

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF**

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

#### **INTRODUCTION**

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 8 June 2021, the Executive 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 Master of Corporate Governance programme;
- (b) Gratia Christian College (GCC) to award degrees for the Bachelor of Christian Ministry (Honours) programme;
- (c) The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) to award degrees for the following programmes –
  - (i) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Applied Computing;
  - (ii) Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics;
  - (iii) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology;
  - (iv) Master of Business Management;
  - (v) Master of Science in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence;  
and
  - (vi) Master of Arts in Global English Literary and Cultural Studies;

- (d) HSUHK to award the following honorary doctoral degrees –
  - (i) Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*;
  - (ii) Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*;
  - (iii) Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*;
  - (iv) Doctor of Science *honoris causa*; and
  - (v) Doctor of Social Science *honoris causa*;
- (e) Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSJU) to award degrees for the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Media Design and Immersive Technology programme; and
- (f) UOW College Hong Kong (UOWCHK) to award degrees for the following programmes –
  - (i) Bachelor of Banking and Financial Technology (Honours);
  - (ii) Bachelor of Marketing and Supply Chain Management (Honours); and
  - (iii) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Artificial Intelligence.

## **JUSTIFICATIONS**

### **Caritas Institute of Higher Education**

2. CIHE (formerly known as Caritas Francis Hsu College) was established in 1985. CIHE has been registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) since 2001, and was granted a degree-conferring status in 2011. In the 2020/21 academic year (AY), CIHE operates 12 self-financing locally-accredited local Bachelor's degree programmes.

3. CIHE obtained a Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA) status from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for the proposed programme under paragraph 1(a) above in March 2021.

## **Gratia Christian College**

4. GCC has been registered under Cap. 320 since 2015 and began to offer degree programmes in the same year. In the 2020/21 AY, GCC operates three self-financing locally-accredited local Bachelor's degree programmes.

5. GCC obtained an LPA status from HKCAAVQ for the proposed programme under paragraph 1(b) above in January 2021.

## **The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong**

6. HSUHK, formerly the Hang Seng Management College as transformed from the Hang Seng School of Commerce, has been registered under Cap. 320 since 2010. It was granted a university title under Cap. 320 in 2018. In the 2020/21 AY, HSUHK operates 30 self-financing locally-accredited local degree programmes, including 24 Bachelor's degree programmes and six Master's degree programmes.

7. HSUHK obtained an LPA status from HKCAAVQ for the proposed programmes under paragraph 1(c)(ii) to (vi) above between May and December 2020. As regards the proposal under paragraph 1(c)(i) above, HSUHK proposes the re-titling of an existing programme launched in 2016 from Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Applied and Human-Centred Computing to Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Applied Computing. HSUHK obtained a Learning Programme Re-accreditation status for this programme in March 2021.

8. HSUHK's proposal to award honorary doctoral degrees under paragraph 1(d) above is in line with the practices of all other universities in Hong Kong. It will enable HSUHK to pay tribute to distinguished individuals of the community who have made significant contributions to HSUHK, their own professions and the society at large.

## **Hong Kong Shue Yan University**

9. HKSYU, formerly Hong Kong Shue Yan College, is a self-financing post-secondary institution founded in 1971 and has been

registered under Cap. 320 since 1976. It was granted a university title under Cap. 320 in 2006. In the 2020/21 AY, HKSYU operates 34 self-financing locally-accredited local degree programmes, including 16 Bachelor's degree programmes, 11 Master's degree programmes, and seven Doctorate programme.

10. The proposed programme under paragraph 1(e) above is covered by the Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status obtained by HKSYU from HKCAAVQ in the area of Mass Media and Communication, Journalism and Public Relations at Qualifications Framework Level 5. Hence, HKSYU needs not obtain an LPA status from HKCAAVQ for the proposed programme.

### **UOW College Hong Kong**

11. UOWCHK, formerly known as Community College of City University, has been registered under Cap. 320 since 2019 and began to offer degree programmes in the same year. Other than offering a wide range of Associate Degree programmes, UOWCHK operates six self-financing locally-accredited local Bachelor's degree programmes in the 2020/21 AY.

12. In June 2020, UOWCHK obtained an LPA status from HKCAAVQ for the proposed programmes under paragraph 1(f) above.

### **Considerations**

13. The proposed new degree programmes of CIHE, GCC, HSUHK, HKSYU, and UOWCHK have obtained HKCAAVQ's accreditation (in the form of an LPA or a PAA status) as part of the quality assurance process. These programmes are intended to be launched in the 2021/22 AY. As regards the honorary degrees by HSUHK under paragraph 1(d) above, these awards, which are of honorary nature, are not based on specific learning programmes and hence do not require the accreditation by HKCAAVQ.

## **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 for the five post-secondary colleges to award Bachelor's and Master's degrees would have positive sustainability and economic implications in widening the institution and programme choices for students and possibly helping nurture more talent, although the impact is not expected to be significant. As for the proposal for HSUHK to award honorary doctoral degrees, there should be no sustainability and economic implications.

## **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 Mr Kasper NG, Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education), at 3509 8502.

**Education Bureau**  
**June 2021**