Message from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Happy New Year!

It is a custom to review and plan in the beginning of a new year. In this first issue of the newsletter in 1995, I would like to share with you a retrospect of Academic Affairs in the past three years, my plans and academic focus in the current year, and some vision in the years to come.

During the last three years since I assumed my current responsibility as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, I have established one different area for emphasis each year in order to provide focus to my leadership.

In the 1991-92 academic year, my focus was on establishing a sound and systematic appointment review procedure. A world-class university needs world-class faculty and a sound system for appointment review is the basic ingredient to accomplish this task. Our current three-tier review system, from the department to the school and university level, originated at that time has been one of the respected stories of our operation.

In 1992-93, my special emphasis was on faculty retention. I fully realized that at that stage of development of this new University, it was crucial to stabilize and to retain the first group of our faculty recruited. Through concerted effort and collective wisdom at all levels, we have set up and implemented an academic review system which has drawn a wide support and respect in meeting the very high expectation and standards of the University. More importantly, it distinguishes HKUST from others.

During the current 1994-95 academic year, I am focusing on teaching effectiveness. The emphasis of the importance of teaching is very crucial, particularly for a new University with large proportion of new faculty. I have been attending random classes periodically to review the teaching environment, including the class size, the length of class period, the attendance and class behaviour of students as well as the service and support provided in the classrooms. In addition, we also plan to offer a voluntary facility of video-taping classes for faculty's own review only.

I plan to focus my attention on postgraduate studies and research during the 1995-96 academic year. I hope to review the entire postgraduate programme from admission to graduation, from curriculum to supervision, from research programme to work load, and from studentship to travel grants in order to establish a strong postgraduate research programme in a strong research environment of a strong research university.

During the 1996-97 academic year, my current plan is to revisit the entire academic programme. By 1996, we would have 640 faculty and 7000 students (FTE), and three classes of undergraduate students would have been graduated. With the experience of our operation and inputs from our faculty and graduates, it will be timely to review the academic programme and complete the revision of the current Academic Planning Report before 1997. We should also keep our mind open and be prepared to meet challenges, such as the change from three to four years programme.

cont’d on page 2
In the coming issues of this bimonthly newsletter, I am going to share with you my other views, plans, and report on on-going issues and operations in the Academic Affairs Branch. The following is a brief outline of the topics:


2. **Deans' Retreat in February**: on strengthening departments as an organizational and functional unit *(March Issue)*

3. **Deans' Meeting**: how we operate as a team in Academic Affairs *(May Issue)*

4. **Academic Affairs Office**: organization and staff responsibilities *(July Issue)*

5. **Faculty Orientation in September**: an overview of the University, faculty's duties and responsibilities, academic programmes, services, and classroom teaching issues will be introduced and discussed *(September Issue)*


Wish you all a productive academic year!

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**Professor Ping CHENG, Head and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, effective from 1 January 1995**

Educated in U.S.A., Professor Cheng came to HKUST from the University of Hawaii, at Manoa where he was the Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He has made outstanding research achievements and his research interests are in the area of heat transfer and energy conversion. He publishes widely and commands an international reputation.

**Professor John C.Y. WANG, Head and Professor of Humanities, effective from 1 January 1995**

Educated in Taiwan and U.S.A., Professor Wang came to HKUST from Stanford University where he was Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature, holder of the Edward Clark Crossett Professorship of Humanistic Studies, and Director of Center for Chinese Language and Cultural Studies. His research interest lies in Traditional Chinese Narrative and Literary Criticism. He publishes widely and is an internationally renowned scholar in classical Chinese fiction.

**Professor Leonard CHENG was appointed as Acting Head of Department of Economics, in addition to his duties as Associate Dean of Business and Management and Professor of Economics. The appointment will be for the period from 1 January to 31 August 1995, or until a substantive Head of the Department of Economics is in post, whichever comes earlier.**

**Dr. Matthew YUEN was appointed as Director of CAD/CAM Centre for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1995, in addition to his duty as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.**

**Professor Yiu-Wing MAI was reappointed as Interim Director of Centre for Advanced Engineering Materials in addition to his duty as Professor of Mechanical Engineering. The appointment will be for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995, or until a substantive Director is in post, whichever comes earlier.**
Between 1 November 1994 and 31 December 1994, the University had made 45 academic appointment offers. As of 31 December 1994, 24 appointees had accepted our offers, 20 had not replied, and 1 declined.

**Faculty Members came on board in November and December 1994**

**School of Engineering**

Dr. Xijun HU, Assistant Professor in Chemical Engineering, PhD *Univ of Queensland*

Dr Li DENG, Visiting Associate Professor in Computer Science, PhD *Univ of Wisconsin-Madison*

Dr Chi-Ying TSUI, Assistant Professor in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, PhD *Univ of Southern California*

Professor Dinghua SHI, Visiting Scholar of Industrial Engineering, BS *Jiangxi Univ*

Dr Jang-Kyo KIM, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, PhD *Univ of Sydney*

Dr David C.C. LAM, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, PhD *Univ of California, Santa Barbara*

**School of Business and Management**

Professor Noel CAPON, Visiting Professor of Marketing, PhD *Columbia Univ and London Univ*

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<td>Academic Review for Reappointment, Dec 95 *</td>
<td>30 Jan 95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Promotion in Title, 1995</td>
<td>15 Feb 95</td>
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<td>Academic Review for Reappointment, Jun 96 *</td>
<td>31 Jul 95</td>
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<td>Substantiation Review, 95/96</td>
<td>1 Oct 95</td>
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* Letters have been/will be sent to individual faculty members who are due for renewal.

Policies and procedures for the above reviews can be found in Faculty Handbook 1994-95 and the relevant sections of the Academic Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.