

7 February 2014

Prof Carsten A Holz  
Professor  
Division of Social Science  
HKUST

Dear Prof Holz,

I refer to your letter and email message dated 14 January 2014. On 15 January, I wrote by email to acknowledge your correspondence with copies to Prof Wei Shyy and Prof Kalok Chan.

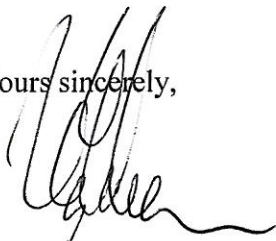
First and foremost, the issues that you have raised should fall under the purview of academic policy and governance. Since the University does have a proper procedural framework in place to coordinate academic matters, including approval of courses, I consider that the University's Staff Grievance Procedures is not the appropriate mechanism to deal with this matter. As a matter of due process, may I draw your attention to section 3 of the Staff Grievance Procedures (SGP) under the sub-heading of "*Definition and Scope*" which stipulates that "*Matters about which an appeal properly lies under separate University procedures ... shall not be resolved with these procedures.*"

I also wish to point out that, if the case had fallen within the scope of SGP, in accordance with section 13 – 15, it should have been brought to the Executive Vice-President & Provost (EVPP) for handling before going straight to the President.

My understanding is that the two departmental Curriculum Committees of Social Science and Economics already met on 21 January to discuss the issues concerned. Colleagues have also reached consensus on a few principles. The University Senate has delegated the overall authority and responsibility for approving undergraduate courses to the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (CUS). The issues that you have raised fall under the ambit of the CUS. If you have any question, you could contact Dr David Mole, Associate Provost (Teaching and Learning), in his capacity as Secretary to the CUS for advice on the appropriate academic procedures to follow.

I sincerely hope that once the academic process has been clarified, you will find it possible to resolve the issues to your own satisfaction. May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a healthy and rewarding Year of the Horse.

Yours sincerely,



Tony F Chan  
President

c.c. Prof Wei Shyy (EVPP), Dr David Mole, Prof Kalok Chan, Prof Siu Fai Leung,  
Prof James Lee, Prof Kellee Tsai

*Celebrating 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*