

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 October 2007)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Retention of two supernumerary posts of Principal Education Officer for a period of two years and six months up to 30 June 2010

Item proposed by the Administration. The two supernumerary Principal Education Officer posts were created on 1 July 2005 to provide dedicated professional support for the implementation of the new senior secondary curriculum and assessment framework, as well as to provide school-based professional support to individual schools to assist their smooth transition to the new academic structure. The two posts were created initially for two years and six months up to 31 December 2007, subject to a review on their continued need in mid 2007. The Education Bureau has completed the review and considers that there is a need to retain the two posts concerned for another two years and six months up to 30 June 2010.

November 2007

2. The Third Strategy on 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 (IT) in education in 2007 and onwards.

November 2007

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the proposals in the consultation paper on the Third Strategy on Information Technology in Education. The proposals aim to further integrate IT into learning and teaching to enhance learning outcomes.

3. Redevelopment of Li Shu Fan site - phase 1 by The University of Hong Kong

Item proposed by the Administration. The University of Hong Kong (HKU) intends to redevelop the Li Shi Fan site at Sassoon Road, Pokfulam into a Human Research Institute to provide the necessary space, advanced technologies and facilities to nurture a multi-disciplinary environment to the study of human biomedical research. The estimated government funding required for the project is \$133 million. Subject to the Finance Committee's approval, HKU intends to commence construction work in early 2008 for completion in 2010.

November 2007

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Construction of student hostels at Lung Wah Street, Kennedy Town by The University of Hong Kong

Item proposed by the Administration. The University of Hong Kong (HKU) intends to construct a total of 1 800 student hostel places at Lung Wah Street, Kennedy Town. The estimated government funding required for the project is \$460 million. Subject to the Finance Committee's approval, HKU plans to commence work in early 2008 for completion in 2011. November 2007

5. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

The Panel received the views of individuals and organizations at two special meetings on 28 February and 13 April 2007. At the meeting on 11 June 2007, the Panel agreed to discuss seven major issues in the order as follows - Regularly

- (a) Role, functions and composition of University Grants Committee (UGC);
- (b) Funding and research grants for the UGC-funded institutions;
- (c) Governance of the UGC-funded institutions;
- (d) Employment of staff of the UGC-funded institutions;
- (e) Redress mechanism of the UGC-funded institutions;
- (f) Commissioning of consultancy studies, projects and programmes; and
- (g) Institutionalized protection of academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

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 schools are unable to convert to permanent terms upon completion of a six-year contract. To be deleted

The Administration has provided a paper entitled "An Update on Further Appointment of Teachers on Civil Service Agreement Terms in Government Schools" [LC Paper No. CB(2)2409/06-07(01)].

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

9. 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

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