

**Panel on Education**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 6 June 2007)

	<b>Proposed timing for discussion</b>
<b>1. Progress of "334"</b>	
At the meeting on 25 May 2007, members received an update on the preparation work for the implementation of 334. Members agreed to follow up discussion of the item in July 2007.	9 July 2007
<b>2. Revision of senior secondary school fees</b>	
Item proposed by the Administration. According to the Administration, senior secondary school fees had been frozen at the levels of 1997-1998 school year until 2005-2006 school year when the school fees started to be revised annually with a view to reaching the target recovery rate of 18% gradually. As in the past two years, this year the Administration intends to increase the school fees in view of the improvement in the general economy and prosperity in the society. The increase in fees is not expected to impose a heavy burden on the families concerned.	9 July 2007
<b>3. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy</b>	
The Panel received the views of individuals and organizations at two special meetings on 28 February and 13 April 2007 respectively. At the meeting on 14 May 2007, members discussed and agreed on the proposed outline of the research on academic freedom and institutional autonomy of higher education. Members also discussed the way forward and agreed to consider the major issues raised by individuals and organizations on academic freedom and institutional autonomy at future meetings.	Regularly
<b>4. Review on governance structure of University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions and their grievances and complaints mechanisms</b>	
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	To be confirmed

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

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.

This item will be considered under "3" above.

**5. 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

This item will be considered under "3" above.

**6. 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.

**7. 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

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**8. 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

**9. 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

This item will be considered under "3" above.

**10. 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

**11. 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