

Angry students start protest bonfire

SOME 130 angry students at the Chinese University started a bonfire outside the school's administrative building yesterday after deciding to abandon their one-month go-slow in tuition fee payment.

The students said the burning of the 800 pay-in slips was to show their grievance against the authorities "delay tactics and threats" to their anti-fee-raise campaign, as well as to show their eagerness in pushing through their demands.

During yesterday's meeting, organised by the Student Union of the University, the students revived their "strong protest" against the present fee system, and another possible raise under the 1976 school renewal plan.

In addition, they demanded their principal, Dr Li Cheuk-mun, to keep the promise he made at their latest meeting, his support for a student representative in the Board of Governors, more grants and loans for the

students, and to arrange a meeting between the students and officials of the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee.

Three members of the union addressed the crowd in the hour-long meeting before they angrily left with the fire still burning.

A spokesman of the university later replied that no action will be taken against the students as the fire did not cause any great damage to the school.

"We do not want to blow up the incident as there were only about four per cent of our students taking part," she said.

Asked if the authorities are going to have any further negotiation with the student representatives, she replied: "I think we have made everything clear."

The students have been demanding for a reinstatement of the old fee of \$800 from the present \$1,750. But it was rejected.