

SED on student protests at universities campuses

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, at a media session after attending a radio programme today (November 2):

Reporter: Regarding the violent incidents in the Hong Kong Design Institute, what do you think the school should do to respond to the protesters as well as the students' demands to release the CCTV footage? Also, will the Education Bureau provide any assistance for the school to handle the matter?

Secretary for Education: I think, for the school, it is up to the school to decide what the next step is. But I think the school has already tried its best to provide the information to the students. Whether the students think that it is sufficient or not, I think it is up to the individual students. But I think the school has to balance the demand of the students, as well as the privacy that it has always been saying that it is a very important consideration on whether it decides to release the video tape or not.

Reporter: There have also been a lot of protests going on at the university campuses. Some students went up to the stage during the graduation ceremony to voice their demands and protest. What do you think about this on-going trend of protests at campuses, and how do you think the school should handle these matters?

Secretary for Education: The university is a place for study. So I think as pointed out by the chairmen of the university councils in a joint statement, the prime objective of the university is for education. I think, at the end of the day, it will be a balance of what the students are doing, and whether what they are doing are affecting the normal operation of the universities. I believe the management of the universities are capable of handling these matters.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)