

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 10 December 2004)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. 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.

*Suggested to be
deleted*

The Administration has indicated that it has no intention of turning the EC into a statutory body.

2. 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 the Secretary for Education and Manpower to report to the Panel 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

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

At the meeting on 17 November 2003, members of the Panel on Education 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.

10 January 2005

The issue was originally scheduled for discussion at the Panel meeting to be held on 8 November 2004. As agreed, discussion will be postponed to the next meeting on 10

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

January 2005, at which the Administration will update Members on latest development of the NET Scheme in primary schools.

4. School self-evaluation (SSE)

At its meeting on 3 March 2004, the Bills Committee on Education (Amendment) Bill 2002 decided to refer the item of SSE including its impact on teachers' workload in schools to the Panel on Education for follow-up discussion.

13 December 2004

The Administration will present a progress report on the implementation of the School Development and Accountability framework, including SSE, to the Panel on 13 December 2004.

5. Future developments in the higher education sector

At the meeting on 15 March 2004, members of the Panel on Education requested the 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 *at a later stage*.

To be confirmed

6. 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;

To be confirmed

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.

7. Sample constitution for Incorporated Management Committees (IMCs)

Under the Education Ordinance as amended by the Education (Amendment) Ordinance 2004, all aided schools are required to submit a draft IMC constitution before 1 July 2009 in order to establish an IMC.

*Suggested to be
deleted*

The Administration advised that an English version of a sample constitution for IMCs was provided for the Bills

Committee meeting on 30 June 2004. Subsequently, the Chinese version was provided to the Bills Committee meeting on 6 July 2004.

According to the Administration as requested by school sponsoring bodies (SSBs), the Administration has uploaded the sample onto EMB's homepage on 21 October 2004. The sample serves as a reference for SSBs in drafting their IMC constitutions and they are free to adapt the sample to suit their own conditions as long as relevant provisions of the Education Ordinance are observed. The Administration shall update the sample as and when necessary.

8. Regulation of private intermediaries providing overseas studies services

Item referred to the Panel on 21 July 2004 under the LegCo Redress System. Duty Roster Member and Invited Members receiving a concern group on 17 July 2004 considered that to protect the interests of students and parents, the Government should regulate the operation of private intermediaries providing overseas studies services by way of appropriate amendments to the Education Ordinance.

*Suggested to be
deleted*

The Administration has explained that services provided by such private intermediaries are mainly related to applications of travel documents, and transport and accommodation arrangements for admission to education programmes offered by overseas institutions. These services are commercial in nature and users of such services are safeguarded by relevant consumer-related legislation. The Administration also pointed out that many overseas countries have mechanisms in place to safeguard the rights and interests of their non-local students. Hong Kong students who are not satisfied with the education services and accommodation provided by an overseas institution may lodge their complaints with the appropriate authority in the overseas country concerned.

In view of the reasons stated in the above paragraph, the Administration suggests to delete this item.

9. Reforming the academic structures for senior secondary education and higher education

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

At the meeting on 29 October 2004, members in general expressed support for the implementation of a 3-year junior secondary and 3-year senior secondary education, linking to a four-year undergraduate university programme (the “3+3+4” structure). Members had requested the Administration to re-consider the appropriate timing for Liberal Studies to become a core subject, plan the professional development programmes and workshops for teachers and principals, organize briefings and seminars for parents, re-consider the proportion of parents’ share of the additional costs incurred, and consider extending the duration for the consultation on the “3+3+4” structure. A more focused briefing session for members on “3+3+4” was held on 6 December 2004 and a special meeting will be held on 20 December 2004 to receive views from deputations on the “3+3+4” structure.

20 December 2004

10. 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.

To be confirmed

11. Implementation of Small Class Teaching

At the meeting on 8 November 2004, the Panel has received 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 and agreed to revisit the issue at a future meeting.

To be confirmed

12. Increase of course fees by the Hong Kong Institute of

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Vocational Education(HKIVE)

At the meeting on 8 November 2004, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong proposed to discuss the issue at the next meeting. Mr CHEUNG said that he had received complaints on the recent increase of course fees of some part-time programmes offered by HKIVE.

13 December 2004

Note

Changes proposed by the Administration are in italic.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 December 2004