

## **Pro-establishment lawmakers' grab all CUHK Council seats allocated to members of the legislative council – The CUHK Employees General Union (CUEGU) responds**

Members of the Legislative Council House Committee elected three members to serve as members on the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Council today. They are the Liberal Party's Tommy Cheung Yu-yan (Catering), the Federation of Trade Unions' (FTU) Ho Kai-ming (Labour) and the DAB's Edward Lau Kwok-fan (District Council I). All three are functional constituency lawmakers from the pro-establishment camp. This is a highly unusual situation.

Previously, there had always been an agreement among legislators that lawmakers from different camps should serve on the university councils. Since 1997, there have always been two pro-establishment lawmakers (one from either the DAB or the FTU) and one pan-democratic legislator on the CUHK Council (the only exception being in 2010-2012 when then council member Raymond Wong Yuk-man resigned his legislative council seat, and his CUHK Council seat was taken by Paul Chan Mo-po). The current legislative council has clearly destroyed the basic principles of mutual respect and coordination within the democratic legislative process. The effect of which is to push the CUHK Council towards a more pro-establishment political direction. Given that CUHK has started the search for a new vice-chancellor and is in the process of reforming the composition of the council, this move inevitably leads to suspicion that the pro-establishment camp is intent on influencing the outcomes and manipulating CUHK affairs.

CUEGU has repeatedly made specific suggestions and called for CUHK to speed up the process of democratizing university administration. For instance, we believe council members from the legislative council should all be geographical constituency lawmakers in order to realize society's democratic oversight over university affairs. The fact that the newly elected legco members on the CUHK council are functional constituency lawmakers, who were not elected through fully democratic means, stands in opposition to the democratic principles we advocate for the running of university affairs.

We urge all CUHK staff, students and alumni to closely monitor developments, to keep up the efforts CUHK'ers have made over the years to strive for greater democratization of university affairs, and to protect our university from the interference of political black hands. CUEGU calls on former and current members of the council to cherish CUHK, to uphold that which is right and maintain an open attitude. We hope they can steadfastly resist political interference and black box operations in all school matters whether large or small. Do not become enemies of the CUHK community or stand on the wrong side of history.

The CUHK Employees General Union  
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