

The Mission and the Pledge

Dr Victor Fung 馮國經

(Hon LLD 1997)

Chairman of Council

“...The University enjoys a distinguished tradition in the pursuit of academic excellence. ...we must strive to preserve and perpetuate this tradition ...and create the unique character of the University of Hong Kong...”

I believe a university with a stature and a history like the University of Hong Kong should not be satisfied with itself as a place just for the pursuit of knowledge and research. It should also contribute to society at large in terms of its culture, its vision and its aspirations...”



Professor Ian Davies

Vice-Chancellor

“What an excuse for a party - four score years and ten is a grand age. And, what a party! This must be the largest such gathering of the University in all those ninety years...”

In words that will ever resonate in the minds of true academics, Benjamin Disraeli said that ‘A University should be a place of light, liberty and learning’. Wherever they may be, universities have to assume responsibilities for the totality of knowledge – the pursuit of discovery and the transmission of knowledge to succeeding generations of students and researchers. That is the world of learning.

The fact that members of a university can travel unfettered and in freedom through this world of learning, wherever it may lead, is that very precious liberty afforded to universities, at least in the enlightened world. Without such liberty, institutions of higher learning might come to be seen as having essentially utilitarian functions. Yes, a university must be able to demonstrate its usefulness, but there is a wider context to the search for knowledge and the guardianship of scholarship which transcends any narrowly utilitarian view...”

(Above) Professor Ian Davies and Dr Victor Fung
(Right) The Hon Tung Chee-hwa, Dr the Hon Rosanna Wong and Professor Wu Jieping 吳階平 (right), Vice-Chairman of the 9th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee of China.

Dr the Hon Rosanna Wong 王葛鳴

(BSocSc 1975)

Chairman, Grand Reunion Steering Committee

“...It was a *privilege* that we were able to study at the Hong Kong University and it is a privilege that comes with a great deal of *responsibility*. ...we, who have been so fortunate to have received an education at the Hong Kong University, must have the *same sense of duty* and the *same ideals of service* to Hong Kong, as those who have passed through her gates before us. Only in this way, will the history of the University continue to be linked to the history of Hong Kong.

Tonight we have gathered in a spirit of celebration and joy. Let us continue in that same spirit to pledge our support to the University to reinforce its students and staff, to encourage scholarship, to participate fully in its life and activities. Let us also pledge ourselves to Hong Kong: the city in which we were nurtured. This is *our city*. This is our *home* and it is *our duty and responsibility* to lead her into the future...”

The Hon Tung Chee-hwa 董建華

Chancellor

“...What I am rooting for is the new kind of elitism - open, meritocratic and strongly altruistic in outlook. The new elite draws its members from all walks of life, so that when they as individuals become successful they do not forget where they have come from, and understand that in lifting themselves up they must also help lift up others. I am sure this New Elitism is also the kind that most of our citizens would espouse. It is in essence the spirit of Hong Kong!...”

A 90-year old man is an old man for sure. But a 90-year old university, thus reinvigorated with a new purpose and meaning, will be a growing university. It will be like a great tree that has sent down its roots deep and wide, so that its trunk is strong, solid and upright, its leaves dense and robust, its flowers colourful and its seeds numerous and virile. In my contemplative mind such a tree effuses a pride that is at once profound, becalmed and reassuring. No wonder I am seeing the same on each and every one of your faces. Rooted in the past, you are yet the prime exemplars of the New Elite.”

