

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 November 2007)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Scholarship Endowment Fund

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration proposes to establish a \$1 billion endowment fund to provide scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students. This is one of the initiatives approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 16 October 2007 to further promote Hong Kong as a regional education hub. The Administration intends to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration on 11 January 2008.

10 December
2007

2. One-off Special Equipment Grant for University Grants Committee-funded institutions

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration proposes to provide a one-off grant of \$200 million in the 2008-2009 to the University Grants Committee (UGC) for establishing a Special Equipment Grant for the acquisition, replacement or upgrading of research equipment of the UGC-funded institutions. The Administration intends to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration on 11 January 2008.

10 December
2007

3. Recurrent funding for University Grants Committee-funded institutions for the 2008-2009 roll-over year

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration intends to seek the Panel's views on UGC's recommendation on the level of recurrent grants to be provided to the UGC-funded institutions for the 2008-2009 roll-over year. The Administration intends to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration on 11 January 2008.

10 December
2007

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

Item proposed by the Administration. The University of Hong Kong 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.

10 December
2007

5. 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 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.

10 December
2007

6. Education for children of ethnic minorities

Item proposed by Mr Albert CHAN at the meeting on 11 October 2007. Mr CHAN is concerned about the provision of education for children of ethnic minorities.

14 January 2008

7. New initiatives in education

At the meeting on 11 October 2007, members expressed their concerns about the new initiatives in education, in particular the provision of 12-year free education, the implementation of small class teaching, and the development of Hong Kong into a regional education hub. Members agreed to consider the need to discuss the related issues at appropriate time.

To be confirmed

The Administration proposes to discuss implementation details on small class teaching in primary schools on 14 January 2008.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

11. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

At the meeting on 11 October 2007, some members considered it inappropriate to discuss the item on a regular basis because there were other equally important subjects in education. Members agreed to first consider the research report on academic freedom and institutional autonomy prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat.

As and when
necessary

12. Plagiarism in academic work

Item proposed by Mr Albert CHAN at the meeting on 11 October 2007. Mr CHAN is concerned about the mechanism for handling complaints about plagiarism in academic work.

To be confirmed