

# Engaging Students to Grow and Glow in HSMC

**Ms. Rebecca Chan**  
**Dr. Tom Fong**  
**1 February 2018**

## About the Presentation:

The landscape of the Hong Kong's higher education has changed immensely in the last four decades, from elite to mass, from public funded to private funds, and from local to internationalization. The number of students in higher education has already exceeded 60% of the relevant age group of the population, while the number of self-financing post-secondary education institutions has increased to 20 (on top of the 8 publicly funded universities). Nevertheless, students, parents, employers and the society at large still place high expectations on higher education and demand great outcomes in student quality and employability.

With the new generations are growing up with the internet, spending a lot time in the virtual world, our students are observed as weaker in interpersonal skills, prone to high stress level and less resilient to adversity. Emotional support from family may be inadequate as parents are either too busy or over protective. In year 2015/16, there was a sharp increase in university students committing suicide, noting that most students have been admitted to colleges one year younger at age.

Civic engagement has also escalated to a climax with the Occupy Central took place in 2014 followed by high level of unrest and distrust with the establishment by young people. Like many social movements in the history, student leaders have always been on the forefronts, and campus management has inevitably intertwined with the political debates in society.

This presentation will discuss how the higher education trends and the challenges we face in terms of mental health and civic engagement impact the student affairs and examine how we can provide the best learning environment for our students and engage them to "grow and glow" in HSMC.

Given the dynamic nature of student affairs, a number of real life cases will be discussed. Some important principles in working with students will also be explored and shared.

## About Speakers:

- (1) As the Director of Student Affairs of HSMC, **Ms. Rebecca Chan** is responsible for providing student services, co-curricular learning, wellness education and community engagement, in order to foster student engagement, enhance employability and enable student success.

Prior to joining HSMC, she was the founding Director of Student Residence in City University of Hong Kong, who was the key administrator in transforming City University of Hong Kong from a commuting institution to a residential campus, and the student affairs leader in setting up residential life programs for students living on campus.

Ms. Chan was elected as the Globalization Director of ACUHO-I, an international professional association in college housing from 2010-2013. She is also associated with the Hong Kong Student Services Association and had served as the Honorary Treasurer and Vice-Chairman in different terms.

- (2) As the Vice-President (Organisational Development) of HSMC, on top of providing overall leadership on various management and administrative offices/units, **Dr. Tom Fong** takes charge of the overall development of student affairs, oversees campus services strategies and drives various internship and co-curricular initiatives on our campus with over 5,000 undergraduates. He is the leader of the residential hall life education programmes of four Residential Colleges, working closely with the Masters and Warden to develop traditions and values. As a member of the Senior Management Team, he also chairs a number of important committees and advisory council which deliberate policies and strategies on whole person development and positioning of the College in the region.

Previously, Dr. Fong had held senior positions as Director of Student Affairs (Ag.) in the Chinese University of Hong Kong and as Director of Student Affairs in the Education University of Hong Kong (formerly the Hong Kong Institution of Education) for many years where he provided leadership to ensure the effective delivery of a wide spectrum of co-curricular activities and quality student services.

Dr. Fong has been invited to speak at numerous local, regional and international conferences and courses on topics such as Development of Co-curricular Activities, Student Affairs in Higher Education, Service Leadership, Student Engagement and Advancement, Students' Career Development and Whole Person Education, etc., sharing his vision and insights with student affairs practitioners, educators and administrators of higher education.

Living up to his belief of service leadership, Dr. Fong serves on a number of community organizations related to student affairs and student leadership. He was elected as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Student Services Association (HKSSA) from 2011 to 2014, taking student affairs profession to a new height. He served as the Course Director, designing and organizing the HKSSA Certificate Courses on Student Affairs 2012-13 and 2015-16 respectively, benefitting some 200 practitioners from Hong Kong, Mainland China and Macau in the profession.