

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
ON ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER INTERFERENCE
WITH ACADEMIC FREEDOM
AND INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY
AT THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**

**THIRD STATEMENT OF
DR. LEUNG KWOK-FAI, THOMAS**

I, Leung Kwok Fai, Thomas, c/o the Hong Kong Institute of Education, 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong DO SAY as follows:-

1. I am the Council Chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (“**the Institute**”), and I make this third statement to answer the three questions set out in the letter of Wilkinson & Grist to JSM dated 11th April 2007.

The Issue of “Merger”

2. My recollection of the communications I had with EMB officials (including the SEM and PSEM) on the question of “merger” (in the loose sense) has already been detailed in my earlier statements. Accordingly, I will not repeat this here.
3. As far as I can recall, I did not specifically address Council on matters of deep collaboration/federation in Council meetings or Council papers during the period January 2006 and February 2007, as discussions on specific proposals on deep collaboration/federation were still at the exploratory stage. There were two occasions, however, where deep collaboration was raised in Council meetings, to which I responded as Chairman. In the Council meeting on 28th September, 2006, one internal

Council Member asked whether the Institute should include 'stance on deep collaboration' as one of the evaluation criteria for the post of President. I rejected this suggestion as being inappropriate. Also, in the Council meeting on 1st December, 2006, in response to an internal Council member's request for the Council to formally confirm its position on deep collaboration, I stated explicitly that previous Council resolutions regarding deep collaboration remain in force and that there is no change to the Council's position. I refer the Commission to the approved minutes of these Council meetings.

Re-appointment of the President

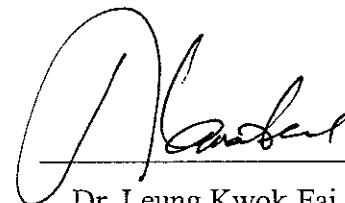
4. I did not receive any communication from any EMB official (including the SEM or PSEM) on the question of re-appointment of the President.
5. Between January 2006 and February 2007, I chaired a number of Council meetings as well as meetings of the Ad Hoc Review Committee (of the President's performance) in which the question of the President's re-appointment was raised and discussed. The Council Secretary and Committee's secretary would have disseminated notices and papers to Council members in connection with those meetings, as a normal course of action.
6. Between January 2006 and February 2007 (in October and November, 2006 to be specific), I attended 25 meetings, with the purpose of collecting views on the President's performance from internal stakeholders, including external Council Members, management, senior academics, frontline staff, Staff Association representatives and Student Union representatives. The list of attendees and the schedule of meetings was arranged by Council Secretariat, to fit the suitability and availability of the attendees, as well as respond to their specific requests. 4 of these meetings were with external Council members. In this regard, I attach a document prepared by the Institute's management concerning the interviews I conducted with external Council members. As can be seen from this document, I did not interview any representative of the EMB to seek their views on the President's performance.

7. In all my communications with voting Council members, I confirm I did not seek to influence the way they wished to vote on the re-appointment of Prof. Morris as President of the Institute.

Alleged Linkage of the President's Re-appointment to Issue of "Merger"

8. As far as I can recall, alleged linkage of the President's reappointment to the issue of "merger" was raised in a number of meetings of the Institute and in correspondence I received from Council members in the period between January 2006 and February 2007. However, on all these occasions, I denied the question of the President's reappointment was linked to the question of "merger" of the Institute and repeatedly reminded and instructed the Council, and in particular the voting members, not to take the issue of 'merger' into consideration when they deliberate and make the decision to re-appoint the President. I refer the Commission to the approved minutes of the Council meetings on 1st December, 2006 and 25th January, 2007 in particular.

Dated the 16th day of April 2007.



Dr. Leung Kwok Fai, Thomas

Council Officer(s) met with External Council Members Regarding Prof. Paul Morris' Performance

Date	13 October 2006 (Friday)	19 October 2006 (Thursday)	27 October 2006 (Friday)	8 November 2006 (Wednesday)
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Venue	Conference Room No.1, Lower Ground, JW Marriott Hong Kong, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong.	31/F., The Lee Gardens, 33 Hysan Avenue, Hong Kong, Zung Fu Co.Ltd. (Mr. Y.K. Pang's Office)	Room 2204, Admiralty Centre Tower I, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong. (Mr. Anthony Chow's Office)	23/F., Tower 2, Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong. (Ms. Ada Wong's Office)
Participating Council Officer(s)	Dr. Thomas Leung	Dr. Thomas Leung Mr. Pang Yiu Kai	Dr. Thomas Leung Mr. Eddie Ng	Dr. Thomas Leung Mr. Eddie Ng
Council participating Members	Dr. Cheung Kwok Wah Mr. Ma Siu Leung	Mr. Lee Chien Mr. Tai Hay Lap	Mr. Chan Wing Kwong Mr. Anthony Chow Miss Catherine Yen	Mr. Cheung Pak Hong Miss Bella Lo Ms. Ada Wong

- Mrs. Sylvia Cheung has politely declined to discuss the President's performance given she was working at the EMB when the meeting was being scheduled. Council Chairman totally agreed with this arrangement.
- Council Chairman did not invite Mr. Cheng Man Yiu to join any discussion given he is the representative of the SEM.
- Prof. Leslie Lo was appointed as Council Member from 12 October 2006. Council Chairman did not invite Prof. Leslie Lo because it was not fair for Prof. Leslie Lo as a new Council Member to comment on Prof. Paul Morris' performance.