

Dear Students, Colleagues and Alumni

Campus Update

Over the past week, the PolyU campus has been occupied by activists. The situation is dangerous and we have been appealing to the people on the campus to leave as soon as possible. We have been making every effort, including liaising with the Police to seek peaceful ways, to resolve the deadlock. We are very concerned about the personal safety of all the people staying on the campus. Therefore, members of the management team have gone into the campus a couple times in small groups to persuade them to leave, and to better understand the latest situation of the campus.

We are also very worried that those staying on campus may not be able to receive immediate paramedic support or medical treatment in case of injury, physical weakness or succumbing to hypothermia. We have, therefore, been in close contact with the Hong Kong Red Cross. Through coordination with the Police, a Red Cross first-aid team was able to enter the campus, both on Monday (18 Nov) and yesterday (19 Nov), to search for the injured and to provide them with proper treatment.

Originally, we had planned to go inside the campus in the early hours of Monday morning in order to persuade our students and staff members to leave, with the promise that we would accompany them to the police station both to ensure their safety and that their cases would be fairly processed. However, the Police advised us against entering in view of the dangerous conditions onsite. President Teng, therefore recorded a video clip to reiterate our appeals to those on campus.

On Monday afternoon, we met with Mr. Siu Chak Yee, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) of the Hong Kong Police Force with the aim of urging the Police to consider as paramount the personal safety of all concerned in their operations so as to prevent injuries; not to immediately enter the campus in order to give us time to continue advising people remaining on campus to leave; and to treat all arrested persons with fairness and in a humanitarian way. Our entire management team, including faculty deans waited near the campus since Monday afternoon. We hope that the students who are willing to leave might be comforted to see their teachers waiting there to support them and wish them safe.

Yesterday, we went back to the campus to understand the evolving situation. The campus is in complete disarray. Dangerous chemicals and piles of charred wreckage are on the ground, emitting an acrid smell that may affect human health. The situation on the campus is extremely dangerous. We do, however, feel a bit relieved knowing that a majority of those who had been on campus have been able to leave safely. The management team and teachers will continue today to make our utmost further efforts to persuade those who remain to leave the campus.

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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