

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

APPROVAL FOR CARITAS INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, CHU HAI COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GRATIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AND HONG KONG SHUE YAN UNIVERSITY TO AWARD DEGREES

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 26 May 2020, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that approval should be granted to –

- (a) Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Early Childhood Education;
 - (ii) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy;
 - (iii) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Translation Technology;
 - (iv) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Artificial Intelligence;
 - (v) Bachelor of Entrepreneurial Management (Honours) in Design Business; and
 - (vi) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Entertainment Technology;

- (b) Chu Hai College of Higher Education (Chu Hai College) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Master of Arts in Global Communication;
 - (ii) Master of Social Sciences in International Relations for Belt and Road Countries; and
 - (iii) Master of Social Sciences in International Business Management for Belt and Road Countries;

- (c) Gratia Christian College to award degrees for the Bachelor of Service Management (Honours) programme;
- (d) The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Economics;
 - (ii) Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in General Business;
 - (iii) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Art and Design; and
 - (iv) Executive Master of Science in Insurance; and
- (e) Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSYU) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in Financial Technology; and
 - (ii) Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Human Resources Management – Applied Psychology.

JUSTIFICATIONS

Award of degrees

2. Section 10(a) of the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) (the Ordinance) provides that a post secondary college may, with the prior approval of the Chief Executive in Council, award degrees.

Caritas Institute of Higher Education

3. CIHE (formerly known as Caritas Francis Hsu College) was established in 1985. The Institute has been registered under the Ordinance since 2001, and was granted a degree-conferring status in 2011. In the 2019/20 academic year, CIHE operates seven full-time Bachelor's degree programmes.

4. CIHE obtained a Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA) status from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for the proposed programmes under paragraph 1(a)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vi) above in March 2019,

October 2019, March 2020, April 2020, and April 2020 respectively. CIHE need not obtain a LPA status for the proposed programme under paragraph 1(a)(v) above because the programme is covered by the Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status¹ obtained by CIHE from the HKCAAVQ in the area of General Business Administration at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 5. Upon gaining the PAA status, an institution may develop and operate learning programmes within the approved scope of programme area(s) at specified QF Level(s), which may cover a course at the degree level for an approved period of time, and have the qualifications of those learning programmes entered into the Qualifications Register for recognition under the QF without going through LPA by the HKCAAVQ. As regards the proposed programme under paragraph 1(a)(vi) above, with the Chief Executive in Council's approval in 2015, CIHE began to offer the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Entertainment programme in the 2015/16 academic year. CIHE proposes to modify the programme structure and change the programme title to Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Entertainment Technology programme.

Chu Hai College of Higher Education

5. Chu Hai College has been registered under the Ordinance since 2004 and began to offer degree programmes with the approval of Chief Executive in Council in the same year. In the 2019/20 academic year, the College operates 18 full-time degree programmes, including 14 Bachelor's degree programmes and four Master's degree programmes.

6. Chu Hai College obtained a LPA status from the HKCAAVQ for the proposed programmes under paragraphs 1(b)(i), (ii), and (iii) above in March 2020, October 2019, and October 2019 respectively.

Gratia Christian College

7. Gratia Christian College has been registered under the Ordinance since 2015 and began to offer degree programmes with the approval of the Chief Executive in Council in the same year. In the 2019/20 academic year, the College operates three full-time degree programmes.

¹ A PAA status is conferred on operators with sufficient quality assurance competency and maturity at the organisational level and a good track record in their validated programmes.

8. With the Chief Executive in Council's approval in 2015, Gratia Christian College began to offer the Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Service Marketing and Management programme in the 2015/16 academic year. To enhance the programme, Gratia Christian College proposes to modify the programme structure and simplify the programme title to be the Bachelor of Service Management (Honours) programme.

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

9. The Hang Seng School of Commerce was founded in 1980 to provide mainly business diploma courses, as well as matriculation courses, pre-associate, and associate degree programmes in later years. It evolved into Hang Seng Management College and has been registered under the Ordinance since 2010. In 2018, the College was granted a university title under the Ordinance. In the 2019/20 academic year, HSUHK operates 26 degree programmes, including 21 Bachelor's degree programmes, and five Master's degree programmes.

10. HSUHK obtained a LPA status from the HKCAAVQ for the proposed programmes under paragraph 1(d)(i), (iii), and (iv) in September 2019, January 2020, and October 2019 respectively. HSUHK need not obtain a LPA status for the proposed programme under paragraph 1(d)(ii) above because the programme is covered by the PAA status obtained by HSUHK from the HKCAAVQ in the area of General Management.

Hong Kong Shue Yan University

11. HKSYU, formerly Hong Kong Shue Yan College, is a self-financing post-secondary institution founded in 1971 and has been registered under the Ordinance since 1976. It was granted the university title under the Ordinance in 2006. In the 2019/20 academic year, HKSYU operates 32 degree programmes, including 14 Bachelor's degree programmes, 11 Master's degree programmes, and seven doctorate programmes.

12. HKSYU need not obtain a LPA status from the HKCAAVQ for the two proposed programmes under paragraph 1(e)(i) and (ii) because the programmes are covered by the PAA status obtained by HKSYU from the HKCAAVQ in the areas of Economics and General Business Management respectively.

Considerations

13. The proposed programmes of CIHE, Chu Hai College, Gratia Christian College, HSUHK, and HKSYU have obtained the HKCAAVQ's accreditation (in the form of a LPA status or a PAA status). Therefore, the quality of these programmes is assured. All five institutions intend to introduce the proposed programmes in the 2020/21 academic year.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

14. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It has no significant family implications, and no financial and civil service, productivity, environmental, and gender implications. The proposal has positive sustainability and economic implications in widening institution and programme choices for students and possibly nurturing more talent, although the impact is not expected to be significant.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

15. Public consultation is not necessary as the proposal involves no policy change.

PUBLICITY

16. A spokesman of the Education Bureau will be available for answering public enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

17. In case of enquiries, please contact Ms Elaine MAK, Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education), at 3509 8502.

Education Bureau
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