

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 9 May 2007)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Progress Report on "334"

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration intends to update the Panel on progress of preparation for 334 in relation to the milestones set out in the 334 Report. Since October 2004, the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) has conducted three rounds of consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (C&A) frameworks of the 24 New Senior Secondary (NSS) subjects. The first two rounds mainly focused on the design blueprint and curriculum details of the subjects. The provisional final drafts of the C&A Guides were uploaded onto the EMB website in June 2006 for the reference of schools, tertiary institutions and publishers. In the third consultation, special focus was placed on the public assessment planning and design including School-based Assessment (SBA). After discussion with various stakeholders, the implementation timeline for SBA was agreed and finalized on 19 March 2007 and the finalized C&A Guides were uploaded onto the EMB website on 26 March, 2007. Printed copies were issued to schools in April, 2007. Professional Development Programmes continue as scheduled. Target participants include school leaders and teachers of ordinary schools and schools admitting students with intellectual disabilities (ID). Development of NSS curriculum for students with ID and the piloting of Applied Learning courses are also in progress.

25 May 2007

2. Remuneration policy for staff seconded to the Community College of the City University of Hong Kong (the College)

At the meeting on 16 April 2007, members receive a briefing by the Council of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU Council) on its proposals on remuneration policy for staff deployed to the College after June 2008. Members had also received the views of staff associations and individuals on the proposals. The Panel has requested the CityU Council to provide a written response to the questions raised by members for discussions.

25 May 2007

3. School Development and Accountability (SDA)

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.

11 June 2007

The Administration proposes to report on the progress of SDA implementation at the meeting on 11 June 2007.

4. 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.

11 June 2007

The Administration proposes to discuss the item at the meeting on 11 June 2007.

5. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

The Panel received the views of individuals and organizations at two special meetings on 28 February and 13 April 2007 respectively. The Administration has been requested to provide a written response to members' concern as well as the views and allegations made by the individuals and organizations at the two special meetings. The Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat has been requested to conduct a research study on the subject, and provide the research outline for discussion at the meeting on 14 May 2007. At the meeting on 16 April 2007, members agreed to follow up the matter at regular meetings of the Panel.

Regularly

6. Review on governance structure of University Grants Committee (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

7. Remuneration systems in 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

8. Future development of the textbook industry and development of talents for textbook writing

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

At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mrs Selina CHOW proposed and members agreed to discuss the development of talents for textbook writing.

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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

12. Use of information technology in education

Item proposed by Mr SIN Chung-kai at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr SIN is concerned about the next strategy for the use of information technology in education in 2007 and onwards. To be confirmed

13. Remuneration for school clerks and janitors

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr LEE is concerned that since the inclusion of salaries and allowances for clerks and janitors in aided schools under the Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) in 2000, the salaries and allowances of clerks and janitors in some aided schools have not been increased in line with the inflation and OEBG adjustments. To be confirmed