

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Panel on Education

Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 12 November 2007

Additional staffing support for the implementation of the new academic structure

Purpose

This paper summarizes the discussions of the Panel on Education (the Panel) on the creation of two supernumerary directorate posts for the implementation of the new academic structure for senior secondary and higher education.

Background

2. In his 2004 Policy Address, the Chief Executive set out the direction to develop a new senior secondary and university system that would cope with the demands of a knowledge-based society. On 20 October 2004, the Administration launched a consultation exercise to seek the views of the community on a proposed new academic structure comprising three-year junior secondary, three-year senior secondary and four-year undergraduate education. On 18 May 2005, the Administration issued the consultation report entitled "The New Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education - Action Plan for Investing in the Future", which set out its decision to implement the new academic structure starting from the 2009-2010 school year.

3. In June 2005, the Administration put forth its proposal for the creation of two supernumerary Principal Education Officer posts from 1 July 2005 for a period of five years to prepare for the implementation of the new academic structure.

Deliberations of the Panel

4. The Panel discussed the Administration's proposal at its meeting on 3 June 2005. Members noted that one of the posts was responsible for the overall planning

and provision of professional support to implement the new senior secondary curriculum and assessment framework and conducting regular review and evaluation of the implementation processes. The other post was responsible for providing intensive school-based professional support to the senior secondary sector to ensure its smooth transition to the new structure.

Original duration of the posts

5. While raising no objection to the proposal to create the two supernumerary directorate posts, members expressed reservations about the proposed duration of the posts for a period of five years. Members belonging to different political parties reached a consensus that the maximum duration of supernumerary directorate posts normally should not exceed a period of more than two and a half years. Members made a suggestion to the Administration to consider creating the posts for two years initially, and retaining them should there be such a need after review.

6. The Administration explained that in view of the scale, importance and complexity of the academic reform and the substantial amount of professional input required to implement the new senior secondary curriculum and assessment framework, it was necessary to create the two posts for five years up to 30 June 2010. The Administration appealed to members to consider the uniqueness of the posts to support the implementation of the new academic structure, instead of adhering strictly to a general consensus on the creation of supernumerary directorate posts in bureaux and departments under normal circumstances.

7. Notwithstanding the Administration's explanations, members maintained their view that the proposal should be considered from the perspective of prudent management of public resources.

Revised duration of the posts

8. Having considered members' views and suggestion, the Administration revised its original proposal and submitted on 9 June 2005 a proposal for the creation of the two posts for two and a half years up to 31 December 2007 to the Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee. The Administration stated in its submission that it was highly likely that the proposed posts would be required in the run-up to and during the first year of the implementation of the new academic structure to ensure that all necessary preparation work was completed in time and that problems identified during the early stage of the implementation were resolved properly and without delay.

9. The Establishment Subcommittee endorsed the proposal which was approved by the Finance Committee on 24 June 2005.

Relevant papers

10. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 November 2007

**Relevant papers on the creation of
two supernumerary posts of Principal Education Officer
for the implementation of the new academic structure**

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Education	3.6.2005 (Item III)	Minutes Agenda
Establishment Subcommittee	9.6.2005	Minutes EC(2005-06)5
Finance Committee	24.6.2005	Minutes FCR(2005-06)18

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