

## **Appendix: Result of the Audit Report on Sub-degree Operations of the University of Hong Kong**

The Audit Panel recognised that HKU SPACE's policies, procedures and processes in supporting teaching quality, including pedagogical development, are fit-for-purpose. It also confirmed that the School takes a meticulous approach to programme approval and annual monitoring which draws on external input and has adopted an integrated and continuous process for curriculum design, programme development and approval that is both comprehensive and effective.

The Report confirmed that the HKU SPACE QA System is underpinned by a suite of comprehensive, detailed and informative documents that describe policies and procedures, committee structures, terms of reference and individual office bearers. These make the system work and are required for successful implementation. The Panel also specially acknowledged the strong commitment, involvement and passion of the staff at HKU SPACE who serve on the various committees and occupy academic leadership positions that make the quality assurance system work so well.

With regard to the students' learning experience in the full-time sub-degree programmes, the School has introduced a new emphasis on holistic education drawing on the University strategy to provide students with a total learning experience. The Report also affirmed that full-time students at HKU SPACE are given ample opportunities to engage in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, ranging from orientation activities, and different kinds of competitions and contests, to social gathering events.

Regarding student support services, our community colleges are sensitive to the varying needs of their students and have developed different ways to address them. The Report confirmed that students expressed satisfaction with the support services they receive. The Panel also noted the high quality of the information provided for students at the community colleges to help them prepare for further studies.

The Panel also indicated ways in which HKU SPACE could make further progress towards achieving its goal of being a world-class centre of excellence.

First, the Panel affirmed the steps already taken by the School on benchmarking and encouraged the School to engage in systematic international benchmarking with world-class institutions. Thus, the School is commissioning an independent research agency to carry out student surveys which will provide international benchmarking for the School from the student perspective. An international conference on teaching and learning that aims to share good practice with overseas partner institutions will be organised by the School in November 2019. The School is also planning to engage the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education of the United Kingdom to undergo an International Quality Review for benchmarking with international best practice in quality assurance.

Second, on e-learning, the Panel affirmed the action already taken to develop a strategy for e-learning and technology, and encouraged the School to operationalise it in greater detail. The School has also developed innovative technology-enhanced facilities to enhance quality teaching and learning through the expansion of new online learning approaches such as the first Cave Automatic Virtual Environment (CAVE) which was set up in May 2018, and the first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) which was launched in December 2018.

Moreover, to further enhance the training of academic staff, the School established the Centre for Teaching and Learning in August 2018 to enhance staff development activities in teaching and learning for full-time and part-time teachers.