

Academics lash lack of contestants

ACADEMICS yesterday criticised the large number of uncontested seats in the functional constituency elections.

When nominations closed on Monday, 12 of the 40 candidates standing in the functional constituencies were returned uncontested.

Only 66,000 voters have to vote in the remaining nine constituencies to choose their representatives.

Chan Cheung-ming, a lecturer in applied social studies at the City Polytechnic, said the trend was unhealthy.

"With so many candidates uncontested and a lot of them have been serving since 1985, the functional constituency system is more incestuous than the appointed system," he said.

Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, senior lecturer of City Polytechnic's Public and Administration Department, also criticised the large number of uncontested seats occupied by incumbent members.