Hong Kong University students who stormed a council meeting of the school have triggered a noisy squabble. Former CUHK vice chancellor Lawrence Lau Juen-yee said they should be jailed for a day or do community service.

Former Hong Kong Bar Association chairwoman Audrey Eu Yuet-mee countered that she was shocked by Lau’s comments. Civic Party leader Alan Leong Kah-kit asked Lau to consider what the board had done to antagonize students before criticizing them.

A People’s Daily editorial, meanwhile, accused the Civic Party of ruining the autonomy of HKU in the name of defending it. We can call the verbal crossfire “各執一詞” (ge4 zhi2 yi4 ci2).

“各” (ge4) is each,” “執” (zhi2) is “to hold,” “to grasp,” “to stick to,” “to persist in,” “一” (yi4) is “one” and “詞” (ci2) means “a word,” “a term.” Literally, “各執一詞” (ge4 zhi2 yi4 ci2) is “each stick to one word.”

Terms containing the character “詞” (ci2) include:

誓詞 (shi4 ci2) - text of oath
歌詞 (ge1 ci2) - the lyrics of a song
填詞 (tian2 ci2) - to write lyrics
判詞 (pan4 ci2) - text of a court’s decision