

**For information on
13 November 2006**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Information Relating to the Review
of Post-Secondary Education Sector**

Introduction

This paper provides information on the questions raised by Members at the meeting held on 27 March 2006 during which the Review of Post-Secondary Education Sector was discussed.

(a) Reduction of taught post-graduate and sub-degree places in the University Grants Committee-funded Institutions (*paragraph 32 of minutes of meeting*)

2. Following the recommendation of the Higher Education Review conducted by the University Grants Committee (UGC), the Administration decided in 2003 that, in general, sub-degree (SD) and taught post-graduate (TPg) programmes should be self-financing to help achieve a more equitable distribution of public resources. That said, SD programmes that (i) require high start-up and maintenance costs or access to expensive laboratories and equipment; (ii) meet specific manpower training needs; or (iii) can be regarded as endangered species, would continue to be publicly-funded. Similarly, TPg programmes that meet specific manpower requirements and those that are required for providing full training of certain professionals will continue to be subsidized. A breakdown of the planned reduction in approved student places in the UGC-funded institutions at SD and TPg levels, using the 2003/04 academic year as the base year, is set out below –

Academic Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Number of Reduction in Approved Student Places (year-on-year changes) (in full-time-equivalent term)				
Sub-degree Level	841	1 282	2 060	1 674
Taught Postgraduate	683	1 057	829	370

Level				
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**(b) Number of sub-degree holders recruited by the Government
(paragraph 41 of minutes of meeting)**

3. Based on the information provided by the Civil Service Bureau and other government bureaux/departments, it is estimated that in 2005 the Government has recruited, under either civil service or non-civil service contract terms, some 4,800 persons with qualifications at sub-degree or above levels. Among these new recruits 1,206 were sub-degree holders.

**(c) Demand for articulation of sub-degree graduates (paragraph 43
of minutes of meeting)**

4. Members have requested the Government to provide information on the number of sub-degree graduates who were qualified and had intention to pursue university education in the 2004/05 and 2005/06 academic years. Without a full-scale survey conducted among the graduates concerned, it would be difficult to ascertain the number of graduates who had the intention to pursue university education.

5. It should be emphasized that while academic results may to some extent reflect a student's ability in pursuing further education, admission of a student is the decision of the institution concerned, having regard to the overall merit of the application, including such considerations as the student's language proficiencies, participation in extra-curricular activities and his/her choice of studies.

**(d) Allocation of vacated school premises for post-secondary uses
(paragraph 49 of minutes of meeting)**

6. We understand that some post-secondary institutions are in need of suitable sites for developing or enhancing campus facilities. In this connection, we have introduced a Land Grant Scheme under which sites would be allocated to post-secondary institutions for constructing purpose-built campuses. For those institutions that do not want to build new campuses, the Education and Manpower Bureau will examine whether suitable vacant school premises would be available to cater for

their accommodation needs.

(e) Other Issues (*paragraph 53 of minutes of meeting*)

7. The Administration notes the views expressed by Members as encapsulated at paragraphs 36, 46, 47 and 48 of minutes of meeting.

**Education and Manpower Bureau
November 2006**