

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 9 June 2005)

Proposed timing for discussion

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

The Panel on Education received the views and concerns of the deputations on the matter at the meeting on 5 July 2004. Members of the Panel on Education in general expressed concern about the disputes between staff and management, and the role of the governing bodies of UGC-funded institutions in the development and implementation of their new remuneration systems. They considered that UGC-funded institutions should establish fair, open and transparent appeal mechanisms to facilitate the establishment and implementation of the new remuneration systems. In addition, some members suggested that a mechanism should be established to monitor the performance of university councils and the attendance of their members at meetings; and the minutes of the meetings of university councils should be made public.

Members agreed that the Panel should follow up the issue in the new term. In this connection, Dr YEUNG Sum requested representatives of university administration to relay the views and concerns of deputations to university councils; and suggested that the universities, UGC and EMB should follow up the following issues raised by the deputations –

- (a) the offer of contract terms to new recruits which would affect the universities' ability to attract good academic staff;
- (b) larger percentages of salary reductions for staff in the lower echelon than those for staff in the top echelon;
- (c) availability of appeal and grievance mechanisms for staff who felt aggrieved by the implementation of the new remuneration system to lodge complaints;
- (d) adoption of reasonable and uniform salary scales for similar grades in UGC-funded institutions; and
- (e) complaints against universities' compelling serving academic staff on substantiated terms to accept the

conversion of their terms of employment to contract terms.

2. The new Student Travel Subsidy Scheme

In discussing the proposed merger of Student Travel Subsidy Scheme and Cross-net Subsidy Scheme at the meeting on 8 November 2004, some members considered it necessary to review the eligibility criteria for a full rate and a half rate grant under the merged scheme (the new Student Travel Subsidy Scheme) for applicants from families with different incomes and number of members. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel at a future meeting.

3. Implementation of Small Class Teaching

At its meeting on 8 November 2004, the Panel received views from 27 deputations/individuals which/who had expressed support for the implementation of small class teaching in school education. Members urged the Administration to consider the views of deputations on implementation of small class teaching.

13 June 2005

At the meeting on 13 December 2004, members agreed to discuss the implementation and evaluation of the pilot study on effective strategies of class and group teaching in the 37 primary schools and the effectiveness of professional development programmes for teachers to teach in small classes at a future meeting.

On 24 March 2005, the Administration suggested to discuss the item in June 2005 when Professor Galton, the adviser cum consultant engaged for the pilot study, would be in town. Representatives of the Steering Committee established to advise on the pilot study throughout its duration would be invited to the meeting.

4. School Development and Accountability

The Panel discussed the progress of implementation of the school development and accountability framework at its meeting on 13 December 2004, with emphasis on the implementation of school self-evaluation and the external school review processes. Members agreed to revisit the issue and meet deputations at a future meeting. A proposed school list will be prepared by the

Quality Assurance Division in due course.

5. Training of kindergarten teachers

Item proposed by Ms Emily LAU. Ms LAU is concerned about the quality of early childhood education. She would like to discuss policies on the requirements and professional development programmes for kindergarten teachers in the long term.

30 June 2005

6. Use of Language Fund – proposals to strengthen support in language education at pre-primary and primary levels

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, members requested the Administration to review the allocation for the professional development of pre-primary teachers and keep members informed of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research's (SCOLAR) final decision on the issue. Members also requested the Administration to arrange the Chairman of the SCOLAR to brief the Panel on the progress of its implementation at a future meeting. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel later in the year.

7. Review on governance structure of University Grants Committee-funded institutions and their grievances and complaints mechanisms

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the Panel should follow up discussion on the governance structure of UGC-funded institutions and their internal grievances and complaint mechanisms in the current session. He also suggested that deputations should be invited to present views at the meeting.

To be confirmed

8. Funding flexibility and support measures for schools to set up incorporated management committees

At the meeting on 3 June 2005, members agreed to follow up discussion of the item and receive deputations on 20 June 2005.

20 June 2005

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

9. Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme (NET)

At the meeting on 3 June 2005, members agreed to discuss the NET Scheme on 30 June 2005, in the light of its cost-effectiveness in improving the English proficiency of students in Hong Kong as well as the difficulty in recruitment and retention of NETs. 30 June 2005

10. Second Matching Grant Scheme for University Grants Committee-funded Institutions 20 June 2005

At the meeting on 3 June 2005, members agreed to discuss the item at a special meeting scheduled for 20 June 2005.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
9 June 2005