

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 4 May 2006)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. 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

2. 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. The Administration will provide a proposed school list in due course. To be confirmed

3. 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's) 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. To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Review on governance structure of UGC-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. He also suggested that deputations should be invited to present views at the meeting. At the meeting on 10 April 2006, Dr Fernando CHEUNG raised the same suggestion again.

To be confirmed

5. Review of student financial assistance schemes

At the meeting on 11 July 2005, the Panel requested the Administration to review the provision of financial assistances to needy students under various student financial assistance schemes, having regard to the impact of the increases in tuition fees under the new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel with the review results and recommendations in the new session.

To be confirmed

6. Future development of the textbook industry

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Members noted that arising from the Administration's proposals on various copyright-related issues, the textbook industry had expressed grave concern about the impact of the proposed exemption of non-profit-making educational establishments and educational establishment subvented by Government from the proposed criminal liability for copying and distribution of copyright infringing printed works on the future development of the textbook industry. Members agreed to receive views from the industry and other sectors which might have different perspectives on the issue, including the Consumer Council which conducted annual surveys on textbook prices. Members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry will be invited to join the discussion of this item.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Reduction of classes in secondary schools and merger of secondary schools

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mr CHEUNG expressed concern about the reduction of classes in secondary schools in the light of a declining student population, and the proposed merger of secondary schools with less than 12 classes. To be confirmed

8. Arts and cultural studies in school education

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mrs CHOW considered that the Panel should discuss the curriculum for arts and cultural studies in schools in the light of the Government's policy commitment to enrich the quality of life in Hong Kong. To be confirmed

9. Curriculum and assessment framework for new senior secondary education

At the meeting on 14 November 2005, Mr Patrick LAU expressed concern about the curriculum design of Liberal Studies under the new academic structure for senior secondary education. The Administration informed the meeting that the Education and Manpower Bureau had completed the consultation with the school sector on the design of the curriculum and assessment framework for the new senior secondary structure. The Administration would provide the Panel with an update on the latest developments in respect of the new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education in early 2006. To be confirmed

10. Workload of teachers

Item proposed by Ms Audrey EU at the meeting on 12 December 2005. Ms EU expressed concern about the long working hours and heavy workload of teachers in schools. Members agreed to discuss the item at a future meeting. To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

11. Education for children of ethnic minorities

At the meeting on 9 January 2006, members agreed to follow up the issue at a future meeting. The Administration's response to members' concerns was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1536/05-06(01) on 29 March 2006. To be confirmed

12. Appointment of government school teachers on permanent terms under the new civil service entrance system

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned that some serving teachers in government school are unable to convert to permanent terms upon completion of a six-year contract. To be confirmed

13. Remuneration systems in University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions after deregulation of university salaries

The Panel had a follow-up discussion on this matter on 26 January 2006 at which views and concerns of deputations were received. The Administration will consider the members' views and revert to the Panel at a future meeting. To be confirmed

14. Implementation of research projects funded by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB)

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned about the allegation made by the University Education Concern Group that EMB had unduly influenced the work of academics in the conduct of research projects funded by EMB by way of the bidding mechanism. Members agreed to discuss the issue at a future meeting. To be confirmed

15. Restructuring of classes under the new academic structure for senior secondary education

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration intends to brief Members on the principles and measures to be adopted in the restructuring of classes under the new academic structure for senior secondary education to be implemented in 2009-10. 12 June 2006

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

16. Implementation of asbestos management plan on the premises of aided schools

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration intends to provide funds to aided schools concerned for hiring registered asbestos consultants to implement asbestos management plan as required by the Air Pollution Control Ordinance.

12 June 2006

17. Proposed revision of senior secondary school fees

Item proposed by the Administration. The school fees of the senior secondary school, after a freeze of seven years, have been increased in September 2005 to a recovery rate of 15.8% and 15.5% of the recurrent cost for Secondary 4 and 5 and Secondary 6 and 7 respectively. With a view to resuming the target recovery cost of 18% in phases, the Administration intends to revise the fees to a recovery rate of 16.2% and 16% in September 2006 for the two categories respectively. The actual increase is from \$5,320 to \$5,670 per year for Secondary 4 and 5 and from \$9,100 to 9,450 per year for Secondary 6 and 7, i.e. an increase of \$350 per year for each group.

12 June 2006