

Research Outline

Academic freedom and institutional autonomy of higher education in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Hong Kong

1. Background

1.1 At its meeting on 13 April 2007, the Panel on Education requested the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) to conduct a research on academic freedom and institutional autonomy of higher education in overseas places and Hong Kong.

2. Research outline

Part 1 — Introduction

- (a) background information of the research
- (b) overview of higher education systems in selected places

Part 2 — Legal protection of academic freedom and institutional autonomy

- (a) direct constitutional and legislative protection
- (b) relevant legal protection measures
- (c) governing structure of higher educational institutions

Part 3 — Funding arrangement of higher education

- (a) funding institutions
- (b) funding policies and procedures
- (c) accountability

Part 4 — Employment relationship of higher educational institutions

- (a) employment agreement
- (b) dismissal and dispute handling mechanism

Part 5 — Analysis

comparison of the various attributes of academic freedom and institutional autonomy of the higher education systems in selected places

3. Selected places to be studied

3.1 RLSD will study the experiences in the United Kingdom (UK) and New Zealand. UK is chosen because it is where the University Grants Committee (UGC) concept first initiated. New Zealand is chosen because its higher education system is undergoing a series of reforms. Both places used to have the UGC as a resource distribution agency for higher education. The corresponding development of the UGC in Hong Kong will be examined in respect of impacts on academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

4. Completion date

4.1 RLSD will complete the research by July 2007.

Research and Library Services Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
17 May 2007