

## **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO THE AUDIT FINDINGS**

The University would like to thank the QAC Panel for the in-depth and collegial exchanges with our staff and students during its site visit and the inclusion of the panel members' comprehensive and constructive comments in the QAC Audit Report. In respect of the first of the two Audit themes, 'Enhancing the Student Learning Experience', Lingnan is encouraged by the Panel's commendation of the 'value added' provision to our student body thanks to the University's substantial manpower and financial investment in small class teaching. We are in agreement with the Panel that this value added dimension is further enhanced by the broad exposure to international and service-learning experiences that we provide our students.

The University is also in full agreement with the Panel that the attainment of its goal of full residence in 2014/15, as an affirmation in the 2010 QAC Audit Report, is one of its unique strengths among Hong Kong's tertiary institutions, and forms a particularly invaluable part of liberal arts education.

Another notable commendation from the Panel is the mission-sensitive approach to supporting the professional development of staff through a range of innovative initiatives designed to enhance classroom dynamics, teacher-student relationship and delivery.

Moreover, Lingnan welcomes the Panel's recognition of the University's commitment to providing a wide range of learning experiences designed to support student achievement, in particular, the Integrated Learning Programme which includes an array of co-curricular seminars, workshops and other related activities that motivate students and strengthen their learning.

Specific to the second audit theme, i.e. 'Global Engagements: Strategies and Current Developments', we are most grateful that the Panel commends our efforts to reinforce the University's internationalization strategy through specifying relevant key performance indicators.

We welcome the Panel's affirmation of our steps to safeguard the standards and integrity of the University's academic awards. We are also thankful for the Panel's endorsement of our plan to increase interdisciplinary learning opportunities and our resistance to reintroducing early specialization, all of which reflect the University's commitment to the essence of liberal arts education.

Equally indicative of this commitment is the University's development of a science component within the undergraduate core curriculum through the recent

establishment of a Science Unit, for which the University is most encouraged by the Panel's affirmation of this initiative. Furthermore, we welcome the Panel's affirmation of the steps we are taking to rebalance teaching and research in tune with our core mission.

The University agrees fully with the Panel of the need to publicise our many achievements and very much appreciates the Panel's affirmation of our efforts to promote the unique characteristics and strengths of the institution and our graduates. We also welcome the Panel's endorsement of our endeavor to enhance the learning environment of research postgraduate students through the development of an array of local, regional and international networks and initiatives.

Finally, Lingnan is most grateful to the Panel for the various recommendations made in the Audit Report, especially those related to the need to fully implement an outcomes-based approach to teaching and learning by the beginning of academic year 2017/18. All these are viewed by the University as providing a clear and concrete set of goals for its future development. Once again, the University wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the Audit Panel for the comprehensive, constructive, and invaluable comments.