

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD
FROM DECEMBER 2005 TO NOVEMBER 2006

During the report period, the Association's Executive Committee has held 8 meetings. Below is a brief account of the work done.

The University

On 23 January 2006, the President and Hon. Treasurer joined the 1.23 HKU Family Year-end Party at the Lodge.

On 18 February 2006, the President attended a special preview of conceptual ideas in planning the centennial campus at The University Museum and Art Gallery.

On 24 March 2006, the Association and 79 HKU alumni bodies placed an advertisement in Ming Pao and HK Economic Times to mark the University's 95th anniversary.

On 27 October 2006, the Executive Committee responded to the University Council's consultation on the possible re-appointment of the Vice-Chancellor.

On 27 November 2006, the Executive Committee and some friends of the Faculty were invited to a gathering with the Vice-Chancellor at the Lodge.

The Faculty

The Dean attended the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16 February 2006 to advise the Committee of the fourth proposed development plan of the Faculty and to introduce four designs of the Centennial Campus of The University of Hong Kong prepared by four different design consortiums.

On 30 March 2006, the President attended the Professorship in Jurisprudence Dedication Ceremony at the Lodge.

On 3 June 2006, a drinks party was held in the Juror Assembly Room, High Court by the Faculty for the PCLL students and members of the Association were invited to attend the party to mingle with the students.

On 28 June 2006, the President attended the ceremony for Master of Common Law graduands.

On 7 September 2006, the President attended the LLB Opening Ceremony and addressed the Class of 2010.

On 18 November 2006, the President attended the Faculty Graduation Ceremony and participated in the Procession.

Law Association HKUSU

Members of the Association were invited to attend the High Table Dinner of the Law Association on 7 April 2006. The President and some members attended.

Informal Gatherings with Young Alumni

On 27 June 2006, the Hon. Mr Justice Chan, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, invited some young HKU graduates who had joined the Bar to a lunch gathering.

http://www.hku.hk/law/community/_file/LUNCHGATHERINGWITHPATRICKCHANPJ.pdf

Talk and Workshop for Current Students

The “First Day in Legal Practice” talk was held on 21 April 2006. Ms Cissy Leung, Ms Olivia Leung, Ms Elaine Liu and Mr Erik Shum shared their experience of their first day in work with about 47 law students.

http://www.hku.hk/law/community/alumni_18.html

The Job Interview Workshop was held on 28 September 2006. It was conducted in two parts. The first part was a mock interview performed on stage by three experienced alumni, Ms Au Miu Po, Ms Mimmie Chan and Mr Simon Ip Shing Hing, with law students seeking to apply to the hypothetical employer, Wilkinson & Grist, for traineeship positions, followed by the mock interviewers’ feedbacks and comments to the students. In the second part, Ms Cissy Leung gave a presentation on the preparation required for an interview and the “Do’s and Don’t’s” techniques. Finally, there was a Q&A session.

http://www.hku.hk/law/community/_file/Job%20Interview%20Workshop%20Report%202006.pdf

Law Mentorship Programme

The Faculty Development Officer's report on the Mentorship Programme was received on 27 November 2006. Please see her report (without annexes) in Appendix I below.

Charitable Organization

The HKU Law Alumni Charity Limited, a section 88 charitable body under the Inland Revenue Ordinance, Cap. 112, received its first donation this year.

In Memoriam

The Executive Committee was greatly saddened to hear the news that Professor Dafydd Evans, the founding Head and Dean of HKU's law school, passed away on 1 April 2006. A letter of condolence was sent to Mrs Evans on 7 April 2006.

December 2006

Report on the Mentorship Programme 2006-2007

Introduction

The Law Mentorship Programme 2006-2007 is the fourth mentorship programme since its first launch in October 2002. The Law Mentorship Programme (“the Programme”) is jointly organized by the Faculty of Law and The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Association (“the Law Alumni Association”). It aims to provide law students with the opportunity to meet legal practitioners and judges and to enhance their educational, social and personal growth through a supportive relationship with their mentors. Over the years, the Law Alumni Association has provided tremendous support and assistance in the organisation and running of the Programme, particularly in engaging the support of members of the profession and the Judiciary, many of whom are our alumni.

For the academic year 2006-2007, 137 mentors and 292 mentees participated in the Programme. To initiate the first contact between the mentors and their mentees, the Faculty and the Law Alumni Association organized the Mentorship Dinners on 31 October, 2, 6 and 7 November 2006. It is expected that the mentees will take the initiative to organize at least one more gathering before end of March 2007. It is also hoped that apart from these two gatherings, individual mentees and their mentors can develop further relationship through other communications and/or meetings.

1. Purposes of the programme

- To provide an opportunity for law students to learn more about the careers in the legal profession
- To enhance personal development of students through interaction with their mentors
- To enable members of the legal profession to understand more about the life of law students nowadays

2. Recruitment

Recruitment of Students

The total number of applicants for the academic year 2006 – 2007 is 437. Out of these applications, 326 students had attended the Briefing Session on 29 September 2006 and mentees were selected from students who had attended the Briefing Session. Priority was given to PCLL students and students who were rejected in previous years. The total number of mentees selected is 293.

Please see Annex 2 for the profile of mentees.

Recruitment of Mentors

Letters were sent out to about 230 practitioners and judges on 22 September 2006 to invite them to be the mentors. By about mid October 2006, about 80 mentors have

responded and have agreed to be mentors for this academic year. 57 mentors have replied and have indicated that they would not be able to attend. About 90 mentors have not responded.

From mid-October to the week before the Mentorship Dinner, members of Exco have greatly assisted the progress by contacting new mentors and have actively followed up with mentors who have not responded. By the end of October, the total number of mentors was 128 and active lobbying was stopped. The total number eventually grew to 137. The total number of new mentors for this academic year is 39.

Please see Annex 3 for the profile of the mentors.

2. The Briefing Session

The Faculty had initially reserved the following dates for organizing the Briefing Session: 22, 26 and 29 September 2006.

During the meeting of the Executive Committee (“Exco”) of the Law Alumni Association on 5 September, members of the Exco had kindly suggested 6 mentors who could be potential speakers for the briefing. The Faculty contacted them but unfortunately, none of them were available.

With the help of Ms Jacqueline Ng (one of our mentors) and with the advice of the Exco, the Faculty managed to find 3 other speakers. In order to allow time to inform the students about the Briefing Session, the Faculty had chosen the 29 September as the date for the briefing.

A briefing session on the Programme for interested students was held on 29 September 2006 in T1 of the Meng Wah Complex. 326 students attended the Briefing Session. The Briefing Session started at 6:30 pm and Dr. Richard Wu was the MC of the session. The following mentors and mentees shared their experience and thoughts about the Programme. The session was well received by the students. Our sincere thanks to the following speakers for their sharing at the session:

Master S Kwong, the High Court
Mr. Rimsky K.K. Yuen, SC
Ms Eirene Yeung (LLB graduate, 1983)
Ms. Gloria Lam (trainee solicitor)
Mr. Edwin Choi (LLB Year 3)

The briefing session concluded at about 7:45 pm and most of the students stayed for the whole session.

3. The Mentorship Dinners

Dates and Venues

4 nights were scheduled for the Mentorship Dinners: 31 October, 2, 6 and 7 November 2006. During the Exco meeting on 5 September 2006, Exco had considered various options, including Joseph’s, the restaurant at the Li Ka Shing

Faculty of Medicine, Senior Common Room, the Loke Yew Hall and others. Exco members agreed and selected Joseph's, the Graduate Restaurant as the venue for the Mentorship Dinners.

Pre-dinner briefing to Mentors

On each of the four nights, Mentors first gathered in Room KK303 (the Moot Court) for a pre-dinner briefing session. The Dean, Professor Johannes Chan, Mr. Michael Jackson, Head of the Department of Law and Professor Michael Wilkinson took turns to brief the mentors attending the mentorship dinners. The briefing to Mentors covers the mainly the following points:-

- Acknowledging support of the Mentors
- The objectives of the Programme
- The pairing arrangement
- Possible follow-up activities
- The role of students in initiating subsequent gatherings

Pre-dinner briefing to Mentees

Dr. Richard Wu and Eric took turns to brief our students at LG1 on the four nights. The briefing to mentees mainly covers the Dos and Don'ts on the part of mentees, including matters in relation to the dinner, follow-up activities and communication with mentors etc..

Pre-dinner speech

During the dinners on the four nights, the following alumni gave a speech on each of the 4 nights on the topic "ethics":-

Date	Speaker
31 October 2006	Ms Anna Wu
2 November 2006	Mr. Rimsky KK Yuen, SC
6 November 2006	Justice Reyes
7 November 2006	Professor Johannes Chan

4. Comment from the Mentors and Mentees

Mentors were reminded at the pre-dinner briefing session to complete the evaluation forms (which were provided to them in their information kits) and return to the Law Faculty before June 2007. An email attaching an evaluation form will be sent to all mentees on 24 November 2006 requesting the representative of each group to complete and return the interim evaluation form to the Faculty of Law before 15 December 2006.

5. Suggestions on improvement

Some of the points below were suggested by members of Exco during the Exco meeting on 13 November 2006 and others are my observations.

General preparation

This year, due to changes in the personnel of the Law Faculty, the preparation of the Mentorship Programme started later than previous years. Letters should ideally be sent out in the first week of September so as allow enough time for mentors to reply and to allow more time for identifying and contacting speakers for the briefing session.

Pre-dinner briefing

Only 1 member of staff attended the reception counter outside the Moot Court on each of the four nights. There should be more than 1 member of staff to handle registration matters.

After the pre-dinner briefing, the process of bringing mentees to their mentors was too long and should be expedited.

Pre-dinner speech

The Faculty Development Officer should consult, circulate and confirm the topics for the pre-dinner speech with members of Exco. The identity of the speaker should be confirmed before the dinner programme is sent out.

More information or suggested guidelines should be provided to speakers to facilitate their preparation of speeches.

Pairing of mentors and mentees

For this year, the arrangement is for two practitioners to act as mentors to a group of about 4 students in the majority of cases. In some cases, two mentors may lead a group of five mentees or one mentor may lead a group of two mentees.

The Faculty Development Officer should report the number of total mentees to the Exco from time to time and should consult the Exco on alternative arrangements in the event that the ratio of mentors to mentees exceed 2:4.

The Faculty encountered difficulty in pairing mentees with specific requests. Some mentees had requested mentors with a certain professional background but unfortunately no mentors (on the night on which they attended) had the kind of background which they requested. The Faculty Development Officer should inform the Exco in advance for advice in such cases.

Other matters

For the next Mentorship Programme, permission should be sought from mentors to disclose their office contact telephone numbers on the pairing list which will be dispatched with the information kit at the same time. This will facilitate communication among co-mentors before the mentorship dinners.

One mentor has reported food poisoning and some mentors have reported that the hygiene of the lavatories at the restaurant was unsatisfactory. The organizers may need to re-consider the venue and the restaurant for the next Mentorship Programme.

*Prepared by
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