Message from the Chairman of Convocation

Dear Fellow Convocation Members,

At this festive season, may I extend to all Convocation Members best wishes for good health, prosperity and happiness.

This is also the time we welcome all fresh graduates to the Convocation. I participated in some of the HKU congregations this year and enjoyed the opportunity to share the joy and pride of the graduates and their families at this important milestone of their lives. As members of the Convocation, they are joining the 168,000 other seniors in taking the privilege of continuing their connection with our \textit{alma mater}. They can further their pride as HKU alumni by enhancing the value and image of HKU through suggestions, discussions and debates via Convocation forums, networking, donations, mentorship, representation and other means.

Representing Convocation members are 24 Standing Committee (SC) members. The retiring eight SC members at the Ordinary General Meeting held on June 23, 2016 were replaced by six new and two re-elected members (marked with * below). John Wan 溫頌安 (BSc 1970; MBuddhStud 2007) resigned his Convocation Chairmanship and SC membership on September 21, 2016. I was elected by the SC to succeed his position as the Chairman.

The SC then co-opted Dr Christian Fang, Clinical Assistant Professor of Practice, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology to replace John and elected Ernest Wong to succeed me as Deputy Chairman of Convocation. Mona Tam’s term of office as Clerk of Convocation expired on July 4, 2016 and Elaine Liu was elected by the SC to succeed her.

I would like to report some of the activities. A \textit{SC brainstorming session} was held on August 21, 2016 with an aim to review the current position of the HKU Convocation and discuss strategies and plans for the coming year. A \textit{Fellowship Dinner} was held in July 2016 to welcome new Standing Committee Members and thank the outgoing ones.

The \textit{University Affairs Subcommittee} headed by Convenor Ernest Wong will organise three to four Convocation Forums this year. The Subcommittee and SC members also participated in collecting and giving opinions and suggestions to the HKU Governance Review Panel set up by the HKU Council and look forward to further work when the Panel's report is released.

Convenor Elaine Liu of the \textit{House Subcommittee} led the work on reviewing the Convocation’s Mission, Constitution and Rules. It also helped upgrade various administrative processes. Members would have noticed
the electronic voting procedure was simplified at the last Ordinary General Meeting. A process of review of SC members’ nominations to co-opt the SC and its subcommittee members was also established to help the SC make its decisions in filling new vacancies. This will ensure that these new vacancies are filled by Convocation members having the right competence to discharge their duties and responsibilities.

The **Member Relations Subcommittee** under the leadership of Convenor Andrew Kuet will embark on more innovative ways to enhance the relationships between Convocation members and HKU. The relatively large number of fresh graduates in the past decade would be an area of focus. The Subcommittee will organise SC visits to different areas of HKU to increase knowledge and understanding of HKU’s operations.

The **Communications Subcommittee** led by Convenor Andrew Fung handles the Convocation’s communications with the public and the media, including the enhancement of the Convocation’s web page and Newsletter in both its design and content. The use of social media is an issue being considered by the Subcommittee.

New SC member Mak Tung-wing is the Convenor of the **Finance Subcommittee**. The Subcommittee is studying the feasibility and implementation details of a proposal for Convocation Members to participate in a fundraising campaign to help the University. I, in the role of Deputy Chairman for the HKU Foundation for Educational Development and Research, welcome this idea and hope that Convocation Members can, once again, as in times past, help our students, teachers and researchers financially.

The latest Convocation activity was the **Convocation Forum** held on November 30, 2016 at which Council Chairman Professor Arthur Li (left in the photo) talked to our members under the theme of “University’s past, present and future”. His speech and the Q&A session chaired by Tai Keen-man 戴健文 (BSc 1977; MPhil 1983) can be viewed at [www.convocation.hku.hk](http://www.convocation.hku.hk).

The SC looks forward to working with all our members to achieve the Convocation's Mission and help HKU realise its Asia's Global University Vision. I have the fortune to be given the opportunity to lead the SC in this important endeavour. Although my leadership style is more a supportive than controlling one, my focus remains on building a SC that has a strong sense of responsibility, mutual trust and an insistence for excellence. We entered HKU with a great sense of pride and expectation from our family and society. We will strive to keep it throughout our lives.

Happy New Year!

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Poon
Chairman of Convocation