Meeting Summary

Date: 2 June 2014
Time: 2:30 pm to 3:00pm
Venue: President's Office
Participants:

- President Tony Chan
- Prof Carsten Holz
- Ernest Chan (observer)

Key Points of Understanding

- President summarized Prof Holz's real "grievance" as follows:-
    1. "double-standard" of UASC in evaluating Prof Holz as an economist but he was not allowed a free hand in teaching economic courses
    2. dispute on economic course offerings between ECON and SOSC

- Prof Holz and the President agree that the dispute on economic course offerings is both a structural problem and an academic matter.

- Prof Holz also regards the UASC issue as closed, and as having clear implications for teaching today.

- Prof Holz opined that the previous communications between SOSC and ECON do not resolve his core concern that ECON retains the ability to prevent SOSC economists from teaching certain types of economics courses. He added that SOSC should not act as a service department to ECON in teaching Common Core courses and it falls short of academic freedom by asking SOSC to have to use ECON's course number, text book, syllabus and grading method.

- Prof Holz supplemented that his views are being shared by the economists in SOSC although he is not representing them as a group.

- Finally, President and Prof Holz reached understanding that:-
    1. It would be best for the EVPP, who oversees all academic affairs for the University, to bring ECON and SOSC together to see whether a compromise can be made over the 2 units' disputes on economic course offerings; and
    2. If a compromise is not possible, then SOSC or Prof Holz himself could consider bringing the case up with Senate, which is the statutory supreme academic body of the University, starting with the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (CUS). CUS is authorized by the Senate to monitor and review procedures, quality and performance relating to undergraduate studies.
    3. If the issue at stake is still unresolved at the CUS level, then either SOSC or Prof Holz himself can appeal to the Senate which is the final academic authority to make a ruling. The Senate Chair will make a decision on the actual arrangement for the final appeal proceedings.

- Given the above understanding, Prof Holz accepts that an informal resolution of Prof Holz's grievance against the President lodged with the Council Chair has been achieved.

ENDs