FW: Questions for Council Chairman
Carsten A. Holz <cholz@princeton.edu>   Mon, May 26, 2008 at 8:57 PM

From: owner-sosc-fac-list@ust.hk on behalf of HOLZ Carsten
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2008 3:56:34 PM
To: editor@ust.hk; ck@ust.hk
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Subject: Questions for Council Chairman

CK, thanks,

here are a couple of questions for the new Council Chairman:

(1) Are there any plans to turn HKUST into a university?
This includes, for example:
(a) tenure -- rather than a university right to fire faculty members at
four months' notice without explanation given;
(b) a university body that represents faculty members -- this is typically
a 'University Faculty' plus, academically, a Senat that 100% represents
faculty members (where HKUST only has a Senate, of whose 53 members only
17 represent faculty members);
(c) clearly codified rights that guarantee faculty members the right to
participation in department, school and university matters -- currently,
faculty members have near-zero rights as members of a department and
school, where even some little right to confirm some committee is de facto
done away with.
The question could also be rephrased: what are faculty members' rights
beyond the right to terminate their contracts at four months' notice? At
North American universities, one finds a whole slate of clearly defined and
codified rights to academic self-administration ranging from selection of
the department head by a department's faculty members to joint faculty
decisions on tenure of a colleague. At HKUST, one finds nothing, or next to
nothing of usual university practices. Do you have any plans to turn HKUST
academic employees into university professors?

(2) Who is the Ombudsman, or what is the oversight or disciplinary
committee that faculty members can contact for redress against violation
of university rules by university management?

Regards,
Carsten
Carsten A. HOLZ, Associate Professor, SOSC
No need for anonymity. I've been commenting on HKUST matters at
http://ihome.ust.hk/~socholz/HKUST-SOSC.html for a while.