

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, it is with great pleasure that I write to you on the status of our esteemed club in advance of our Annual General Meeting.

Like most of Hong Kong, the SCR has bid adieu to the pandemic and are on a steady upward trajectory towards recovery. Since the renovation of our clubhouse facilities, we have seen remarkable growth in both memberships and revenues. Our membership has nearly doubled since I started my tenure on the ExCo - and this year alone we have grown our membership base by more than 430 since January 2023 - with 1,851 members as of October. This remarkable growth is a testament to effectiveness of our facilities enhancement and reformed management structure. With the support of our management team, the ExCo has navigated a lengthy review of membership types and made revisions as needed - with the goal of controlled, sustainable growth and a focus on adding value to our ordinary members.

More members has corresponded to healthy growth in club revenues as well. I am delighted to report that last month was yet another record breaker with \$2.2M in revenue - numbers that would make some top local establishments envious! The SCR has also hosted nearly 200 private events for our membership and academic units on campus. While we celebrate these achievements- we are committed to fiscal responsibility, including repaying our debts to the University - which graciously provided a lifeline of support during the pandemic to keep our operations going.

Last year, we renewed the contract with Two Rooms Ltd., led by Tony Cheung, who is currently participating in the HKU Global CEO Programme, and Mr. David Ting, an HKU alumnus, along with their team. I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere gratitude for their excellent performance in providing thoughtful attention to our food and beverage offerings, special seasonal and cultural events, catering services and much more.

Along with successes in growth - the SCR faces several challenges for the year ahead.

The SCR continues our stewardship and management of the Bridge. Members will see from the financial statements that the Bridge continues to struggle with sustainability. Despite opening up the Bridge to non-SCR members, revenues have remained flat. The SCR is committed to supporting the Bridge as a campus canteen for all Faculty and administrative staff. However, we must carefully review the financial situation and work with the University to better position the Bridge for success in the long-term.

The SCR is also not immune from economic headwinds. While our revenues have improved remarkably, we (and by extension, our operator) continue to struggle with the city-wide labor shortage plaguing the F&B industry. This is a particularly intractable problem especially when the demand for the clubhouse restaurants and private events are increasing. I applaud our operations and management teams for striving to maintain quality service while short-staffed.

I also wish to implore our members to step up and serve on the ExCo. It is essential that our club leadership is dynamic and broadly representative of the membership. For this reason I was delighted to welcome Alan, Flora, and Garfield last year - all of whom have contributed their great ideas to our further development. They have joined me and our *ex officio* members to whom I am also deeply indebted for their service - Jeffrey, Tony, Yvonne. Indeed, one of the best aspects of serving on the ExCo is interacting with the Directors of our non-academic units! I would be remiss in giving very special thanks to Paul and Bonnie, who are true champions of the SCR!

Yet, there are three vacancies remaining on the committee. Having expressed my desire to step down from the ExCo at the end of my term - it is essential that we have more participation to ensure a continuity of momentum and knowledge - to learn from the past to inform the future for our club.

As always, the SCR thrives from the participation of it's membership. To those of you who have shared your constructive feedback to our ExCo, or even taken the surveys (we do analyze the responses and take action!) - your feedback and support is greatly appreciated.

As we enter a very festive season, both eastern and western - I look forward to seeing all of you at the SCR for some much needed relaxation, reflection, and revelry to celebrate the end of another exciting term on campus.

Onwards!

—David M. Baker
Chair of the SCR

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