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RE: Independent Inter-Institutional Redress Mechanism/Committee

We believe it is the duty of the executive branch of the government to prepare legislative drafts for the Legislative Council to review. Public participation in the process is confined to consultations, comments and criticisms. We would like to observe the normal practices of major democratic societies and refrain from providing extensive inputs. However, we would like to raise a few basic principles for the Panel to consider:

- 1) Lord Sutherland (2002) pointed out the need of mechanisms to settle internal university disputes or review administrative decisions (para. 3.27) and the failure to establish the required organizations will certainly defeat the purpose of other recommendations in his report and derail the healthy development of Hong Kong's higher education and research.
- 2) Extending the remit of the Office of Ombudsman of Hong Kong is one of the options recommended in the Sutherland Report and this supports the notion that oversights by an external independent body does not necessarily infringe upon university autonomy.
- 3) To ensure independence and legitimacy, staff members and council members of UGC funded institutions should not be nominated to any committees/units of the prospective establishment.
- 4) The prospective independent organization must not be established under the University Grants Committee (UGC)
- 5) However, the prospective independent organization may be funded by the UGC as it is established to improve governance of UGC funded institutions to help fulfill the mission of UGC.