

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 14 July 2004)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. University admission system

In discussing curriculum reform on 21 January 2002, the Panel requested the Administration to ensure that the future senior secondary curriculum and university admission system would align with the new curriculum for basic education.

To be confirmed

The consultation on the new senior secondary and university education academic systems as recommended in the 2004 Policy Address will include recommendations for university admission.

2. Transparency and representation of the new Education Commission (EC)

Some members of the Bills Committee on Education Reorganization (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2002 were of the view that the new EC following the merger should become a statutory body in the longer term in order to enhance its advisory role. At the meeting of the House Committee on 7 February 2003, Ms Cyd HO suggested that the issue should be followed up by the Panel on Education.

To be confirmed

3. Implementation of four-year first-degree programmes

Ms Emily LAU noted that there were views in the community opposing the proposed four-year structure for first-degree programmes. On 5 July 2003, she suggested that the Panel should discuss with the Administration on the implementation of four-year first-degree programmes.

To be confirmed

As announced in the 2004 Policy Address, the Administration will consult the public on proposed changes to the academic structure at the senior secondary school level, and

corresponding changes to the duration of undergraduate programmes.

4. Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to conduct examinations outside Hong Kong

The Bills Committee on the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (Amendment) Bill 2003 requested SEM to report to the Panel on Education on how HKEAA would enforce measures to secure confidentiality of public examinations when HKEAA is about to conduct examinations outside Hong Kong.

To be confirmed

5. Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Scheme in primary schools

At the meeting on 17 November 2003, members expressed support for the implementation of the NET Scheme in primary schools and requested the Administration to review the performance of NETs in primary schools with a view to developing a long-term strategy for the provision of NETs in schools.

To be confirmed

The Administration said that a systematic evaluation on the performance of the primary NET Scheme was underway. The Administration will revert to the Panel when the evaluation report is available.

6. School self-evaluation (SSE)

At its meeting on 3 March 2004, the Bills Committee on Education (Amendment) Bill 2002 decided to refer the item to the Panel for follow-up. The Chairman of the Panel, who is also a member of the Bills Committee, agreed that the Panel should discuss SSE and its implications on teachers' workload in schools at a future meeting. Mr SZETO Wah also suggested that representatives from the teaching profession should be invited to give views on the item.

To be confirmed

The Administration agreed to provide an interim report on the implementation by the end of 2003-04 school year.

7. Future developments in the higher education sector

At the meeting on 15 March 2004, members requested University Grants Committee (UGC) to report its work progress in respect of the proposals as detailed in its document entitled "To make a difference, to move with the times". Secretary General, UGC undertook to revert to the Panel later in 2004.

To be confirmed

8. Remuneration systems in UGC-funded institutions after deregulation of university salaries

At the meeting on 5 July 2004, members suggested that the Panel should follow up discussion of the subject in the new term. Members had expressed concern about the establishment of fair, reasonable and consistent remuneration systems, and open and transparent appeal mechanisms in UGC-funded institutions. Members considered that the Panel should discuss the criteria for appointment of members of the governing bodies of UGC-funded institutions and the monitoring mechanism for their performance. They also considered that institutions should include more staff and student representatives in their governing bodies.

To be confirmed