Council of Graduate School 51st Annual Meeting

“Inclusiveness, Innovation and Excellence
Creating the Future for Graduate Education”

Graduate Student Outcomes: An International Roundtable

Professor Paul K.H. Tam
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research)
Dean, Graduate School
The University of Hong Kong

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Outcome-based Approach to Student Learning (OBASL)

• Shift focus from teaching to learning: define and assess learning outcomes
  1. alignment between MPhil/PhD programme learning outcomes and individual courses offered
  2. learning outcomes, pedagogy and assessment for each course are well-aligned
Vision on Graduate Education

- *Raison d'etre* for Research Postgraduate (RPg) as *education* and *training* of next generation of researchers

- RPg education should be *student-centred* and is a joint responsibilities of the University central, Faculties, Departments and supervisors
RPg Education at HKU

Faculties/Departments

- Discipline-specific knowledge and skills
  - Courses offered by Faculties/Departments
  - Work with supervisors in labs or individual/small group tutorials

Graduate School

- Generic research skills
- Transferable skills
- Teaching skills
Transferable Skills Training

• International Research Skills Development Programme (IRSD)
  – Co-organised with Imperial College and a Mainland University (Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiaotong University) since 2009
  – Benefited 147 students so far
  – Making new international connections and interacting with RPgs of different backgrounds
  – Potential partners: Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (India)
Transferable Skills Training

• HKU Research Skills Development Course
  – In-house course offered twice a year since March 2010
  – Benefited 53 HKU students so far
  – Interactive teaching focusing on experiential learning
  – HKU tutors received training from experienced IC tutors
Mandatory Teaching Skills Training

• Certificate of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
  – For RPg students undertaking teaching and/or assessment duties
  – Equips graduates for professoriate positions
  – Provides good grounding in communication broadly for graduates pursuing non-academic careers
Students’ Feedback

- Overall satisfaction rate with the RPg programmes was 93.5% (Graduate School exit survey of student 2009-10)
Employment outcomes for RPg students

• Our graduates have bright career prospects

• Employed in high-level positions in universities, government, business and industry in Hong Kong and around the world.
Employment outcomes: PhD students

Source: Graduate Employment Survey 2010

- Employed: 87%
- Further Studies: 2%
- Emigrated/Returned to home country: 7%
- Not seeking F/T job: 2%
- Unemployed seeking F/T job: 2%
Employment outcomes: MPhil students

- Employed: 65%
- Further Studies: 30%
- Emigrated/Returned to home country: 3%
- Unemployed seeking F/T job: 1%
- Not seeking F/T job: 1%

Source: Graduate Employment Survey 2010 (http://www0.hku.hk/careers/leaflet2010/pdf/HD/MPhil.pdf)
# 2010 Graduate Employment Survey

## Employment Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Sector</th>
<th>MPhil &amp; PhD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Service</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community, Social &amp; Personal Services</td>
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<td>13.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commerce &amp; Industry</td>
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<td>24.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>255</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* No. of graduates who have responded to the survey and who have been employed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Sector</th>
<th>MPhil</th>
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<th>PhD</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Service</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>106</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community, Social &amp; Personal Services</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commerce &amp; Industry</td>
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<td>34.0%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>154</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Conclusion

• HKU is very concerned with RPg student outcomes and working hard to provide appropriate learning opportunities in addition to traditional discipline-specific knowledge and skills

• Continuously review to ensure consistency with global best practices and best prepare students for employment after graduation

• Plan to conduct longitudinal study of graduate’s career outcome over 5, 10 years and longer
Thank You!