges in impoverished communities in Mainland China and Vietnam – has now become the University-wide programme Horizons Project Mingde. Individual units of the University have also taken the initiative to launch their own external programmes with partners, such as the Sau Po Centre on Ageing which offered a summer programme on ageing with Peking University for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Internationalisation is also shaping many of our programmes. The University has dual degrees with some of the world's top universities, which allow undergraduate students to study at and be conferred degrees by both institutions. In 2018–19, we announced a new dual degree in Law and Business with Peking University, which admitted its first students in September 2019, and two new dual degrees with Tsinghua University in Business and Economics, and Computer Science and Technology, which will be available soon. These are in addition to our existing dual degrees with such institutions as University College London, Sciences Po and the University of California, Berkeley. HKU's commitment to both excellence and opportunity is enabling the University to attract high-performing students from around the world. In 2019, our student intake again registered the highest average HKDSE [Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination] admission scores of all universities across the four core subjects of Chinese, English, Liberal Studies and Mathematics, as well as in combined scores. We also admitted the very best students – including top scorers from Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas. We received more than 15,000 applications in total from applicants outside Hong Kong. These results are a welcome sign that the education offered at HKU is widely regarded as relevant and fit-for-purpose in preparing students to develop professional and personal capabilities and tackle the exciting and difficult challenges facing modern society.

Dentistry students in the University’s Horizons Project Mingde went to Guangxi to provide dental examinations and oral hygiene education to villagers.
First-hand Experience

Experiential learning continues to be an integral part of education at HKU, with opportunities to engage in discipline-based and service learning in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas.

Architecture as Object and Place

Field trips to historic and culturally noteworthy sites in Mainland China are deepening Architecture students’ appreciation of both the architectural qualities of the structures they visit and the societies from which they emerged. In spring 2019, one group of students went to mountainous Jiyuan in Henan to study classical temple architecture, while another visited a rural area in Zhejiang to study vernacular dwellings, including a traditional family courtyard house.

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Classmate Johanna Li Yin went to Henan and produced surveys, maps and drawings of the temple and surrounding area. "We had the rare opportunity to go inside the altar of the temple, where usually only Taoists are allowed to enter to do rituals. We witnessed their everyday rituals and daily life. We were also able to talk to local people and get a better understanding of their living conditions," she said.

An Enriching Year

Starting from 2018–19, all third-year MBBS students embark on an ‘Enrichment Year’ in which they take charge of their learning by studying a non-medical subject, pursuing research, earning an extra degree, and / or undertaking service work. The first cohort returned refreshed and recharged, as the following examples illustrate.

Chan Wang-yeung went to impoverished Yongping county in Yunnan province to study the healthcare system and make recommendations to county officials. "This reminded me that public health is not only a matter of health but also involves multiple stakeholders and complex resource allocation," he said.

He also interviewed women there about perinatal depression. "The most impactful moment was when an interviewee told me about the failure of her first pregnancy. It made me realise that when I am in the stakeholder engagement group, said the experience enabled her to see how biodiversity, policy, economics, landscape and other factors interacted. “I learned to stay humble as a decision-maker because we will never know enough about a system and we will never know better than the participants in this system. It is a simple thing to say we should engage with different stakeholders, but in reality the complexity is beyond expectation,” she said.

Evelyn Chan Hui-ya (second from right in the first row) went to Yale University as a visiting student.

Science, and volunteered with a healthcare outreach programme for the homeless and the student-run Yale Living History Project. “We listened to patients tell their life stories and wrote their narratives into their medical records. This helped us learn more about them as human beings instead of just patients,” she said.

Caitlin Yeung Hon-ning had a busy year studying a full-time Master of Public Health programme at HKU accompanying former Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Director of Health in Hong Kong, Dr Margaret Chan, to a conference in Bangkok, working as a part-time research assistant in the Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care on a project about the challenges faced by low-income families, and doing monthly home visits to chronically-ill elderly patients. “My varied experiences truly broadened my view on health in my community and beyond. I hope one day to combine my public health research skills with moral integrity to improve health in my community,” she said.

Four Countries in Four Weeks

Science students visited coastal areas in four countries over the summer to deepen their awareness of climate change and understand the interactions between different agents in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate coastal systems.

The experiential learning course, organised by Dr Thiagajaran Vengataselvan and Professor Gray Williams of the Swiss Institute of Marine Sciences and the School of Biological Sciences, required students to spend a week in Hong Kong studying coastal ecology and sustainability, then a week in Penang to study tropical coastal ecology with the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies of the Universiti Sains Malaysia. The students then spent more than two weeks in the Gulf of Maine, visiting coastal communities in the US and Canada in a programme organised with Northeastern University.

The students worked in groups focusing on one of four topics – food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services, coastal zone uses, or stakeholder engagement – and produced a report at the end comparing their observations from Asia and North America on that topic.

Trista Zhang Zheng, a third-year BSc student who was in the stakeholder engagement group, said the experience enabled her to see how biodiversity, policy, economics, landscape and other factors interacted. “I learned to stay humble as a decision-maker because we will never know enough about a system and we will never know better than the participants in this system. It is a simple thing to say we should engage with different stakeholders, but in reality the complexity is beyond expectation,” she said.
Creative Approaches

Experimentation has taken hold among HKU’s educators, with the launch of innovative new majors, teaching techniques and initiatives to help local and non-local students integrate on campus.

BASc in the Limelight

HKU’s new Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BASc) programme found ready takers among students attracted to its interdisciplinary education, training in leadership, big data and critical thinking, and its focus on the key developments of our times.

Emad Akhras, who is originally from Syria and lived and studied in the UK, is enrolled in the BASc in Applied Artificial Intelligence programme. "The interdisciplinary aspect is truly fascinating. I had been thinking it would be extremely dull to pursue either an abstract science course or a purely humanities-oriented course and I could not find the right balance until I saw the BASc. It offers me rich scientific content related to what I am interested in doing in the future, as well as a powerful foundation in literary and background theories," he said.

Gitanjali Pies is enrolled in the generalist BASc. "What stood out for me is the flexibility it offers to study a wide range of subjects and ‘personalise’ my major. I also like that I am allowed to double major in another field of interest, such as economics or psychology. That way I can study deeper into one area once I find that passion," she said.

Kelvin Cheung was motivated to enrol in the BASc in Global Health and Development programme by the broad perspectives taken on a subject of deep interest to him. "Global health is a complex phenomenon that cannot be viewed from a solely scientific and medical perspective. It requires an awareness of how economics, law, politics and human rights are intrinsically linked to health," he said.

Standing in Another’s Shoes, Virtually

What does it feel like to have a psychotic episode? The symptoms may be gleaned from a textbook, but written words cannot replicate the auditory and visual hallucinations and delusional thoughts that these patients undergo. Recognising the limitation this presents to caregivers, the School of Nursing has worked with HKU’s Technology-Enhanced Learning Initiative (TEL) to develop virtual reality (VR) tools that let students see and hear the world from the perspective of patients.

Dr Janet Wong Yuen-ha, who oversaw the project, said: “VR education can integrate cognition, emotion and sensation into the learning process, which is very useful for nursing education, so we have applied it to depict the journeys of psychiatric patients suffering from psychosis, anxiety disorder and mood disorder.”

Fifth-year BNurs student Christy Chan Hei-yn felt both students and patients benefit from this form of learning. “After using VR, we can really experience how a patient feels – it is hard to differentiate hallucinations from reality. If we have more empathy towards patients and put ourselves in their shoes, and try to think from their perspective, patients will see that we, as nurses, really care about them and would like to help them. This will benefit the treatment process,” she said.

Table Talk

Internationalisation on campus can be tricky. Putting people together in the same place does not guarantee they will interact. The Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) therefore has been developing programmes to help local and non-local students bridge the cultural gap.

The newest is CHATnCHILL, in which local students lead non-local students on short excursions to Hong Kong sites and culture. Leo Dai Chun-kit, a fourth-year BEcon student, has led visits to the Peak and the Tai Kwun arts and heritage centre. “A large part of our work is making conversation because we want to create a relaxing environment where international students have a chance to talk with local students and each other. I have met a lot of people from different countries and I have learned that relationship-building depends on letting other people understand you, even if you are not speaking in your mother tongue,” he said.

The Eat To-Gather programme, which started three years ago, pairs a local and two non-local students, who enjoy a meal with a local family to experience ordinary Hong Kong life. “The local student helps the other students understand local etiquette and customs. Ivan Ng Chak-ming, a second-year student of Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science, was the local contact for a group that dined with a fireman and his family. "The best part was the friends I made, I still see one of them regularly to just chat or play squash," he said. That friend is Vincent Antonozzi, a second-year BEcon student who came to HKU from France. “We had a great dinner and there was good communication between all of us, which made this experiment enriching for everyone,” he said. CEDARS also organises peer language tutoring and other programmes to help students connect with each other.

The Newark Programme pairs a local and two non-local students, who enjoy a meal with a local family.
Common Core Kudos

The interdisciplinary, integrated education pioneered through the Common Core was extended to other universities in Hong Kong and Mainland China in 2018–19 and has earned honours for its achievements.

They also launched the Transdisciplinary Team Project in which small groups of students from different disciplines take on a joint research project, exemplified by Dr Tanner’s initial course on research and community awareness around hepatitis C. “We prefer to say ‘trans-‘ rather than interdisciplinary because we don’t want to presume pre-established disciplines that are merely complementing one another,” Professor Kochhar-Lindgren said. “Transdisciplinarity enhances our capacity to pose new questions, invent research methods across disciplines, and learn together how to better co-create scalable responses in the context of our most difficult and fascinating challenges.” The team will next focus on developing undergraduate research projects related to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals of gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, and good health and well-being that will involve students from HKU and partner UGC-funded universities.

Professor Sham Mai-har of the School of Biomedical Sciences taught the stem cell course and welcomed the built-in exchange component. “The Hong Kong students loved our course because we were able to spend a lot of time with them. The Zhejiang University students loved us even more! Their normal teaching modes are quite conventional and use traditional didactic methods and they had not experienced our open approach to teaching and learning before. The teachers who sat in our course were also impressed with this,” she said.

A programme to share Common Core and General Education courses across four institutions had a successful pilot run in 2018–19.

The programme, funded with $15 million from the University Grants Committee, involved HKU, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, who each offered at least one course open to all students from the four institutions. Of the first 10 courses on offer, seven were HKU Common Core courses. Course times and delivery formats were adapted so students from other campuses could more easily attend, such as using online learning and flipped classrooms.

The most popular course was The Science of Crime Investigation led by Dr Philip Beh Swan-ip of the Department of Pathology, which is the only one of its kind in Hong Kong. Dr Beh was already revamping his course to include gamification, augmented reality, flipped classroom and other features, so it was not difficult to factor in learners from other institutions. “The students were required to work efficiently in groups towards a final project presentation and it was not noticeable which institution they were from,” he said.

Professor Ricky Kwok Yu-kwong, Associate Vice-President (Teaching and Learning), oversaw the pilot from HKU and analysed the feedback from students, who reported enjoying the opportunity to study at other institutions and to take courses otherwise not available to them. “Some of them also said that they were not able to go on exchanges overseas, so they appreciated the opportunity to study outside their home institution,” he said.

The China Liberal Arts Summer Sessions (CLASS) offered five Common Core courses with Nanjing University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Zhejiang University in the summer, with students spending two weeks on the Mainland and one week in Hong Kong.

Sharing Our Resources

Students at The Science of Crime Investigation class, the most popular of the ten courses in the Responsive4U project, which allows students from four local universities to take selected General Education and Common Core courses in the partner institutions.
ON FERTILE GROUND

Opportunity came knocking in 2019 as vast new sources of research funding became available in Hong Kong. HKU scholars quickly seized the day to advance their research. The University also invested in attracting more young stellar talent from around the world to augment our foundations for future growth.
The 2018–19 academic year brought remarkably good news for scholars in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong government released a large new reservoir of research funding, while doors opened for Hong Kong scholars to apply for certain competitive research grants from Mainland China. HKU is well poised to take advantage of these opportunities, having applied ourselves rigorously in recent years to recruit stellar academics, encourage and provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research, forge collaborations with top-ranked universities around the world, and invest in upgrading our facilities.

In 2019, legislative approval was given to boost government funding for research to $20 billion. Some of this will be used to launch InnoHK, which provides as much as $500 million each year for major cross-disciplinary research collaborations with top-ranked universities around the world, and in invest in upgrading our facilities.

The University has been strategically focusing on our new hub in southern China.

Easier access to research funds from Mainland China was also a highlight of the year. Hong Kong scholars can now apply to certain national funding programmes for research that will be conducted in Hong Kong. The first Hong Kong recipient was Professor William Lu Weijia from the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine who received a RMB27.4 million grant from the National Key R&D Program run by the Ministry of Science and Technology (see page 22). HKU also did well in the prestigious Excellent Young Scientists Fund of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), which recognised Hong Kong and Macau scientists for the first time in 2019. Seven HKU scientists were honoured, the most of any local institution. HKU scholars also succeeded in securing funding for 21 projects under the NSFC.

Access to research funding on the Mainland is not confined to the national level. Guangdong and Shenzhen both signalled that Hong Kong scholars could apply to their funding programmes, too, and five HKU projects received grants under the Shenzhen Science, Technology and Innovation Commission. HKU is also playing an active role in the new Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, which will be a powerful science and technology hub in southern China.

The foundation of our success in these endeavours is our strong talent pool. The University has been strategically recruiting promising and outstanding scholars, including those with an interdisciplinary focus. Interdisciplinarity is also encouraged through our Strategically Oriented Research Themes (SORTs), which were launched in 2017–18 to provide seed funding for developing projects. We made a major commitment in 2019 to invest in young talent with the launch of our Presidential PhD Scholarships and Post-doctoral Fellowships. Our aim is to attract the best young scholars in the world and provide them with funds to support their research at HKU, in addition to funds provided by the Hong Kong government. About 100 scholars will be recruited in each category over three years. To further sharpen our focus on grooming young talent, the deanship of the Graduate School has been turned into a full-time position and an associate dean has been charged with the portfolio of promoting innovation and internship and providing graduate students with alternative career development paths.

Achieving impact from research is a central aim of our work and of growing significance in academia, reflected in the RGC’s coming Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). This is the first time the RGC will assess impact and the University has provided extensive support to help scholars prepare, including providing funds for gathering evidence and bringing experts in to give advice and organising a series of impact-related workshops. The RAE results will not be out for at least another year, but the exercise has contributed to the momentum within the University community to deepen our research impact.

Another forward-looking development in 2018–19 was the announcement of the Tech Landmark, which will be built at 2 University Drive on the Main Campus. This will significantly upgrade and expand our facilities for scientific and technological research. The Tech Landmark will have four buildings dedicated to 20 strategic research areas that have a strong interdisciplinary focus. The first institute to be established will be the Institute of the Mind, which received a $150 million donation from Sir Lee Shau-kee.

Underpinning all these activities is our leadership in research integrity. In June 2019, HKU hosted and co-chaired the 6th World Conference on Research Integrity. Some 700 delegates came from around the world to discuss integrity issues related to innovation and commercialisation, and assessment of research. The latter led to the formulation of the Hong Kong Principles for Assessing Researchers: Fostering Research Integrity, which is a blueprint for scholars around the world on responsible research conduct. HKU’s excellence, coupled with its commitment to research that is ethical and reproducible, mark us out as a global leader.

2,670 ongoing research collaborations in 2018–19 with partners on all five continents.

13 Highly Cited Researchers ranked by Clarivate Analytics in 2019, based on producing multiple highly-cited research papers.

$737.7M funding from UGC and RGC

$843.9M funding from other sources for new research grant projects. HKU’s cumulative funding from the RGC includes $1,012.5 million (excluding on-costs) in General Research Fund grants, for which it has been the top recipient in 16 of the last 17 rounds. Two of the five Theme-based Research Scheme projects awarded in 2019 were led by HKU scholars, who were awarded a total of $105.66 million (including on-costs). Other funding sources include the government, industry, non-government organisations and other local and non-local sources. New contract research projects for government and industry amounted to $346.8 million in 2018–19.
Talent Finder

HKU’s research success has been built on recruiting and nurturing talented scholars at all stages of their careers. Their excellence continued to be recognised by their peers in 2019.

World-leading Researchers

Thirteen HKU academics were identified as being among the top 1% in their field in Clarivate Analytics’ list of ‘ Highly Cited Researchers 2019’. Inclusion in the list is based on producing multiple highly-cited papers that rank in the top 1% by citations in their field during the year, and thus have significant impact in their respective fields of study. The cross-field category is to acknowledge researchers who are recognised as leaders in more than one field.

Agricultural Sciences

Professor Luk Kam-biu
School of Biological Sciences

Physics

Professor Frank He Xin
Professor Kendall Johnson

Computer Science

Dr Huang Kabin
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Cross-Field

Professor Guan Yi
School of Public Health

Professor Joseph Paris
School of Public Health

Economics and Business

Professor Yiu Siu-ming
Department of Computer Science

Professor Kevin Zhou Zheng
Faculty of Business and Economics

Professor James Lam
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Engineering

Professor Dennis Leung Yi-choeng
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Professor Zhang Tong
Department of Civil Engineering

Professor Sun Min
Department of Earth Sciences

Environment and Ecology

Professor Zhao Guochun
Department of Earth Sciences

Professor Yao Wang
Department of Physics

Professor Xiang Zhang
President and Vice-Chancellor

Geosciences

Professor Johannes Chan Man-mun

Physics

Professor Sydney Tang Chi-wai
awarded the Croucher Senior Medical Research Fellowship 2019.

Professor Brendan Weekees

Physicist Wins China’s ‘ Nobel Prize ’

Hung Hsing Yung Distinguished Visiting Professor in Science and Technology and alumni of HKU’s Department of Physics, Professor Luk Kam-biu, has been named a laureate of China’s 2019 Future Science Prize. The Future Science Prize is considered China’s ‘ Nobel Prize ’ and is awarded jointly by groups of scientists and entrepreneurs. Professor Luk, who is also a Professor at the University of California at Berkeley and a Senior Faculty Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, won the prize in physical sciences jointly with Professor Wang Yifang, Director of the Institute of High Energy Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The pair have led the Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment and contributed to the discovery of a new type of neutrino oscillation, which opens the door for new advances in physics. HKU is a co-leader of the Daya Bay project with 41 other universities and research institutions and Professor Luk praised the teamwork involved, singling out HKU. “ HKU has played a special role in this endeavour. It was through the first meeting held in the Physics Department at HKU that the Daya Bay project was launched. The generous support of the HKU administration during the early stage of the initiative undoubtedly seeded the success of the experiment,” he said.

Professor Luk previously won the 2016 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics and used part of the fund to establish the Luk Kam-biu Prize in Experimental Physics in HKU’s Department of Physics to encourage students to specialise in experimental physics. He is also mentoring Assistant Professor Dr Jenny Lee in the Department of Physics in nuclear physics.

Local Honours

HKU scholars performed well in local award schemes that recognise quality, impactful research in both humanities and the sciences.

Four of the nine recipients of the Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme of the University Grants Committee (UGC) came from HKU, the most of any local institution. They included Professor Brendan Weekees of the Faculty of Education for a study on intervention and prevention of neurodegenerative disease in the Greater Bay Area; Professor Kendall Johnson of the School of English for a study of early American missionary printing in China; Professor Johannes Chan Man-mun of the Faculty of Law for a study of the role of the judiciary and judicial independence under Hong Kong’s ‘ One Country, Two Systems ’ arrangement; and Professor Frank He Xin, also Faculty of Law, for a study of gendered divorce litigation in China.

Professor Sydney Tang Chi-wai in the Department of Medicine was awarded the Croucher Senior Medical Research Fellowship for his work to deepen understanding of the cellular and molecular mechanisms of chronic progressive kidney disease.
Attracting Support

For years, our researchers have had great success in competitive funding exercises and 2019 was no exception. We performed strongly in both Hong Kong-based schemes and those from Mainland China.

Recent advances in tissue engineering and biomaterials have regenerated injured tissues and organs, the clinical outcome, especially for the functional recovery, has not been satisfactory due to the complexity of human tissues. We propose to address that clinical challenge by focusing on the tissue microenvironment,” Professor Lu said.

He is leading a multidisciplinary team from five institutions in Mainland China and Hong Kong, as well as an industrial partner. They will fabricate functional, 3D bio-printed scaffolds for tissue and organ regeneration and aim to print 12 different tissues and organs, such as full-thickness skin, cornea, bone, cartilage and large blood vessels, to test in pre-clinical animal models. Positive results will mean they can proceed to clinical trials and ultimately benefit hundreds of thousands of patients each year.

Developing new alloys is the focus of a project that awarded RMB1.07 million in the second round of the MOST scheme open for Hong Kong and Macau to Professor Huang Mingxin of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Professor Huang has both industrial and academic experience in working with metal and alloy, and he will lead his team in developing new nanostructured high entropy alloys that have the potential for application in extremely low temperatures or in nuclear power plants.

“We have always been actively looking for funding opportunities beyond Hong Kong. When we saw this call for proposals, we felt that our research expertise fitted very well with the programme. Through this project, we want to demonstrate that HKU’s expertise can make important contributions to national R&D projects,” Professor Huang said.

His team includes researchers from HKU, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian University of Technology and Xi’an Jiaotong University, covering expertise in such areas as metallurgy, mechanics, nuclear technology and ab-initio calculation.

TRS Scholars Offer Paths to Better Health

HKU professors from the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine are leading two of the five Theme-based Research Scheme (TRS) projects awarded in 2019, while other HKU scholars are members of two other projects.

Control of influenza is the focus of a $30 million TRS project coordinated by Professor Benjamin Cowling in the School of Public Health. The project will build on HKU’s world-leading influenza research programme to address important questions about influenza virus immunity and transmission.

Professor Cowling and his multidisciplinary, multi-institutional team will be identifying signs that an individual has protection against influenza infection or severe disease and looking at which of these are induced by prior natural infection or vaccination. They will also consider the factors that make populations more susceptible to influenza, how to best deploy new and existing influenza vaccines to reduce the impact of epidemics and pandemics, and other immunological mechanisms that are relevant to the development and evaluation of new influenza vaccines.

“Our overall aim is to improve options for the control of pandemic and seasonal influenza through a greater scientific understanding of the mechanisms underlying individual and population immunity. This includes complementary research on virology, immunology, epidemiology, and vaccinology,” he said. “It’s really important that we have these large collaborative research projects because by working together, we can have much greater potential impact through the synergy between our disciplines.”

Liver tissue repair, particularly after transplantation, is the focus of a $45 million TRS project by Professor Lo Chung-mau. The prevalence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and liver cancer incidence and the shortage of deceased organ donors is a great burden on individuals and the healthcare system.

Professor Lo, who is Chair of Hepatobiliary Surgery, Chin Lan-Hong Professor in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery, and Chief Executive of the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital, will be building on HKU’s world-leading expertise in liver transplantation, particularly living donor liver transplantation using a graft of the right liver lobe. He and his team will focus on the persistent problems of recurrent disease and liver graft injury post-transplantation by exploring the underlying mechanisms of cancer recurrence and HBV reactivation, identifying biomarkers and developing potential treatments.

They also hope to promote liver tissue repair and regeneration, which would help get around the problem of a shortage of organ donors. Professor Lo and his team will be working with a biobank of about 50,000 tissue and liquid biopsies from patients. “Using this biobank, we will establish a system that integrates high-throughput sequencing data and biology and immunology parameters that will enable us to predict disease recurrence and prognoses and offer therapeutic guidance,” he said.

New drug targets and therapeutic strategies are expected to result.

National Key R&D Recipients

Scholars from Hong Kong and Macau are now allowed to apply directly to the National Key R&D Program of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) for funds that will be used for research conducted here. This scheme offers substantial funding for key and strategic research technologies. Two rounds of applicants were awarded during the year and HKU scientists were winners in both rounds.

Organ reconstruction using 3D printing is the focus of Professor William Lu Weijia, Ng Chun-Man Professor in Orthopaedic Bioengineering in the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, who was the first scientist in Hong Kong and Macau to be awarded under the MOST scheme outright. He and his team have invented high precision 3D bio-printing technology and new bio-inks, and they received RMB27.44 million to apply their technology to rebuilding complex tissue structures according to their natural physiological tissue microenvironment.

“Tissue damage and organ failure caused by ageing, disease and accidents may potentially lead to increased morbidity and mortality in patients. Although...
HKU’s combination of talent and funding, and a willingness to be innovative, were recognised in the 2018–19 Research Impact Fund when seven HKU-led projects received a total of more than $45 million. A select sample of our impact in academia and beyond is presented here.

-focused-on-impact-24.png

**Focused on Impact**

FinTech as an Inclusion Solution

Some 1.7 billion people in the world still lack access to the banking system. Research by Professor Douglas Arner in the Faculty of Law and his collaborators outlined how financial technology could be applied to maximise financial inclusion and potentially transform financial systems. Their report formed the basis of a strategy adopted by the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) in autumn 2018. The AFI comprises more than 90 central banks and financial regulatory authorities from around the world.

"Rather than focusing on those people who were excluded, we analysed the factors that led to more than 1.2 billion people coming into the formal financial system for the first time between 2010 and 2018 by acquiring a bank or mobile money account. From that, we proposed a strategy that is based on four pillars: digital identification, electronic payments, government-to-person digital strategies, and digital financial infrastructure," Professor Arner said.

As well as being adopted by AFI, the strategy influenced the content of the Sochi Accord: FinTech for Financial Inclusion, which was agreed by AFI’s full membership in September 2018 and by the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24) in October 2018. The strategy has also been presented by AFI at various regional meetings of bankers over the past year.

Understanding Cause and Effect at the Quantum Level

Cause-effect relations are identified by formulating different hypotheses and testing them against each other – for example, testing a new drug against a placebo in patients. Classical approaches to this problem, however, have proven inadequate when it comes to quantum phenomena, where responses to interventions can differ strikingly from those of classical random variables. Professor Giulio Chiribella of the Department of Computer Science and his student Daniel Ebler showed a way around this limitation by designing new quantum algorithms to discover cause-effect relations.

Professor Chiribella and Mr Ebler showed that because quantum particles can travel along many paths at the same time, they can be arranged to simultaneously explore multiple experimental setups and test them in new ways. This reduces the probability of errors exponentially compared with classical setups and means that cause-effect relations can be determined more quickly than before.

The research is expected to have broad application, such as the design of intelligent quantum machines and future communication networks that can speedily identify the presence of communication links.

Language Project Brings Unexpected Benefits

Dr Cathryn Donohue in the Department of Linguistics has been working to preserve an endangered Tibeto-Burman language called Nubri. In addition to research papers, she has developed descriptive materials for vocabulary and grammar and a growing archive of audio and video recordings of Nubri, documenting the language and the culture. But the lifestyle of the Nubri people posed a challenge to developing a writing system that would further help preserve the language.

Any successful writing system requires community involvement and consensus, but the 2,000 or so Nubri speakers are largely subsistence farmers spread out across Nepal’s remote Nubri Valley, which is about a week’s walk from the nearest road and four days’ walk from one end of the valley to the other. Younger generations have been moving away for schooling that is largely taught in Nepali. Dr Donohue needed to find a way to entice the Nubri speakers to congregate and give input to her project.

Her innovative solution was to focus on healthcare, particularly eye care, which the community was in dire need of. She organised eye clinics that flew in doctors to screen 499 valley residents, who then set up a surgical clinic to treat patients with cataracts. The project not only restored the patients’ vision and independence, it benefited Dr Donohue’s research and the wider Nubri community. "The clinics were a necessary catalyst to bring the community together to discuss orthographic options. It was also an opportunity to record traditional medicinal practices as well as interview many of the villagers, establishing more clearly the vitality of the language,” she said. “The longer-term impact of preserving this language is incalculable and a small victory in a world losing its linguistic diversity at an alarming rate of an estimated one language every fortnight.”
Innovators at the DreamCatchers MedTech Hackathon 2019 developed potential solutions based on the theme ‘Innovation for Crowded Hospitals’.

PRIMED FOR IMPACT

HKU has led the way in Hong Kong in recognising and promoting knowledge exchange as a part of our core academic mission. In 2019, we continued to record strong results in technology transfer, the incubation of ideas and community engagement. We also welcomed greater government support for our ongoing and expanding efforts to open new pathways to impact.
Over the past decade, the University has embraced knowledge exchange (KE), including technology transfer, as a core academic activity. We reward KE in staff performance appraisals, provide funding support and honours for KE activities, and foster entrepreneurship and innovation through the Technology Transfer Office (TTO). Other local universities have followed our lead and the government has also been taking note. In 2018–19, it announced that funding for KE will rise by 9% from 2019–20, and funding for technology transfer will double to $8 million for the TTO and $8 million for start-ups (the latter awarded through the Technology Start-up Support Scheme (the latter awarded through the Technology Start-up Support Scheme (TSSSU@HKU)).

The emphasis on open access has also been embraced, at our urging, by the Research Grants Council, which has agreed that in the coming Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), submitted impact cases will be in the public domain.

The research led by Professor Lusina Ho (left) and Ms Rebecca Lee (right) in the Faculty of Law has directly led to the setting up of a Special Needs Trust in Hong Kong.

The first HKU-Industry Forum on Display Technologies was held in January 2019. The forum served as a platform for exchanging ideas and fostering deeper connections between HKU and the industry.

The Faculty of Science has launched a new Entrepreneurship Seminar Series for students, staff and alumni from all faculties to provide extracurricular training to further equip students and alumni for their business ventures.

Interdisciplinary Quick Talks aim to promote engagement between disciplines and share evidence-based knowledge on challenging issues from multiple perspectives with the community.

Interdisciplinary KE projects supported by the KE Impact Project Funding Scheme in 2018–19. Another 16 proposals were supported through the Interdisciplinary KE Project Fund.

encouraged HKU to develop a strategic plan to further advance innovation, as evidenced by the creation of the new post of Chief Innovation Officer. Individual faculties are also fostering a start-up culture on campus, with the Faculty of Science launching a new minor in entrepreneurship that is co-taught with the Faculty of Business and Economics and other faculties.

KE activities are also encouraged and supported across all faculties in the University, not just those involving science and technology. Our KE Impact Project Funding Scheme supported 74 proposals from across the University in 2018–19. We also launched a new round of the Interdisciplinary KE Project Fund in 2019 to encourage collaboration between scholars in different faculties, which awarded $2 million in total to 16 proposals. Interdisciplinarity is also the focus of a new initiative, the Quick Talks series, which bring together academics from different disciplines for public talks on challenging issues and launched in February with a forum on open data.

Open data and access to information are primary goals of the University’s KE strategy. We have a moral responsibility to engage the public in what we are doing and to use that knowledge to inform public debate. The HKU Scholars Hub provides access to our scholarly output and received more than seven million view counts from outside HKU in 2018–19. The University also organised more than 1,000 public events, such as lectures, workshops, exhibitions and performances. We are trying to instil values of openness and transparency in research postgraduate students, too, by asking them to deposit their new datasets for inspection and by encouraging them to hone their communication skills through the Three Minute Thesis and the Visualise Your Thesis competitions, the latter of which was formally launched in 2019, following a pilot in 2018. The emphasis on open access has also been embraced, at our urging, by the Research Grants Council, which has agreed that in the coming Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), submitted impact cases will be in the public domain.

The RAE is expected to confirm the high quality of many of our KE activities, such as the Special Needs Trust for parents or caregivers of individuals with cognitive impairment that was adopted by the Hong Kong government following a proposal by HKU law academics. Changes like this demonstrate how academic research can address unmet needs, be transformative and benefit society. They are inspiring HKU’s staff and students to reach out and make positive changes in the community.

They are also inspiring community organisations to seek out our expertise and support us. The examples on the following pages demonstrate our commitment to community impact across all of our disciplines.
Knowledge Exchange and Technology Transfer

Spotlight on Innovators

New inventions and deep technological expertise are in high demand in the community, where HKU scholars have had increasing success by applying and sharing their outputs.

Problem-solving Inventions

HKU scientists performed strongly at the 47th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva in 2019, one of the most prestigious events of its kind, earning 10 medals in total, including one gold medal with the congratulations of the jury, four gold medals and five silver medals.

Flectrode Ltd, an HKU spin-off company founded by Dr Wendi Li and Dr Tony Feng in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded the gold medal with the congratulations of the jury for the transparent conducting film that the scholars developed, which has application for emerging electronics such as displays and solar batteries. The film can produce 100 times better conductivity than existing technology and improve photovoltaic efficiency in solar cells so more electricity is produced from light, including artificial light. The invention has been licensed exclusively to Flectrode Ltd and will start mass production at its Xiamen production facility by the end of 2019.

Another HKU winner was a water filter membrane that is compact enough to fit into a pocket, can filter various contaminants including both heavy metals and bacteria, and does not require electricity for use. The gold award-winning nanofibrous membrane, developed by a research team led by Professor Tang Chuyang in the Department of Civil Engineering, has been patented in the US and China. The membrane was initially developed as a solution for providing clean, drinkable water in the aftermath of disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, but it can also be used for household water and portable water filtration. The device is expected to be 30–50% cheaper than carbon filters on the market and deliver safe drinkable water in less than one minute.

iCLASS Goes to Market

An electronic learning platform developed by HKU’s e-Learning Development Laboratory in the wake of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake to provide reconstructed schools with e-learning resources. It has been refined over the years to include functions such as multimedia, big data and intelligent assessment, and to allow easy interactivity between students and teachers. iClass has also been adopted by many schools in Hong Kong, with HKU’s e-Learning Development Laboratory in the wake of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake to provide reconstructed schools with e-learning resources.

The iClass Learning Management System, which is a mobile interactive learning platform, was developed by HKU and Hailiang Education Group. It was awarded the gold medal in the category of Knowledge Exchange and Technology Transfer.

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A Better Way to Build

The construction industry faces major challenges due to an ageing workforce, labour shortage, and safety and other concerns. But there is a solution in the form of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), which uses new technology and off-site pre-assembly to reduce the cost, wastage and time involved in building construction and is also safer than conventional methods.

Dr Pan Wei, Executive Director of the Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Development, has been a leader in investigating MiC’s applicability in Hong Kong and his work formed the basis of an MiC strategy paper published in 2019 that was supported by the Development Bureau. The Hong Kong government has already started piloting MiC in several public projects, including the Disciplined Services Quarters for the Fire Services Department in Pak Shing Kok. HKU is also using it in the construction of a new student residence in Wong Chuk Hang to accommodate more than 1,200 students and staff. Dr Pan estimates MiC can reduce local construction costs by up to 20% and shorten construction time by up to 50%.

“I believe MiC is the future of construction technology because it is capable of dealing with various problems, such as labour shortages, land use limitations and severe weather challenges,” he said – all of which are present in Hong Kong.
Community Care

HKU scholars have applied their expertise in the community to help organisations develop better services and new approaches and deepen public understanding about social and personal issues of concern.

Improving Life at the End

A project to improve end-of-life care has provided services to thousands of patients and healthcare workers and led to significant drops in hospitalisation and emergency services usage by terminal patients.

The three-year Jockey Club End-of-Life Community Care Project, led by Dr Amy Chow Yin-man of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, was launched in 2016 to provide terminal patients and emergency services to more than 5,000 elderly living at home with terminal illnesses and those living in 36 residential homes for the elderly.

The project reported that by 2018, patients living at home who received the services reported 18% less discomfort from their illness and worried 55% less about family matters. Their hospital stays were 12.5% shorter during the last six months of their lives than similar terminal cases from 2015, before the project was launched, and their use of emergency services was 11.6% lower. Similarly, service recipients in residential homes for the elderly reported 45.8% fewer days of discomfort from their illness and worried 55% less about family matters. Their hospital stays were 18% shorter during the last three months of their lives when compared to 2015.

The project also carried out public education to help break the taboo of talking about death and raise awareness of the need to discuss end-of-life matters. Two surveys found that public understanding about end-of-life care increased from 33% in 2016 to 39% in 2018 and more than two-thirds of respondents said quality of life would be more important than extension of life should they have a terminal illness. The success of the project has prompted the Jockey Club to extend funding to 2022.

SMART Approach to Family Services

The University’s School of Public Health (SPH) and the Technology-Enriched Learning Initiative (TELI) are joining forces to advance the use of information and communications technology (ICT) and develop ICT-related capabilities in family service centres operated by 12 non-government organisations (NGOs), which will enhance their services and promote family well-being in the community.

The Jockey Club SMART Family-Link Project involves creating a new computerised service management system (iConnect) for 26 integrated family service centres and integrated service centres that mostly still use a paper-based system. iConnect will reduce administrative work and release more resources for preventive programmes, improve access, broaden reach, reduce stigmatisation, and facilitate identification of at-risk families for early support and remedial services. To develop the system, the SPH and TELI have been working and co-learning with hundreds of staff from the NGO partners. Design and development started in 2018 in preparation for a soft launch at the end of 2019 involving six of the NGOs.

Animal-assisted Projects to Promote Socio-emotional Health

Dr Paul Wong Wai-ching of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration has been leading the way in the region in studying and applying animal-assisted therapy to help children and young people achieve better well-being.

The SMART Family-Link Project is expected to directly benefit about 75,000 individuals and about 1,000 social workers and hopefully serve as a model for other social services in Hong Kong.

The SMART Family-Link Project is also being carried out with the Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Social Service Division to reach Hong Kong’s hidden youth by offering sessions with trained therapy dogs. The programme helps entice the youths out of their rooms to get support from social workers. “The prospect of interacting with the animals was appealing to those who were otherwise reluctant to ask for help,” said Dr Wong, who estimates there are 20,000 to 40,000 socially withdrawn youths in Hong Kong.

More recently, Dr Wong has been working with primary schools, teachers, and animal welfare groups to bring trained dogs into 11 schools to promote empathy and social and emotional health among children as a way to prevent youth suicide. Over six-to-ten weeks, students learn about animal behaviours and get opportunities to read to and pet the reading dogs. The three-year project started in 2018 and its efficacy is being evaluated through focus groups, questionnaires and observations. “Animal-assisted therapy is rather new in this region and we are trying to demonstrate its benefits and raise the awareness of animal welfare,” he said. He is also planning to introduce a course in the Faculty of Social Sciences to teach students about using animals and other emerging therapies to help people deal with the pressures of modern living.

Animal Assisted Projects to Promote Socio-emotional Health

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CarAting Kids was officially launched in 2019 to promote social and emotional health among children.
Taking the Plunge

An underwater camera and stand that is now being used for monitoring the movements, behaviour and population numbers of manta rays.

The students developed the baited remote underwater video surveillance system – an underwater camera and stand that now sits unobtrusively in the water and is used for monitoring the movements, behaviour and population numbers of manta rays. This was an entirely student-led project and Saumya also recruited the other student members of her team, who come from the Science, Engineering, Architecture and Social Sciences faculties and who have all helped create and test the technology and organise a trip to test and deliver it in the Philippines. The students received funding support from the Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Fund and now hope to interest other parties in their device. “I had wanted to do something related to sustainability that was interdisciplinary. This project has given me a greater appreciation of the biodiversity in Southeast Asia and the important role that technology can play in the scientific study of nature,” Saumya said.

Healing Hands

A team of Chinese medicine students who developed a social enterprise that trains visually impaired people to provide massage treatments to athletes and other groups in the community, were named Champions in the Hong Kong Social Enterprise Challenge (HISEC) 2018–19. Their enterprise, called Heightened Senses, has trained more than a dozen visually impaired masseurs who have treated athletes from Hong Kong sports teams and workers in companies such as WeWork, New World Development and Capgemini.

Chan Ka-lung, a sixth-year BChinMed student, set up the enterprise with classmates Ryan Chiang, fourth-year BSocSc student Tong Woon and other partners from outside HKU. He was inspired by his own experience as a triathlete. “When I am injured, I always go to Chinese medicine practitioners for treatment and I feel assured that we are rarely able to see the thought process that goes behind the design of the park, so this change of perspective was a much-treasured opportunity,” Chan said.

Other prize-winning entries included a one-stop app to provide real-time information and allow users to purchase priority passes, an ‘edutainment’ experience that lets users learn about the park’s animals through virtual reality and gamification, and a night-time escape game that highlights challenges facing the environment.

HKU was also a co-organiser of the First Ocean Park International STEAM Education Conference held in June, featuring STEAM experts from around the world who spoke to more than 850 principals, teachers and other education professionals from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau.
The University Profile

The Review 2019

Students*

Student Admission (New Intakes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Level</th>
<th>Male 2018–19</th>
<th>Female 2018–19</th>
<th>All 2018–19</th>
<th>% International (Based on Nationality) 2018–19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<td>1,990</td>
<td>3,928</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taught Postgraduate</td>
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<td>2,061</td>
<td>4,273</td>
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<td>402</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>All New Intakes</td>
<td>4,532</td>
<td>4,402</td>
<td>8,932</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
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Enrollment of Students on All Programmes

Faculty | Undergraduate 2018–19 | Taught Postgraduate 2018–19 | Research Postgraduate 2018–19 | All Levels 2018–19 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
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<td>747</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>1,199</td>
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<td>Arts</td>
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<td>1,925</td>
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<td>3,534</td>
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<td>Dentistry</td>
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<td>352</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>1,004</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>1,236</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>2,493</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>4,650</td>
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<td>565</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>111</td>
<td>4,247</td>
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<td>2,331</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>3,328</td>
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<td>1,503</td>
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<td>3,328</td>
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<td>All Faculties</td>
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<td>17,007</td>
<td>9,823</td>
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Enrollment of International Students (Based on Nationality)

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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainland China</td>
<td>1,785</td>
<td>1,615</td>
<td>3,159</td>
<td>5,956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Asian Countries</td>
<td>1,515</td>
<td>1,349</td>
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<td>2,231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia and New Zealand</td>
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<td>142</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>European Countries</td>
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<td>North American Countries</td>
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<td>230</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Regions</td>
<td>3,920</td>
<td>3,642</td>
<td>4,133</td>
<td>11,795</td>
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HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education (HKU SPACE)

Enrollment of Students in Local Programmes Run by HKU SPACE in 2018–19: 93,030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Headcount Enrolled</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Programmes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree Programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Including Full-time Degree Programmes)</td>
<td>5,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-degree Programmes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General / Short Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Including Non-award Bearing Professional Courses)</td>
<td>35,093</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community College Programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Full-time Associate Degree and Higher Diploma Programmes)</td>
<td>35,248</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment of Students in Programmes Run in Mainland China by HKU SPACE in 2018–19: 5,772
Graduates of All Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Level</th>
<th>Male 2018–19</th>
<th>Male 2017–18</th>
<th>Female 2018–19</th>
<th>Female 2017–18</th>
<th>All 2018–19</th>
<th>All 2017–18</th>
<th>% International (Based on Nationality)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>1,801</td>
<td>1,785</td>
<td>2,188</td>
<td>2,209</td>
<td>3,989</td>
<td>3,994</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught Postgraduate</td>
<td>2,071</td>
<td>2,036</td>
<td>3,394</td>
<td>3,045</td>
<td>5,465</td>
<td>5,081</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Postgraduate</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Graduates</td>
<td>4,184</td>
<td>4,190</td>
<td>5,864</td>
<td>5,589</td>
<td>10,048</td>
<td>9,779</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of International Graduates (Based on Nationality)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainland China</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1,907</td>
<td>1,937</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>2,956</td>
<td>2,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian Countries</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia and New Zealand</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Countries</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American Countries</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (e.g. Central and South America, African Countries)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Regions</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>2,838</td>
<td>2,460</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>4,069</td>
<td>3,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Level</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Taught Postgraduate</th>
<th>Research Postgraduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017–18</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Staff in Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professoriate</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>1,084</td>
<td>1,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Non-Professoriate Teaching</td>
<td>1,234</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>1,417</td>
<td>2,711</td>
<td>2,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Academic</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Support</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>2,107</td>
<td>2,860</td>
<td>2,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>1,203</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Staff</td>
<td>3,549</td>
<td>3,516</td>
<td>4,429</td>
<td>4,279</td>
<td>7,978</td>
<td>7,755</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of International Professoriate Staff (Based on Nationality)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Headcount 2018–19</th>
<th>% 2018–19</th>
<th>Headcount 2017–18</th>
<th>% 2017–18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainland China</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian Countries</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia and New Zealand</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Countries</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American Countries</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (e.g. Central and South America, African Countries)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Regions</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cumulative Number of Alumni as of August 2019: 233,230

* All graduate statistics shown above include graduates on UGC-funded, self-funded as well as outreach programmes.

* The number of programmes listed above include where applicable, programmes offered in the full-time and part-time modes which are counted as separate programmes. The counting of research postgraduate programmes is based on the academic departments with research postgraduate students enrolled in the year under reference.

* All staff statistics shown above include UGC-funded and self-funded staff, honorary and visiting staff are excluded.
The University Profile

Research

Research Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Source</th>
<th>HK$ (in Million)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Block Grant from University Grants Committee</td>
<td>2,350.0</td>
<td>2,261.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Grants Council / University Grants Committee</td>
<td>366.8</td>
<td>273.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other External Sources*</td>
<td>769.0</td>
<td>737.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Research-related Endowment Funds</td>
<td>131.0</td>
<td>246.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Research Funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,616.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,518.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes the following fund sources: government, private, industry and HKU Foundation.

Research Projects (Ongoing and New)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad Disciplinary Area</th>
<th>Research Grants Projects</th>
<th>Research Contract Projects</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Projects</td>
<td>Value (in HK$ M)</td>
<td>No. of Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology and Medicine</td>
<td>3,097</td>
<td>3,036</td>
<td>5,839.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>770.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>1,531.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>654.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Disciplines</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,569</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,401</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,735.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cumulative Number of Patents Granted (since 1998 and up to June 2018): 608

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiple#</th>
<th>118</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering, Lighting, Heating, Weapons, Blasting</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Constructions</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry, Metallurgy</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Operations, Transporting</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Multiple types refer to the patent granted which covers more than 1 of those types specified.

Library Resources

Number of Bound Volumes in Main and Specialist Libraries: 3,107,298

E-resources

- E-books: 6,903,546
- Databases: 930
- E-video (Excluding E-video and E-audio): 16,515
- E-audio: 171,111
- Computer Files: 18,173
- E-journals (Subscriptions): 248,736
- E-journals (Titles): 201,074
- E-journals (Excluding E-video and E-audio): 16,515

Total Number of Registered Library Users: 122,757

Student Learning Support Resources / Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Library Seats</td>
<td>3,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Discussion Rooms</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Study Carrels / Rooms for Postgraduate Students</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Library</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Library</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Library</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Hours Library Seats for All</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Workstations</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Network Access Points</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Library Workshops</td>
<td>50,435 Reference Transactions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library Resources

- Dental Library: 32,796
- Education Library: 31,120
- Law Library: 145,797
- Medical Library: 222,797
- Fung Ping Shan Library: 1,002,244

Total Library Seats: 1,616,519

Group Discussion Rooms: 54

Single Study Carrels / Rooms for Postgraduate Students: 60

Main Library: 38

Law Library: 35

Medical Library: 262

24 Hours Library Seats for All: 460

Computer Workstations: 189

Wireless Network Access Points: 185

Postgraduate Library Workshops: 50,435 Reference Transactions
### Giving to HKU

**Donation Facts 2018–19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Gifts Received</td>
<td>6,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount of Donations HK$440M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Donors</td>
<td>4,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of First-time Donors</td>
<td>3,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of Alumni vs Non-Alumni Donors</td>
<td>66:34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Computing and Network Resources

**Type of Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Resources</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Wired Network Access Points</td>
<td>53,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Wireless Network Access Points</td>
<td>5,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bandwidth for Direct Connection to the Internet / Research / Education Networks</td>
<td>23.1 (in Gbps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregated Central Computing Power for Teaching and Research Purposes (Theoretical Peak Computing Speed)</td>
<td>126.5 (in TFLOPS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Space

**Distribution of Space by Categories Based on Total Gross Covered Floor Area (as of June 2019)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Gross Covered Floor Area (in sq. m.)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Space</td>
<td>309,252</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Libraries</td>
<td>44,733</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration and Maintenance</td>
<td>27,838</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and Staff Amenities</td>
<td>29,865</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Facilities</td>
<td>14,441</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Halls of Residence and Staff Quarters</td>
<td>275,627</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (Including HKU Museum and HKU Press)</td>
<td>6,654</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Categories</strong></td>
<td><strong>708,310</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Finance

**An Analysis of Consolidated Income and Expenditure for the Year Ending June 30, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>HK$’000</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>HK$’000</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Subventions</td>
<td>5,304,526</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>Teaching, Learning and Research</td>
<td>7,303,859</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition, Programmes and Other Fees</td>
<td>3,116,399</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>Teaching and Research</td>
<td>6,635,832</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Benefactions</td>
<td>442,324</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>259,753</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Services</td>
<td>423,033</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>Central Computing Facilities</td>
<td>227,261</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Investment Gain</td>
<td>520,235</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>Other Academic Services</td>
<td>381,013</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>863,818</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
<td>2,775,476</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,670,325</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,279,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Land Holdings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Lot Area (in Hectares)</th>
<th>Number of Places</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Campus</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Campus</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sites on Pokfulam</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Territories</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadoorie Centre</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All</strong></td>
<td><strong>54.7</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Halls and Student Residences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Number of Places</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Review 2019

Overview

The financial year 2018–19 was the final year of the 2016–19 triennium. The Group has demonstrated its commitment to provide world-class education and research and delivered the impact through internationalisation, innovation and interdisciplinarity. A surplus of $677 million was recorded in the Group’s consolidated financial results, primarily driven by increase in tuition fee and gain from disposal of assets.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the Group has adopted certain new / revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRS) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants which are relevant and applicable to the Group’s operation and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for the University Grants Committee (UGC)-Funded Institutions.

Results for the Year

The Group’s consolidated results for the year ended June 30, 2019 are summarised as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2019 $ million</th>
<th>2018 $ million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>10,670</td>
<td>10,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>(10,279)</td>
<td>(9,455)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus from Operations</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>1,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of Surplus of Joint Ventures</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Associates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on Disposal of Asset Held for Sale</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the Year</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>1,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Comprehensive Loss / Income</td>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Comprehensive Income</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>1,409</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The consolidated income for the year 2018–19 was $10,670 million, a decrease of $176 million from last year. This was impacted by a decrease in investment income along with less donations and benefactions received during the year.

The consolidated expenditure increased by 9% to $10,279 million (2017–18: $9,455 million), of which $7,504 million (2017–18: $6,891 million) was expended on the Group’s teaching, learning and research activities.

Financial Outlook

The financial year 2018–19 concluded the triennium of 2016–19 with a solid financial performance and remarkable achievement in all aspects of teaching, learning, research and knowledge exchange.

Looking ahead, the University is very excited to embark on a new arena with a number of capital projects including the science and engineering hub, the expansion of the Medical Campus, the student hostel projects and other major projects to provide state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities.

The University is prepared to make substantial and long-term investments in human resources, infrastructure and technology upgrades for the pursuit of the education mission. The achievement of these missions would rely on philanthropy support. Two Government Matching Grant Schemes have been launched in July 2019 and August 2019, respectively, and these are good opportunities to help the University secure additional funding for its work.

Amidst all the challenging opportunities, the University shall maintain a conservative, yet creative and flexible financial outlook. Any correspondence or feedback on this extract or the accounts should be emailed to finance-malt@hku.hk.

The University’s Annual Accounts can be found at www.fao.hku.hk/finance. Any correspondence or feedback on this extract or the accounts should be emailed to finance-malt@hku.hk.

The University Profile

Sustainability

1. No Poverty

The total amount of donations for scholarships, bursaries, prizes and loans is $52 million.

2. Zero Hunger

Over 700 students and staff participated in the Edible Spaces Initiative which promotes innovative and sustainable farming on campus and supports local farmers and agriculture through various activities.

3. Good Health and Well-being

19% of HKU students graduated in health professions including graduates of all academic levels.

4. Quality Education

52% of HKU students are the first in their families to attend university.

5. Gender Equality

The proportion of first-degree graduates who were female by subject. All subject areas 54%; STEM 32%; Medicine 82%; Arts and Humanities / Social Sciences 66%. The proportion of women in senior academic positions is 21%.

6. Clean Water and Sanitation

Potable water consumption increased by 2.6%.

7. Affordable and Clean Energy

The amount of renewable energy generated on campus increased by 5.3%.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth

In 2018–19, (I)续don, HKU’s innovation and entrepreneurship hub supported 52 start-up projects and companies. Projects related to Sustainable Development Goals include Chinese Medicine in Sports, EmployMy, Clearaabot and Pola Mola.

10. Reduced Inequalities

The percentage of international first-degree students from developing nations to all international students starting their first degree is 16%.

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Smart Living, Smart Generation initiative in the Jockey Club Student Village III, which accommodates 1,800 students, has resulted in a 14% reduction in energy consumption and savings of $458k.

12. Responsible Consumption and Production

HKU appointed a new waste management service contractor to handle and reduce waste. Total municipal solid waste disposal has reduced by 12.3%, and diversion from landfill has increased by 88.7%.

13. Climate Action

Total greenhouse gas emissions dropped by 11%.

14. Life below Water

Since the policies on disposable plastic water bottles and straws were implemented, HKU saved an estimated 1 million water bottles and 1 million straws per year. The Disposable Plastic Free Campus Policy will be implemented in September 2020.

15. Life on Land

In 2019, the Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre organised the HKU Edible Campus Project which promoted a uptake of sustainable eating and living habits.

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

A cross-disciplinary task force has begun the groundwork for developing a campus-wide sustainability strategy based on the Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations with an effective and accountable governance structure.

17. Partnerships for the Goals

The Hong Kong Sustainable Campus Consortium was convened by HKU in 2019 to strategically promote sustainability leadership through collaborations with other local universities on target-setting, curriculum design and awareness campaigns.

These 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were identified by the United Nations as the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future by 2030. To learn more about HKU’s sustainability initiatives, please visit www.sustainability.hku.hk. Any correspondence or feedback should be emailed to sustainability@hku.hk.
### The University of Hong Kong

#### Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended June 30, 2019

(Expressed in thousands of Hong Kong dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Subventions</td>
<td>5,304,526</td>
<td>5,188,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition, Programmes and Other Fees</td>
<td>3,116,399</td>
<td>2,808,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Benefactions</td>
<td>442,324</td>
<td>640,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Services</td>
<td>423,033</td>
<td>414,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Investment Gain</td>
<td>520,235</td>
<td>930,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>863,818</td>
<td>864,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,670,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,845,970</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching, Learning and Research</td>
<td>6,635,832</td>
<td>6,092,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>259,753</td>
<td>240,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Computing Facilities</td>
<td>227,061</td>
<td>209,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Academic Services</td>
<td>381,013</td>
<td>348,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
<td>585,219</td>
<td>570,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>1,282,797</td>
<td>1,199,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premises and Related Expenses</td>
<td>574,103</td>
<td>498,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and General Education Services</td>
<td>322,357</td>
<td>295,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Activities</td>
<td>10,279,335</td>
<td>9,455,591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Surplus for the Year before Share of Joint Ventures and Associates | 391,000 | 1,390,579 |
| Share of Surplus of Joint Ventures | 8,856 | 9,827 |
| Share of Surplus of Associates | 1,772 | 1,204 |
| Gain on Disposal of Asset Held for Sale | 282,325 | - |
| **Surplus for the Year** | **683,951** | **1,401,810** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Comprehensive (Loss) / Income</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Items that may be recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Differences</td>
<td>(5,794)</td>
<td>3,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Fair Value of an Available-for-Sale Financial Asset</td>
<td>(187)</td>
<td>1,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items that will not be recognised subsequently in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-measurement of Defined Benefit Retirement Scheme Assets</td>
<td>(1,216)</td>
<td>4,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Comprehensive (Loss) / Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>(7,197)</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,890</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Comprehensive Income for the Year | 676,756 | 1,408,500 |

Attributable to:

- UGC Funds | 10,026 | 409,788 |
- Restricted Funds | (207,226) | 33,352 |
- Other Funds | 873,956 | 965,360 |
| **Total Other Comprehensive Income** | **676,756** | **1,408,500** |

### The University of Hong Kong

#### Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at June 30, 2019

(Expressed in thousands of Hong Kong dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>8,356,580</td>
<td>8,497,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible Assets</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td>10,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Subventions</td>
<td>6,661</td>
<td>4,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interests in Joint Ventures</td>
<td>247,462</td>
<td>238,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interests in Associates</td>
<td>572,236</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Investments at Amortised Cost</td>
<td>6,683,677</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss</td>
<td>11,477,921</td>
<td>11,288,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans Receivable</td>
<td>1,365</td>
<td>4,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable, Prepayments and Deposits</td>
<td>1,048,129</td>
<td>628,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defined Benefit Retirement Scheme Assets</td>
<td>11,463</td>
<td>15,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Deposits with Original Maturity over Three Months</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,952,324</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,465,440</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accruals</td>
<td>7,464</td>
<td>4,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefit Accruals</td>
<td>61,039</td>
<td>79,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans and Borrowings</td>
<td>95,068</td>
<td>111,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred Capital Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,948,545</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,032,627</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,152,046</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,128,880</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accruals</td>
<td>2,935,002</td>
<td>2,756,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Due to a Joint Venture</td>
<td>2,080</td>
<td>2,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefit Accruals</td>
<td>807,461</td>
<td>710,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans and Borrowings</td>
<td>105,556</td>
<td>207,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,470,856</strong></td>
<td><strong>742,394</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,320,913</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,419,518</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total Liabilities** | **9,673,959** | **7,848,398** |
| **Total Funds and Liabilities** | **22,646,273** | **20,696,938** |

| Net Current Assets | 6,283,897 | 6,818,053 |
| **Total Assets Less Current Liabilities** | **22,242,421** | **20,848,895** |

#### An Extract from the University's Annual Accounts 2018–19

The Review
 Officers of the University
As at November 15, 2019

Chancellor
The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam
GBM, GBs, BScSc(C) HK, HonDScSc Lingnan

Pro-Chancellor
Dr the Honourable Sir David Li Kwok Po
GBM, GBs, HonLLD Cantab, Warw and HK, HonDScSc CUHK, JP

President and Vice-Chancellor
Professor Xiang Zhang
MS/BS Xiangning, MS/MSMS, PhD Berkeley, MCAS, MNAE, MAS, JP

Pro- and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Richard Wong Yue Ching
SBS, AR, AM, PhD Chc, JP

Executive Vice-President (Administration and Financial) (Acting)
Professor Richard Wong Yue Ching
SBS, AR, AM, PhD Chc, JP

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Staffing and Resources)
Professor Tony Au Kit Fong
AB Harv, PhD Start, APS, APA

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Institutional Advancement)
Professor Norman Tien Chihnan
BS, PhD Chy, MS & PhHy

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor Andy Hor Tai Sum
BSc(Hons) Imperial, DPhil Oxon, DSc Lond, ARCS, FRSC, CChem; FSINIC, FSNAS

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)
Professor Ian Michael Holliday
MA Cantab, MPhil, PhD Oxon

Treasurer
Mrs Margaret Leung Ko May Yee
SBS, BScSc(C) HK, JP

Dean of Faculties
Architecture
Professor Christopher John Webster
BSc, MSc, Weier, PhD Hull

Arts
Professor Derek Burton Collins
BA, MA Cal; PhD Harv

Business and Economics
Professor Cai Hongbin
BS Wuhan; MIEcon Peking; MS, PhD Stan

Ceritity
Professor Thomas Frank Flemming
MBA, Duke; Dr med dent Freiburg, Dr med dent habil Würzburg

Education
Professor Anne Lyn Goodwin
MA, ESLM, SEd Col

Engineering
Professor Christopher Chao Yu Hang
BScEng(C) HK; MS, PhD Cal; LLM

Finance
Professor Fu Hualing
LLB SW Pol Sc & Law, MA Tor, Jd York

Medicine
Professor Gabriel Matthew Leung
QBS, MD W Oxen; MPH Harv; MD HK, FHKICM, FHKAM (Community Medicine); FP(HK)RCP(Lit), FTP; FRCPDent; JP

Science
Professor Matthew Richard Evans
BSc, Biot; PhD Cantab

Social Sciences
Professor William Gordon Hayward
BA, MA Cant; MS, MPhA, PhD Yale

Dean of Student Affairs
Dr Eugenie Leung Yau Sin
BScSc(C), MSScSc HHK; PhD CUHK; CPsych; FHKPsS

Registrar
Mr Henry Wai Wing Kun
BA, MA HK; FCIS

Director of Finance
Ms Lo Sau Mui
BScSc(C) HK; MS Sc HARP; MBA Col; CertICM; CGA; FCCA; FCFA

Librarian
Mr Peter Edward Sidiroko
BMath Newcastle; MAppsCi; B&InforMgtl Charles Sturt; MA Durh; DPhil-Lib NSW, AUUA; FHKLA

Director of Estates
Mr Tam King Leung
AHKIE; FHKICM; MCCES; RPE

The Court
As at November 15, 2019

Membership Category
1. Chancellor
   Pro-Chancellor
   President and Vice-Chancellor
   Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
   Vice-Presidents and Pro-Vice-Chancellors

2. Life Members of Court
   Dr the Hon. Sir Ti Liang Yang

3. Members of the Council
   (a) Chairman
      Six persons, not being students or employees of the University, appointed by the Chancellor
   (b) Six persons, not being students or employees of the University, appointed by the Council
   (c) Two persons, not being students or employees of the University, elected by the Court
   (d) President and Vice-Chancellor
   (e) Treasurer
   (f) Four full-time teachers elected in accordance with regulations
   (g) One full-time employee of the University, not being a teacher, in accordance with regulations
   (h) One full-time undergraduate student elected in accordance with regulations
   (i) One full-time postgraduate student elected in accordance with regulations

Member
The Hon. Mrs Carrie Lam
Dr the Hon. Sir David K.P. Li
Professor X. Zhang
Professor R.Y.C. Wong
Professor T.K.F. Au
Professor I.M. Holiday
Professor T.S.A. Hor
Professor N.C. Tian
Mrs Margaret M.Y. Leung Ko
Dr the Hon. Victor K.K. Fung
Dr the Hon. Leong Che Hung
The Hon. Sir Ti Liang Yang

Professor the Hon. Arthur K.C. Li
Ms Vivien Chan
Mr Jason Chiu
Mr Edward K.W. Ng
Dr Patrick S.C. Poon
Dr Thomas B. Stevenson
Professor Edward K.Y. Chan
Mrs Ayesha M. Lau
The Hon. Abraham L.H. Shok
Dr Peter K.K. Wong
Ms Priscilla P.S. Wong
Professor the Hon. Rosie T.T. Young
Professor Henry H.L. Chan
Mr Tai Kien Man

Professor Z. Chen
Dr R.Y.T. Kao
Professor C.M. Lo
Professor Q.Z.Q. Yue
Mr E.T.M. Cheung
Mr Edward K.F. Chow
Mr Daryl W.K. Ng
Mr Henry H.L. Chan
Mr Tai Kien Man
Mr E.T.M. Cheung
Mr Edward K.F. Chow
Mr Daryl W.K. Ng
Mr Tam King Leung
Mr Edward K.F. Chow
Mr Daryl W.K. Ng
Mr Tam King Leung
Mr Tam King Leung
Mr Edward K.F. Chow
Mr Daryl W.K. Ng

The Court

Membership Category

4. Members of the Senate

(a) President and Vice-Chancellor
(b) Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(c) Vice-Presidents and Pro-Vice-Chancellors
(d) Dean of each Faculty

Member

Professor C.J. Webster (Architecture)
Professor D.B. Collins (Arts)
Professor H. Cal (Business and Economics)
Professor T.F. Flemming (Dentistry)
Professor A.L. Goodwin (Education)
Professor H. Fu (Law)
Professor G.M. Leung (Medicine)
Professor M.R. Evans (Science)
Professor W.G. Hayward (Social Sciences)

(e) Chairman of each Board of the Faculty

Member

Professor K.W. Chau (Architecture)
Professor K.N. Huang (Arts)
Professor K.P. Wong (Business and Economics)
Professor M.C.M. Wong (Dentistry)
Professor L.L.N. Wong (Education)
Professor C.M. Kao (Engineering)
Professor A.H.Y. Chan (Law)
Professor W.C.S. Lau (Medicine)
Professor K.C. Yuan (Science)
Professor K.A. Laidler (Social Sciences)

(f) Twelve elected Professors

Member

Professor D.W. Arner
Professor K.S.E. Cheah
Professor J.C.S. Chim
Professor E.Y.M. Lam
Professor W.C.S. Lau
Professor K.M.Y. Leung
Professor G.C.S. Lin
Professor O.A. Parker
Professor L.M.L. Poon
Professor Z. Tao
Professor G. Xu
Professor A.G.O. Yeh

(g) Six elected teachers, not being Professors

Member

Dr D.M. Baker
Dr N.R. Mc Kenzie
Dr J.J. Timmermans
Dr K.Y. Wong
Dr W.L.M. Wong
Dr W.P. Yau
Professor W.K.M. Lee
Professor F.K.S. Leung
Mr P.E. Sidoenko
Dr E.Y.S. Leung
Dr J. Chen
Mr O.L.H. Leung
Mr D.A. Wan

(h) Director of the School of Professional and Continuing Education

(i) Dean of the Graduate School

(j) Librarian

(k) Dean of Student Affairs

(l) Three elected full-time students (at least one undergraduate and one postgraduate)

5. Registrar

Member

Mr H.W.K. Wai

6. Chairman of Convocation

Member

Dr Patrick S.C. Poon

Deputy Chairman of Convocation

Clerk of Convocation

Member

Ms Ernest Y.K. Wong
Ms Elaine Y.L. Liu

7. Five persons elected by the Members of the Legislative Council from among their own number

......

......

......

8. Twelve members elected from among its number by the Standing Committee of Convocation

Member

Dr Alex W.S. Chan
Ms Allison S.W. Chan
Mr King K.K. Chan
Ms Gloria W.K. Chang
Mr Cheung Ka Lun
Dr Bonnie N.K. Choy
Dr Fu King Wa
Mr Keith W.F. Kiu
Mr Alex C.H. Lai
Mr Dantes W.C. Leung
Dr Liu Chun Wah
Mr Mak Tung Wing
The Court

Membership Category

9. Five members elected by the Court
Ms Wendy K.S. Gan
Dr David T.Y. Mong
Ms Jeffrey H.S. To
Professor Richard Y.H. Yu
Mr George K.H. Yuen

10. Three members elected by the Grant Schools Council
Miss Maggie W.C. Chau
Mr Frederick S.C. Poon
Mr Dennis D.Y. Yuen

11. Three members elected by the Hong Kong Subsidised Secondary Schools Council
Ms Lee Yi Ying
Dr Halina S.H. Poon
Mr Tam Kim Hung

12. Not more than twenty members, not being already included in any of the foregoing classes, appointed by the Chancellor
Ms Louisa W.W. Cheang
Dr Philip N.L. Chen
Mr Ronnie K.Y. Cheng
Mr David M.H. Fong
Ms Andrew H.C. Fung
Ms Sabrina W.Y. Fung
Ms Pansy C.K. Ho
Ms Belinda K.Y. Hung
Dr Ko Wing Man
in Edgar C.P. Kwan
Mr Kenneth B. Li
Professor Walton W.T. Li
Ms Amy C.W. Lo
Mr Weber W.P. Lo
Mr Theodore H. Miu
Mr Sebastian S.W. Man
The Hon. Jasper Y.S. Tsang
Mr Albert H.K. Wong
Dr Allen H.L. Yu
Dr the Hon. Allan Zeman

The Review 2019 is published by the University of Hong Kong.
The Review serves as the President’s annual report, providing a glimpse of the University’s development and achievements during the year.

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Contribution and Feedback
With special thanks to faculties, departments, staff and students who contributed their time and their photographs to The Review 2019.

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