

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 4th meeting**  
**held at the Legislative Council Chamber**  
**on Friday, 30 November 2007, at 3:00 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP  
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP  
Hon Margaret NG  
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP  
Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP  
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum, JP  
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP  
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP

Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon LEE Wing-tat  
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH, JP  
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP  
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, SBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP  
Hon KWONG Chi-kin  
Hon TAM Heung-man

**Members absent:**

Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP  
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG, JP

**Public officers attending:**

Professor K C CHAN, SBS, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Stanley YING, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Miss Amy TSE, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Alfred FOK	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr Michael WONG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

Mr Michael V STONE, JP

Secretary-General, University Grants  
Committee

Ms Amy WONG

Principal Assistant Secretary for Education  
(Higher Education)

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Pauline NG

Assistant Secretary General 1

**Staff in attendance:**

Miss Becky YU

Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Mrs Mary TANG

Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Ms Alice CHEUNG

Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1

Mr Frankie WOO

Legislative Assistant (1)2

Action

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**Item No. 1 - FCR(2007-08)36**

**HEAD 190 – UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE**

♦ **Subhead 700 General non-recurrent**

**New Item “Fourth matching grant scheme for UGC-funded institutions and self-financing local universities”**

The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Education was consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 12 November 2007.

2. Mr Jasper TSANG, Chairman of the Panel on Education, said that members of the Panel generally supported the proposal but Mr Albert CHAN had indicated conditional support as he was concerned about the right of naming a building after a donor who had only contributed part of the construction cost with the remaining being matched by government funding under the Matching Grant Scheme (MGS). Given that the Fourth MGS would be expanded to cover the two self-financing local universities, namely, the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) and the Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSJU), the Administration was requested to consider further expanding the Scheme to cover self-financing sub-degree programmes offered by the institutions concerned.

3. On behalf of Members of the Democratic Alliance for Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, Mr Jasper TSANG said that they were supportive of the proposal. However, they considered that the Scheme should also offer scholarships to meritorious sub-degree holders who wished to pursue degree studies in local universities, given that it had been offering scholarships to non-local students.

4. In response, the Deputy Secretary for Education (1) (DS(Ed)) pointed out while funding for the Fourth MGS had remained unchanged at \$1 billion, the scope of the Scheme had been expanded to cover the two self-financing local universities. Any further expansion of the grant to cover self-financing sub-degree programmes would likely diminish the amount of grants for degree programmes. Notwithstanding, the Administration was conducting a review of the post-secondary sector which would cover, among others, appropriate support measures to be put in place in future. The review was expected to be completed by mid-2008.

5. Noting that the grants under the Fourth MGS to the self-financing institutions could apply to non-local degree students, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered it unfair and discriminatory for local sub-degree students of self-financing sub-degree programmes if they were not able to benefit from the grants under the Scheme. He also failed to see why the Fourth MGS could not be extended to cover self-financing sub-degree programmes as these might be able to attract private donations. He urged that consideration should be given to extending the coverage of the matching grants to self-financing sub-degree programmes in the ongoing review of the post-secondary sector, in time for inclusion under the Fourth MGS. Dr KWOK Ka-ki also pointed out that some of the grants made available to non-local students were not equitably applied to local students who had no choice but to take up employment to finance their own studies, thereby affecting their studies.

6. DS(Ed) assured members that their concern about the need to extend the coverage of the matching grants to self-financing sub-degree programmes would be considered in the review of the post-secondary sector that was underway. The Secretary-General, University Grants Committee (SG,UGC) added that while government grants could not be used for local scholarships, the donated money could be used for such purposes. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong enquired if the Administration was prepared to award a separate matching grant for self-financing sub-degree programmes, if the institutions were able to secure private donations in the provision of these programmes. DS(Ed) said that as the review was still underway, he was not in a position to speculate on the outcome but members' views would be considered in the review.

7. As regards naming rights, SG,UGC said that there was a long tradition for universities and other institutions to name buildings after donors or distinguished alumni despite that a great majority of these buildings had been funded by public money. Neither UGC nor the Government considered it appropriate to intervene in the process which the institutions had full autonomy in deciding whether or not any buildings or any part of the institutions should be named after the donors/alumni. Such an approach was also applicable to MGS.

8. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed regret about the recent naming of a medical faculty after a donor and enquired if there were any guidelines on the naming rights of campus buildings and faculties. SG,UGC said that UGC had no rules governing naming rights which should be properly left for the institutions to deal with. All institutions had their own internal guidelines and discretion on acceptance of donations and how such donations should be acknowledged. If the naming of

buildings/faculties had aroused a controversy, it would be up to the institution concerned to deal with it rather than for UGC to dictate on the manner in which donations should be accepted and used. On the donation in question regarding the naming of a medical faculty, he said that such was not a one-off donation but was made in phases. Under the MGS, only donations which had actually been received would be matched.

9. On the duration of the Fourth MGS, DS(Ed) said that taking into account experience from the Third MGS which had only secured \$0.9 billion worth of matching grant, being \$0.1 billion short of the maximum matching grant of \$1 billion, during a period of nine months, the Administration had decided to extend the duration of the Fourth MGS to 14 months to allow sufficient time for the institutions to secure donations. The eight UGC-funded institutions, OUHK and HKSYU had been consulted which had agreed to the terms and conditions of the Scheme.

10. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that Members of the Liberal Party would welcome the expansion of the Fourth MGS to cover OUHK and HKSYU, being the two self-financing universities in Hong Kong. He also supported the further extension of the Scheme to cover self-financing sub-degree programmes. He was of the view that the Administration should ensure that such an extension, if made, would benefit the students direct and not for the institutions to repay debts in relation to the construction of campus buildings for sub-degree programmes.

11. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

12. The Chairman advised that in view of the long agenda for the next meeting on 14 December 2007, there might be a need to hold an additional meeting on the same day to deal with any unfinished business.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

10 January 2008