

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)175/07-08
(The minutes have been cleared
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 11 October 2007, at 12:10 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
- Members absent** : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2)6
- Staff in attendance** : Mrs Vivian KAM
Assistant Secretary General 2

Mr Stanley MA
Senior Council Secretary (2)6

Miss Carmen HO
Legislative Assistant (2)6

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I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman
[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)18/07-08]

Election of Chairman

Mr Jasper TSANG, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session.

2. Mr Jasper TSANG was nominated by Mrs Selina CHOW and the nomination was seconded by Mr TAM Yiu-chung. Mr Jasper TSANG accepted the nomination. As Mr TSANG was nominated for the office and the Deputy Chairman was absent for the meeting, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, the member with the highest precedence on the membership list, presided at the election.

3. As there was no other nomination, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan declared Mr Jasper TSANG elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session. Mr Jasper TSANG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session.

5. Dr YEUNG Sum was nominated by the Chairman and the nomination was seconded by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan. The Chairman stated that he had secured Dr YEUNG's acceptance of the nomination.

6. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr YEUNG Sum elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2007-2008 session

7. Members agreed to hold regular meetings of the Panel on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 pm, except for February, May and June 2008 the regular meetings of which would be held on 13 February, 8 May and 12 June 2008 respectively.

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III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)18/07-08]

Items for discussion at the next meeting

8. The Chairman referred members to the "List of outstanding items for discussion", and invited views on the items for discussion at the next regular meeting scheduled for 12 November 2007.

9. Responding to Ms Emily LAU, the Chairman said that the Administration had informed the Clerk today of its proposal to defer discussion of items 3 and 4 on the List to the regular meeting in December 2007. The Clerk said that the deferral would not affect the Administration's schedule for seeking the Legislative Council's approval of the financial proposals.

10. As the draft research report on academic freedom and institutional autonomy of higher education prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat had been completed, the Chairman suggested to discuss the draft at the next regular meeting.

11. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong proposed to brief the Panel on a Member's bill to incorporate three colleges as the constituent colleges of the Chinese University of Hong Kong at the next regular meeting.

12. After discussion, members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting -

- (a) The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Declaration of C. W. Chu College, Wu Yee Sun College and Lee Woo Sing College as Constituent Colleges) Bill;
- (b) Retention of two supernumerary posts of Principal Education Officer for a period of two years and six months up to 30 June 2010;
- (c) The Third Strategy on Information Technology in Education; and
- (d) Research report on academic freedom and institutional autonomy of higher education in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Items for discussion at future meetings

New initiatives in education

13. Mrs Selina CHOW expressed concern about the adequacy of schools and

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the arrangements for schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme with the implementation of 12-year free education.

14. Mr LEUNG Kwan-yuen declared interest as the Chairman of the Vocational Training Council (VTC). He considered that the Panel should discuss the new education initiatives in the Policy Address 2007-2008, including the provision of 12-year free education and full subvention for full-time courses offered by the VTC for Secondary 3 leavers. Mr LEUNG Kwan-yuen said that the professional development for teachers was important for the implementation of small class teaching which merited detailed discussion. Mr Tommy CHEUNG echoed his views.

15. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong opined that as the Administration aimed to finalize the detailed arrangements for the implementation of small class teaching by September 2008, the Panel should discuss the related issues at appropriate time.

16. Ms Audrey EU was concerned about the provision of sufficient student hostels in tertiary institutions to facilitate the development of Hong Kong into a regional education hub.

17. The Chairman reminded members that the Secretary for Education would brief the Panel on the new education initiatives at the special meeting on 18 October 2007. Members could raise issues relating to the new education initiatives then. Should members consider it necessary to schedule further meetings thereafter, they could raise the subject for the Panel's consideration.

18. Mrs Selina CHOW supported the Chairman's view and said that the Panel could consider the need to schedule additional meetings at the next regular meeting. Members agreed.

Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

19. Mr LEUNG Kwan-yuen said that while he considered the subject of academic freedom and institutional autonomy of higher education important, he considered it inappropriate to discuss it on a regular basis because there were other equally important subjects. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong shared his view and said that the Panel should conclude its deliberation on the subject after discussion of the research report at the meeting in November 2007.

20. Ms Audrey EU said that she noted that the Administration had applied for leave for judicial review on the findings of the Commission of Inquiry on allegations relating to the Hong Kong Institute of Education. Notwithstanding, she suggested that the Panel should request the Administration to explain in writing its views and stance on the meaning of academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

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21. Mrs Selina CHOW opined that as the Administration had applied for leave for judicial review on part of the findings of the Commission, she considered it inappropriate for the Panel to seek the views of the Administration at the present stage. The Chairman proposed that the Panel would first seek the view of the legal adviser on Ms Audrey EU's suggestion. The Chairman also pointed out that according to the opinion of the legal adviser, discussion of the research report would not contravene the sub judice rule.

[*Post-meeting note:* After seeking the view of Assistant Legal Adviser 1, the Clerk relayed in writing Ms Audrey EU's suggestion to the Administration for consideration on 11 October 2007.]

Plagiarism in academic work and education for children of ethnic minorities

22. Mr Albert CHAN suggested that the Panel should discuss the mechanism for handling complaints about plagiarism in academic work and the subject of the provision of education for children of ethnic minorities. Members agreed to include the items in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

IV. Any other business

Informal meeting

23. The Chairman suggested and members agreed to hold an informal closed meeting to discuss the draft research report on academic freedom and institutional autonomy at 10:45 am on 29 October 2007.

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:37 pm.