

5 February 2009

Dear Council Members, Alumni, Students, and Colleagues,

### **Library Extension: a New Option of Integrity**

One of the capital projects to provide adequate facilities for the increased number of teachers and students upon reversion to the four-year normative curriculum in 2012 is building an extension to the University Library. Since attention was drawn to how to proceed with construction without causing too much disturbance in the vicinity of the Library including the Beacon, a large number of diverse opinions have been received from students, teachers, and alumni.

After considering all the opinions received and carefully studying all the options as advised by the project architect, the building committee responsible for the library extension project has identified a new option which is technically feasible as well as giving due regard to the sentiment and views collected. This option will be able to balance the need to provide the necessary library space and to keep the Beacon open during the period of construction.

This new option consists of building a new wing to the University Library on its adjacent carpark, with a height not exceeding the Library Building. An underground annex joining the existing Library basement will also be built under the University Square but excluding the area directly underneath where the Beacon stands. The construction of the new wing and the U-shaped underground annex (see Attachment 1) will yield less than 6,100 sq. m. as formerly planned and incur higher costs. But it will still achieve the purpose of creating enough library space for the benefit of future generations of students and teachers and keep the Beacon intact, visible and accessible to all during the construction period (see Attachments 2 & 3). The entire University Square will remain the same after construction is completed (see Attachment 4).

Works will soon be carried out on the University Square for ground investigation and trial pits excavation. But these are only exploratory in nature and do not amount to excavation or construction. The new option has still to receive support from the University Grants Committee and the relevant authorities. The architect and the building committee will next address more practical issues such as noise control and how to avoid causing disturbance to students and staff during construction.

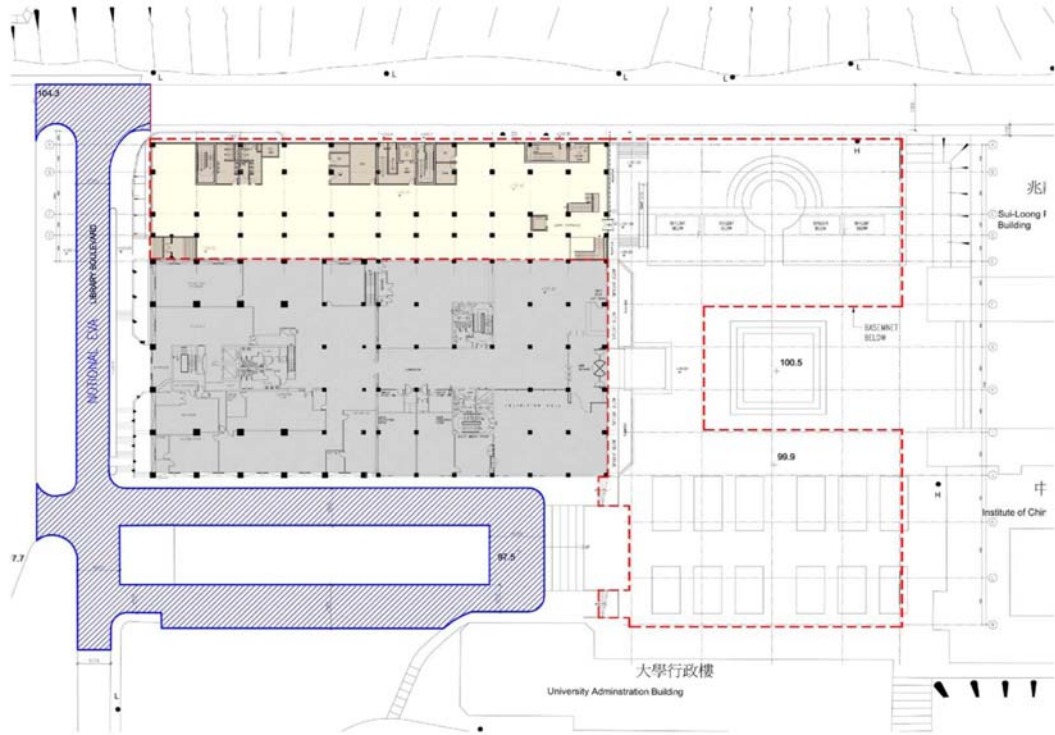
I think this option is viable, practicable, and should be acceptable to all. I am confident that it

will be welcome and supported by students, teachers, and alumni.

I sincerely thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

P. C. Ching  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor



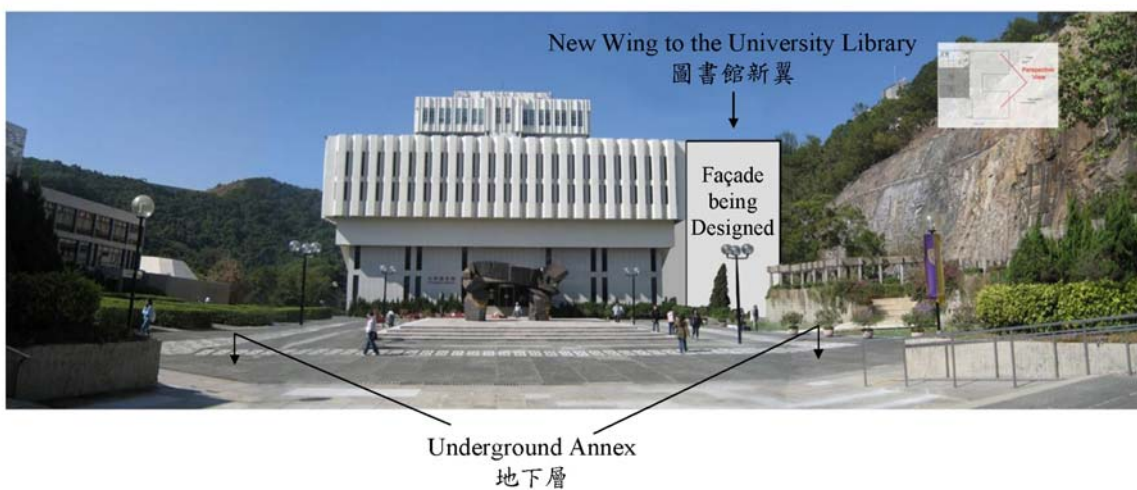
圖一： 圖書館擬擴建部分（紅綫）平面圖  
 Attachment 1: Block Plan of Proposed Extension (red lines) to Library



圖二： 施工前期大學廣場外觀  
 Attachment 2: View of University Square at Early Stages of Construction



圖三： 施工後期大學廣場外觀  
Attachment 3: View of University Square at Later Stages of Construction



圖四： 工程完竣後大學廣場外觀  
Attachment 4: View of University Square after Construction