



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
Education Bureau  
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. : (17) to EDB(HE) /1/4/2041/83 Pt. 3 電話 Telephone : 3540 7468  
來函檔號 Your Ref. : 傳真 Fax Line : 2804 6499

24 April 2009

Miss Odelia Leung  
Clerk to Panel on Education  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3rd floor, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

**Capital works projects of  
University Grants Committee-funded institutions**

At the meeting on 9 March 2009, the Panel on Education discussed the capital works project proposed by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) to construct two student hostel blocks accommodating 701 hostel places. Members requested the Administration to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of the student hostels to fully meet the existing shortfall in publicly-funded hostel places, and to provide information on the average construction cost per square metre for the project.

A study by HKUST has shown that, given the site and planning constraints, the most feasible way of achieving this increase is by enlarging the footprint of the building which would encroach on the slope nearby. This would require a revised building design, additional tree-felling and significant geotechnical works, and hence the need to seek statutory approvals of the new plans. HKUST estimates that such an approach, if adopted, would cause a delay of six to nine months to the project. After careful consideration, HKUST has decided not to adopt this approach, but to explore meeting the remaining shortfall by possible joint hostels with other UGC-funded institutions..

Capital works projects in the UGC-funded sector are initiated by the institutions. UGC does not impose any limits on the maximum number of hostel places in a block. Institutions would plan the provision of such places having regard to the individual circumstances of each project, including existing and future needs, site constraints and the campus development plan.

The estimated construction unit cost of project, represented by the building and building services costs, is \$12,562 per m<sup>2</sup> of construction floor area in September 2008 prices. In line with usual practice, we have included this estimate in our submission to the Public Works Subcommittee issued also today.

I should be grateful if you could circulate the above information to Members for their reference.

Yours sincerely,



( Amy Wong )

for Secretary for Education

c.c. SG, UGC (Attn: Miss Joyce Lee)