

HKBU announces report on Blue Book of Hong Kong investigation Professor Victor Sit removed immediately from directorship of Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies

浸大公佈《香港藍皮書》事件調查報告 即時免除薛鳳旋教授當代中國研究所所長職務

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) had formed an Investigation Panel to look into the complaint about an inaccuracy in the part related to general education of the Blue Book of Hong Kong – Annual Report on Development of Hong Kong (2012) (Chinese version) by the Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies (ACCS). The Panel completed the Investigation Report and submitted it to Professor Albert Chan Sun-chi, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKBU.

The Report upheld the validity of the complaint raised by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). The Panel's investigation also found that Professor Victor Sit Fung-shuen, Director of ACCS, was the author of the statement about CUHK's general education programme, and that the incident involved academic misconduct on the part of Professor Sit.

Professor Albert Chan has accepted the Report, and adopted its recommendation to remove Professor Victor Sit from the directorship of ACCS with immediate effect. Professor Chan has also decided to set up a review panel to consider appropriate disciplinary action related to this case. He said that the University will not extend Professor Sit's contract, which will expire in a few months' time, regardless of the review panel's decisions.

On behalf of HKBU, President Chan conveyed his sincere apology to CUHK. He said: "The statement in the Blue Book – 'The Chinese University of Hong Kong's general education curriculum is sponsored by, and its materials written with the assistance of, a US fund. Its teaching direction has, in practice, been directed by that fund' – was ungrounded and inaccurate. On behalf of Hong Kong Baptist University, I express our sincerest apology to The Chinese University of Hong Kong for any impact this inaccurate statement has had. This incident has also had a negative impact on HKBU's reputation and aroused worries and concern among our staff, students and alumni. For that, I also extend our apology to the university community and members of the public. I wish to reassure all our stakeholders that academic integrity and academic freedom are core values of HKBU and that we will do our utmost to uphold them."

Professor Chan has appointed Professor Chow Kai-wing, Professor of History, as the Acting Director of ACCS and instructed him to immediately begin discussions with the publisher of the Blue Book on correcting the inaccurate part. Professor Chan said the University would review the operations of ACCS, and consider suitable improvement measures to facilitate the future development of the Institute.

Professor Rick Wong Wai-kwok, Convenor of the Investigation Panel, said the investigation was conducted in accordance with the principles of fairness, due process and respect for confidentiality. The methods used included gathering relevant information, conducting fact-finding meetings with relevant people, and examination of evidence, which included the statements of interviewees, documents and drafts of the Blue Book at various stages in its production, handwritten comments, published and unpublished material, and relevant media coverage.

The Report said Professor Sit provided no evidence to substantiate the claim that an American fund sponsored CUHK's general education curriculum, or was involved in the writing of the said curriculum, or that it dominated the teaching direction of the said curriculum.

The Report pointed out that Professor Sit had ample opportunity to correct the statement in the Blue Book during the process of publication, but he failed to do so. After he received the complaint from CUHK, Professor Sit did not take appropriate action.

The Report said there were no references or acknowledged sources in the three editions (traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, and English) of the Blue Book. The Panel was of the view that Professor Sit willfully intended to promote ill-conceived information as scholarship, failed to properly and consistently identify and acknowledge contributors, and misrepresented the extent to which "authoritative experts in various fields" were involved. The

Report thus concluded that Professor Sit compromised academic integrity during the production and publication of the Blue Book.

The Report found that the incident involved academic misconduct on the part of Professor Sit, such as defending the ill-conceived information after the complaint had been made and making an inadequate response to CUHK; misrepresenting the authorship/editorship of the Blue Book; and attempting to shift the blame for the authorship and inclusion of the inaccurate statement to his subordinates.

Professor Albert Chan thanked members of the Investigation Panel for their hard work and for fairly and justly completing the report. He said the University would review the procedures and arrangements for releasing papers and publications bearing the name of HKBU published by its affiliated centres/institutes and he hoped this review would be completed soon.

The Investigation Panel was led by Professor Rick Wong Wai-kiok, Vice-President (Research and Development) of HKBU, and members included Professor Huang Yu, Acting Dean of Communication of HKBU; Professor Li Si-ming, Director of the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, HKBU; and Professor Cheng Pei-kai, Director of the Chinese Civilisation Centre, City University of Hong Kong.

For the full report, please click:

<http://cpro.hkbu.edu.hk/hkbunews/accsreport/report.htm>

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香港浸會大學早前成立調查小組，了解和跟進有關該校當代中國研究所《香港藍皮書——香港發展報告（2012）香港回歸15周年專輯》中通識教育部份內容失實的投訴。調查小組已完成報告，並已提交浸大校長陳新滋教授。報告指出，小組經調查後，確認香港中文大學大學通識教育部的投訴成立，當代中國研究所所長薛鳳旋教授是有關中大通識教育陳述的作者，薛教授在事件中亦涉及若干學術不當行為。

陳校長表示接納報告，並根據建議，即時免除薛鳳旋教授當代中國研究所所長的職務。陳校長並決定啟動校內的檢討委員會，考慮適當的紀律行動。陳校長亦表示，無論委員會的結論如何，在薛教授的合約於數月內屆滿後，大學都不會與他續約。

陳校長又代表香港浸會大學，向香港中文大學鄭重道歉。他說：「薛鳳旋教授主編的《香港藍皮書》中指稱中文大學的『通識教育課程由美國一個基金贊助並協助撰寫教材，其教學方向實際已由該基金主導』絕無根據，並不正確。就此錯誤對中文大學造成的影響，我謹代表香港浸會大學，向香港中文大學鄭重道歉。這件事對浸大的聲譽帶來影響，令師生校友感到擔心和困擾，對此我深感遺憾，也在此向浸大同人和社會人士致歉。我必須重申，學術操守和學術自由是浸大的核心價值，浸大一定會堅守捍衛。」

陳校長表示，已委任歷史系周佳榮教授為當代中國研究所署理所長，該所會立即與《香港藍皮書》出版社商討有關訂正錯誤的安排。大學亦會審視當代中國研究所的運作，考慮採取有助其發展的改善措施。

調查小組召集人黃偉國教授表示，調查以公平、公正和保密的原則進行，小組透過接觸相關人士、面談和搜集資料，以確立事情真相，並檢視證據，包括相關人士的聲明、在《香港藍皮書》編製過程中不同階段的文件和草稿、手寫評註、已出版和未出版的材料，以及相關的新聞報道。

調查報告指出，薛教授未能向小組提供任何證據，證明美國某基金贊助中大的通識教育課程，或涉及撰寫該通識教育的教材，或主導其教學方向。報告又指，薛教授在《香港藍皮書》的出版過程中，有足夠機會更正該陳述，但他並無作出更正，而在收到中大的投訴後，也沒有適當處理。

報告指，《香港藍皮書》的三個版本（繁體中文、簡體中文和英文版）均沒有任何參考文獻或註明資料來源。小組又認為薛教授執意將片面不周的信息提升至學術層面，未能確切適當列明《香港藍皮書》的作者，並且作出不當陳述，指不同行業的「業內權威專家」有參與編撰工作，顯示薛教授在《香港藍皮書》的編撰和出版過程中，學術操守出現了問題。

調查報告顯示，薛教授在事件中有若干學術不當行為，其中包括沒有為失實的陳述作出適當修正、不適當地處理《香港藍皮書》的作者和編輯身份，以及他否認是該陳述的作者和把它納入書中，並試圖把責任推卸予下屬。

陳校長多謝調查小組成員的努力，公平公正地完成報告。他說，浸大亦將檢討轄下機構以浸大名義發表文章和出版書籍的程序和處理方案，希望在短期內完成建議。

調查小組由浸大副校長（研究及拓展）黃偉國教授擔任召集人，成員包括黃煜教授（浸大傳理學院署理院長）、李思名教授（浸大林思齊東西學術交流研究所主任）和鄭培凱教授（香港城市大學中國文化中心主任）。

調查報告的中英文版本已上載於：<http://cpro.hkbu.edu.hk/hkbunews/accsreport/report.htm>。

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傳媒查詢：浸大傳訊公關處馮民生（3411 5261，7472 2122）