

HKU-CUHK-HKUST

Joint Centre for Advanced Study

Background

In its January 2004 publication: *Hong Kong Higher Education – To Make a Difference – To Move with the Times*, the University Grants Committee (UGC) states that it values a ‘...deeply collaborative system of higher education where each institution has its own role and purpose, while at the same time being committed to extensive collaboration with other institutions in order that the system can sustain a greater variety of offerings at a high level of quality and with improving efficiency’. In particular, the UGC supports the development of strategic alliances and deep collaboration.

The University of Hong Kong (HKU), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) have agreed to work together to develop greater cooperation and deeper collaboration in pursuit of these goals, with the explicit intention of developing their capability to compete at highest international levels.

Initiative

As a concrete plan to realize the deep collaboration, the three universities will establish a Joint Centre for Advanced Study. The first initiative of the Centre is the joint offering of coursework for research postgraduates by the three collaborating institutions.

Basic Goals

Creating a joint centre for the offering of advanced coursework for research postgraduates in a programme would make more efficient use of academic staff, broader range of courses and freeing up time for other professional pursuits. The enriched programme, with more coursework choices, access to the combined strengths of the academic staff of all three universities, and opportunities for students and staff from all three universities to interact with one another, will be competitive with comparable programmes offered anywhere in the world.

Plan

A *Joint Centre for Advanced Study* will be established with various Programmes for the participating academic disciplines under it, one of which would be joint teaching of postgraduate courses. Other activities could include joint colloquia and workshops, distinguished visiting scholars, and other activities that promote learning and research.

Progress

The collaboration will proceed and deepen in three phases:

<u>Target</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Phase I</u> Setting up a <i>virtual Centre</i> with one or more <i>Programmes</i> that offer joint courses on the three campuses	Joint courses offered starting September 2004
<u>Phase II</u> Securing external support for other activities of the Programmes; for example, a scheme to invite distinguished overseas academics as <i>Visiting Centre Fellows</i> to lecture for these joint courses	September 2005 for first such Centre fellows
<u>Phase III</u> Securing external support and finding a suitable site for a <i>physical Centre</i> to act as permanent home for the Centre, and where such joint courses could be held	Long term goal, desirability and feasibility needs to be established

Course Management

Research postgraduate students would continue to receive their research supervision from their home institution, which would also determine the degree requirements and award the degree, but they would take all or part of their coursework at the Centre.

Joint Courses

The following joint courses are offered by the Centre in the 2004/05 academic year:

1st Term 2004/05

General Course Title	Offering University
Real Analysis	CUHK
Algebra	HKUST
Topics in Experimental Physics	CUHK
Statistical Mechanics II	HKUST
Principles & Methods of Research	CUHK

2nd Term 2004/05

General Course Title	Offering University
Complex Analysis	HKU
Numerical Analysis	HKUST
Several Complex Variables	HKU
Surface Science	CUHK
Advanced Topics in Theoretical Physics	HKU
From Group Theory, Spectroscopy and Photophysics to Applications of Metal-Based Materials	HKU

Centre Management Committee

The following persons form the Centre Management Committee:

- Professor Paul Tam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Mrs Yvonne Koo, Senior Assistant Registrar, HKU
- Professor Kenneth Young, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Mr Lee Shu Wing, Deputy Registrar, CUHK
- Professor Yuk Shee Chan, Vice-President and Professor Peter Dobson, Associate Vice-President, HKUST