

Chau Wai-lap, Albert (周偉立)
Biography

Dr Albert Chau is currently Consultant of the New York-based Stephen A Schwarzman Education Foundation. He recently completed his term as Dean of Student Affairs and Director of General Education at The University of Hong Kong (HKU).

Dr Chau received his BSc in Industrial Engineering in 1983 and Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology in 1984 at HKU, and his MSc and PhD in psychology in 1992 and 1994 respectively at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. He then taught at the Department of Psychology at HKU, serving as assistant professor and associate professor. He was appointed Warden of University Hall (1996-2006), Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (FoSS) (2000-2002), Director of General Education (2002-2015) and Dean of Student Affairs (2005-2015).

Throughout his time at HKU, Dr Chau put student learning as the primary focus of his work. He had more than 10 years of direct involvement in various teaching and learning (T & L) activities. He led the efforts in promoting student learning experience, internationalisation of the student body and integration among students of different cultural and academic backgrounds by building a culturally diversified and intellectually stimulating campus.

Dr Chau was responsible for student matters and admission for the FoSS as Associate Dean. Starting in 2005, he actively participated in the planning and implementation of the 4-year curriculum as a member of the Steering Committee on 4-Year Undergraduate Curriculum and its subcommittees/ working groups on e-Learning, academic advising, experiential learning and credit unit. He was Chairman of the Student Learning Sub-Committee. He played a leadership role in the formulation and implementation of policies related to student affairs and the co-curriculum, both of which are part and parcel of the curriculum.

As Chairman of the First Year Experience Committee, he coordinated the induction and orientation activities to ensure a smooth cultural and academic transition for all new students. Being a former residential student and warden, Dr Chau understands the importance of developing student residences into living-learning communities to achieve whole-person development. He played a key role in designing and implementing a novel model for the four residential colleges which were opened in 2012. The colleges emphasise internationalisation, intellectual development and community engagement, targeting equal representation of undergraduates and postgraduates as well as local, mainland and international students. Dr Chau also constantly worked with wardens to improve hall education. There were new admission policies and orientation guidelines, funding for student projects and staff development programmes, etc.

Dr Chau served on many committees for T & L and contributed to curriculum development and quality assurance at HKU. He was a key member of the working groups for the development of main evaluation tools such as the HKU Student Learning Experience

Questionnaire and employer and graduate surveys. He was actively involved in the preparation of the academic development proposals and quality assurance exercises of the University Grants Council for more than 10 years.

Other than the “software”, Dr Chau also has participated in the development of the “hardware” such as learning spaces and facilities. Examples included the Learning Commons, residential halls and colleges, and most recently an auditorium.

Outside HKU, Dr Chau has served on committees and panels related to secondary and tertiary education. He was also appointed to several Government committees or advisory panels related to education, elderly affairs, the environment and broadcasting; and provided service to a few charities and NGOs on youth development, heritage preservation and arts and culture. Over the years, Dr Chau has developed extensive community networks of professionals, experts and employers in different fields. He was able to mobilise community resources effectively to benefit student learning and promote knowledge exchange with the community.

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