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**0.4% salary cut**

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Bcc: [School faculty]

Dear colleagues in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences,

to continue the tradition: Dean James Lee's annual f\*ck-you letter of 3Nov2017 gave me a 0.94% nominal salary increase that brings my salary to HK\$108,470 per month. With a year-on-year March 2017 CPI of 0.5%, or of 1.3% without government one-off effects, my salary change is a 0.4% real salary cut (none of the one-off government effects benefited me).

My actual salary cut is 5-8%. I see it in the rent and in eating out, and it's big and undeniable and the official CPI in no way reflects the changes in what I am actually paying. (An expat living expenditure survey would be more meaningful.)

I am not attaching my Annual Activities Report because I didn't fill it in. Why participate in Provost Shyy Wei and Dean James Lee's sick game of thuggery? HKUST regulations require me to submit the Report, so I pressed the submit button.

>"Of course it will harm the morale of civil servants," said Steven Wong Hung-lok, chairman of the Senior Government Officers Association. "We are disappointed."< [That's on the originally projected 1.38-2.44% pay increase in 2017 for civil servants.  
<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/economy/article/2094809/civil-servants-hong-kong-will-see-only-small-pay-rise-next> ]

In the end, even the worst-faring civil servant got a 1 percentage point higher salary increase than I did (and similarly for the private sector employee), and that ignores any (additional) performance-based promotions that they may have received.

It's been five years that Provost Shyy Wei and Dean James Lee year in year out intentionally and severely harm the morale of faculty (and that the price changes that I experience monstrously diverge from my salary change). By cutting real salaries, Shyy Wei and James Lee also invalidate/cancel substantiation. I.e., Shyy Wei and James Lee are gunning for the total destruction of academia at HKUST.

Or are they focusing their slash and burn warfare on the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)? Some additional evidence here: Shyy Wei / James Lee's reduction in HSS PGSSs, and the reduction in HSS's share of the total university budget from 6.78% to 6.16%.

Or are they targeting individuals in HSS? The additional evidence here is that James Lee hands out chair professorships to those who kiss his ass and help him break university "rules." (And those who don't, get f\*cked.)

I'll be asking for a contract extension by 30 years to age 95. The approximately 600sqft (actual square footage) apartment that I am currently renting costs HKD 21.5mio to buy. It's a crappy apartment (I spare you the details), but let's assume I want to buy something this crappy, and let's assume I can spend half(!) of my monthly after-tax after-pension-contribution salary (\$42,303) on a mortgage, and the interest rate is 0%. This means it'll take me 42 years to repay the mortgage. I am age 53. Adding 42 years takes me to age 95. If the interest rate is 1%, I'll need an extension to age 108. And if it's 2.4% or more, then half my salary can't even pay the interest on the mortgage... I guess that pretty much explains Shyy Wei and James Lee's open warfare: there is no livelihood, no career, no realistic retirement funding, they are such a failure that all they can do is bomb the place (after helping their cronies onto safe land).

Best,  
Carsten