To all PolyU students

**Monthly update about arrangements for academic year 2012/13 (May 2012)**

Dear Students

Most of you should have already taken some break after your examination and are proceeding with your plan for the long summer holidays. We at the University are busily engaged in the preparation for the admission of double cohort in coming September, to tie in the implementation of Government’s academic reform. This is going to be a challenging exercise, not only for PolyU, but for all the eight institutes in Hong Kong. As you are among the most important stakeholders, I therefore plan to provide you with a monthly update in the coming few months, with a view to keeping you posted of all the related development.

In coming September, PolyU will admit 3,400 and 2,600 students respectively for the three-year and four-year undergraduate programme. To address the need for additional space for teaching and learning, the University has undertaken a number of large-scale capital projects to enhance the campus environment since 2009. The Student Hostel, which will make available 1,650 hostel places, will be ready for occupation before September this year. Application for hall residence is now underway and if you are interested and have not yet submitted your application, you may still do so before 28 May.

The Phase 8 development and the Innovation Tower, however, will unlikely be ready for use in Semester 1 of 2012/13. The technical constraints of the two sites have caused many unexpected complications to the construction works. While colleagues will continue to work very hard to speed up the progress of these projects, we have to plan ahead to alleviate the short-term space problem. I would like to update you our initial plan on this:

1. **Acquire additional space in the neighbouring area for teaching purpose**
   - Renting a lecture theatre at the Hong Kong Science Museum, Tsim Sha Tsui East
   - Creating a lecture theatre at the Hunghom Student Hostel
   - Securing the use of the ex-Lee Wai Lee (ex-LWL) campus in Kowloon Tong (under the Institute of Vocational Education (IVE)), as well as the Hunghom and West Kowloon campuses of the Hong Kong Community College (HKCC)

2. **Extend the teaching hours on weekdays and on Saturdays**
   - Some classes may have to be scheduled in the 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. timeslots on weekdays
   - Some classes may have to be held on Saturdays (from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.) but they will be mostly for the General University Requirements (GUR) subjects,
underpinning subjects for the admittees from the New Secondary Curriculum, and some subjects of very large class size.

We have just started to compile the Semester 1 timetables of 2012/13 and should be able to provide you with more details by mid to end June. Please watch out for the next update in end June.

I hope that you would understand the constraints we have and we certainly count on your support to ensure a smooth implementation of the new academic structure, a major initiative by the Government to enhance the quality of higher education for the benefit of the society. I welcome your suggestions and views on our various measures to cope with the changes. Please write to me at (ppyuen@polyu.edu.hk).

I wish you a happy summer break.

Prof Walter W Yuen
Vice President (Academic Development)

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