

**Panel on Education**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 9 October 2006)

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**1. 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. To be confirmed

The Administration had proposed to report on the progress of SDA implementation at the meeting on 10 July 2006. At the meeting on 12 June 2006, members agreed to defer discussion of the item to the new session. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel at a future meeting.

**2. 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

**3. 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

**4. 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

**5. 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

**6. 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

**7. 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

**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

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**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

**10. Education for gifted children**

Item proposed by Mr Jasper TSANG at the meeting on 8 May 2006. Mr TSANG is concerned about the provision of education for gifted children in school. To be confirmed

**11. An alternative Chinese Language curriculum for non-Chinese speaking students**

Item referred by Duty Roster Members (DRMs) for follow-up after their interview with the Hong Kong Unison (the deputation) on 5 September 2006. DRMs also suggested that the Panel should arrange a visit to schools designated for admitting non-Chinese speaking students. A summary of the views of the deputation and the Administration's response and related papers were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)3101/05-06(01) on 27 September 2006. To be confirmed

**12. 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 2005-2006 session. Proposed to be deleted

The Administration submitted a paper on the outcome of the review to the Panel for discussion on 21 July 2006. Members noted the review findings and justifications for maintaining the existing income eligibility criteria for full grant assistance under all financial assistance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

The Administration will review the current arrangements for student financial assistance schemes for university students under the new academic structure for higher education before it comes into operation in the 2012/13 academic year. It will consult all stakeholders on recommendations nearer the time.

**13. 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.

Proposed to be  
deleted

The Administration submitted a paper on the outcome of the review to the Panel for discussion on 21 July 2006. Members noted the review findings and justifications for maintaining the existing income eligibility criteria for full grant assistance under all financial assistance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency.

**14. 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.

Proposed to be  
deleted

The Panel discussed “Restructuring of classes under the new academic structure for senior secondary school” at the meeting on 12.6.2006 and “Latest development of new academic structure” on 10.7.2006. At the meeting on 10.7.2006, the Panel passed a motion urging the Administration to continue its consultation with educational bodies and not to raise the issue with the Panel or implement the proposals in 2007 before a consensus is reached with the education sector.