

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 8th meeting  
held at the Legislative Council Chamber  
on Friday, 9 January 2009, at 3:00 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)  
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP  
Dr Hon Margaret NG  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon LEE Wing-tat  
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun  
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

**Members absent:**

Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, 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)
Ms Bernadette LINN, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1

Ms Elsie YUEN	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr Michael SUEN, GBS, JP	Secretary for Education
Mr Kenneth CHEN	Under Secretary for Education
Mr Raymond H C WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for Education
Mr Michael WONG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Education (1)
Mr Michael V STONE, JP	Secretary General, University Grants Committee
Dr Francis CHEUNG Wing-ming	Secretary General, The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
Mr Peter LEUNG Kam-yuen	Director (Corporate Services), The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

**Clerk in attendance:**

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT	Chief Council Secretary (1)4
Mr Simon CHEUNG	Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

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**Item No. 1 - FCR(2008-09)53**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
MADE ON 17 DECEMBER 2008**

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

**Item No. 2 - FCR(2008-09)54**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE  
MADE ON 3 AND 15 DECEMBER 2008**

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

**Item No. 3 - FCR(2008-09)55**

**HEAD 190 – UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE**

- **Subhead 000 Operational expenses**
- **Subhead 700 General non-recurrent**

**New Item "Research Endowment Fund for UGC-funded institutions"**

3. Ms Cyd HO, Chairman of the Panel on Education, reported that the Panel had discussed the funding proposal on 8 December 2008. On the recurrent grant for the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions for the 2009/10 to 2011/12 triennium, Panel members had expressed the following views --

- (a) as there would be a substantial increase of students meeting the minimum entry requirements for universities with the implementation of the new 334 academic structure, it was necessary for the Administration to review the number of publicly-funded first-year-first-degree places which had been maintained at 14 500 for many years;
- (b) the Administration should devise measures to assist those students who met the university entry requirements but were not enrolled at the UGC-funded institutions, for instance, by subsidizing the programmes offered by privately-funded universities; and
- (c) under the existing economic conditions, the Administration should refrain from increasing university tuition fees in implementing the new 334 academic structure.

4. Ms Cyd HO further reported that regarding the proposed Research Endowment Fund (the Fund), Panel members had commented on the following issues --

- (a) the appropriateness of setting up an endowment fund under the present financial market conditions;
- (b) the advantages of establishing the proposed Fund compared with the recurrent funding arrangement;
- (c) ways to maintain a steady flow of research funding for the UGC-funded institutions and the possible need to inject funds into the Fund to maintain the principal of the Fund;
- (d) the need to increase funding on research, as Hong Kong had been spending a very small proportion of its Gross Domestic Product on research compared with other countries;

- (e) differences in the criteria for allocating research resources between the existing Research Grants Council and the proposed steering committee for assessing the theme-based research; and
- (f) the need to put in place a set of fair and effective criteria to process research applications in respect of different research areas and disciplines.

Ms Cyd HO added that at Panel members' request, the Administration had provided information on the savings arising from the decline in school-age population and whether those savings would be redeployed to the university sector for the implementation of 4-year undergraduate programmes.

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

#### **Item No. 4 - FCR(2008-09)56**

#### **HEAD 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: EDUCATION BUREAU**

- **Subhead 950 Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority**

**New Item "Development of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination system"**

6. Ms Cyd HO, Chairman of the Panel on Education, reported that the Panel had discussed the present funding proposal on 8 December 2008. Panel members had raised the following concerns --

- (a) the feasibility of using other venues such as university facilities or sports centres of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department with good radio reception for the listening examinations;
- (b) the effectiveness of the upgrading of the hardware and software components of the examination systems of the Hong Kong and Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) in recent years ; and
- (c) whether the development of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination system would lead to an increase in examination fees.

Ms Cyd HO added that subsequent to the Panel meeting on 8 December 2008, HKEAA had provided supplementary information on the justifications for the installation of FM radio repeaters and details about the use of the two previous grants received by HKEAA in 2004 and 2005 for upgrading of the examinations systems.

7. Secretary-General, HKEAA advised that by 2015, the number of school halls required for the listening examinations would be increased to 447. Even if all the 349 school halls with acceptable quality of radio reception could be made available for holding examinations, a further 51 and 98 halls with acceptable quality of radio reception would still be required by HKEAA in 2012 and 2015 respectively. In order to minimize disturbance to school lessons/activities during the listening examinations and to set up the examination centres at locations easily accessible to candidates, there was a need to install FM radio signal repeaters to improve radio reception in the halls of 67 schools.

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

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.