

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alumni:

The college system is a precious tradition of CUHK, which underpins the founding vision of the University. However, as the University enrolment grows through the years, the size of the four existing Colleges continues to expand. At present, each College has an average enrolment of 2,500 students. When the University reverts to a four-year undergraduate curriculum in 2012, there will be a further increase of 3,000 students. If these additional students are distributed to the four Colleges, it will certainly bring pressure on the Colleges, making it difficult for them to maintain an intimate college environment.

For this reason, the University decided to form new colleges and appointed a Task Force on New Colleges to conduct an on-site review of the successful college systems of six leading universities/colleges in mid-January. After discussion and deliberation, the Task Force has compiled its findings on the successful experiences and common features of these colleges together with its recommendations in a report to the University. The Task Force report (English version) was forwarded to colleagues, students and alumni of the University via e-mail on 16 February with the aim to stimulate discussion. Please let us have your views by sending them to the designated email address of the Task Force (secretary@cuhk.edu.hk) during the consultation period which will last until March 31, 2006.

To facilitate communication, Task Force members and I have scheduled presentations and sessions at the College bi-weekly and monthly Assemblies, Assembly of Fellows meetings and alumni gatherings, to share our observations and recommendations ([Appendix 1](#)). An open forum will also be organized to enable sharing of views with all students. So far, we have attended the United College Assembly, United College Annual Workshop and meeting of the Assembly of Fellows of Shaw College. Next Friday, we will attend the Student Union Forum of Shaw College. In the coming weeks, we will have the opportunity to meet more students to listen to their views by attending gatherings of other Colleges. Collated views and suggestions will then be submitted to the University for further study.

We have received many valuable opinions and suggestions for which we are thankful. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the following points to clarify some misunderstandings that may have arisen:

- a) Funding for the establishment the new colleges will be raised through donations. The resources allocated by the University to the existing Colleges will not be affected. Meanwhile, the University will continue to work together with the existing Colleges to raise funds to ensure their further development.
- b) Regardless of the model adopted for the new colleges, the ultimate goal is to promote an intimate learning and living environment, and to provide quality whole-person education for our students. This is in line with the goal of our existing Colleges. New colleges will offer students a choice and add diversity to the campus. We understand students may have different expectations about their college experience, and we respect their choices. In order that all students may have equal opportunity in making choices, the Task Force recommends that the new colleges should provide bursaries for students with

financial needs to ensure that no student who intends to join the new colleges will be discouraged because of financial reasons.

- c) The Report submitted by the Task Force is now under consultation. Upon completion of the consultation period, the Task Force will collate views and suggestions received for the University's further consideration.

The Task Force has responded to some of the questions commonly raised on the Report. The Q&A has been consolidated and attached (Appendix 2). The Chinese version of the Report is also enclosed (Appendix 3).

The establishment of new colleges is an important milestone in the development of CUHK. It represents the University's commitment to further promote the collegiate system. We look forward to receiving your valuable opinions.

Wish best wishes,

Liu Pak-wai
Chairman
Task Force on New Colleges

February 26, 2006

Enclosures:

Appendix 1 Schedule of Meetings with Staff, Students and Alumni

Appendix 2 Q&A

Appendix 3 Report of the Task Force on New Colleges (Chinese Version)