

Panel on Education**List of outstanding items for discussion**
(position as at 15 April 2009)

	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Drug abuse in schools	
At the meeting on 9 March 2009, members agreed to receive views from deputations and discuss with the Administration on measures to curb drug abuse in schools as soon as possible. Members also agreed that members of the Panel on Security and the Panel on Welfare Services should be invited to join the discussion.	30 April 2009
2. Capital works project of the University Grants Committee-funded institutions	
(i) <u>Innovation Tower (previously known as the School of Design Development), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University</u>	11 May 2009
Item originally proposed for discussion on 16 April 2009. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University proposes to build on its university campus a multi-storey academic building for its School of Design accommodating mainly classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, offices, amenities and resources centre.	
(ii) <u>Extension to the existing University Library at Central Campus, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</u>	
The Chinese University of Hong Kong proposes to construct an extension to the University Library at its Central Campus to provide additional library space. The proposed facilities will include reading and book stack areas, study spaces and support facilities.	
The Administration plans to submit the above proposals to the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee for consideration on 3 June and 19 June 2009 respectively.	

3. Start-up loan for post-secondary education providers

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will brief members on the funding applications for start-up loans from three post-secondary institutions - 11 May 2009

(i) The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

HKU applied for a start-up loan to fund the refurbishment (including furniture and equipment) costs of converting the ex-premises of Kwong Yuet Tong Excel Foundation Primary School to a campus for the operation of post-secondary programmes by the HKU SPACE Community College.

(ii) Hong Kong College of Technology (HKCT)

HKCT applied for a start-up loan to fund the refurbishment costs (including furniture and equipment) of converting the ex-premises of Ho Fai Primary School to a campus suitable for post-secondary education.

(iii) Chu Hai College of Higher Education (Chu Hai)

Chu Hai applied for a start-up loan to fund the construction of a purpose-built campus in Tuen Mun. The construction project comprises an Academic and Administration Building (with classrooms, lecture theatres, laboratories, studios, library and various amenity and services facilities) and a student hostel.

The Administration plans to submit the above proposals to the Finance Committee for consideration on 19 June 2009.

4. Progress of the Working Group on Development of Textbooks and e-Learning Resources

The Chairman suggested a briefing by the Administration on the progress of work of the Working Group on Textbook and E-learning Resources Development. 11 May 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Administration advised that the Working Group was set up in October 2008 to study the use and development of textbooks and electronic learning and teaching resources. Recommendations will be submitted to the Education Bureau by September 2009. The Administration will report the interim progress of the Working Group.

5. Review of financial assistance schemes for post-secondary students

The Panel discussed the subject of non-means-tested loan schemes at the meeting on 9 February 2009 and agreed that the provision of means-tested grants and loans to post-secondary students should be discussed at a future meeting, and deputations including the Hong Kong Federation of Students should be invited to give views.

July 2009

6. Role of the University Grants Committee in the higher education

Item proposed by the Chairman to follow up on the motion debate on "Comprehensively reviewing the role and functions of the University Grants Committee" at the Legislative Council (LegCo) meeting on 18 March 2009.

July 2009

7. Inter-institutional redress mechanism for the higher education sector

At the meeting on 9 February 2009, members agreed to follow up discussion of the subject matter. The Panel requested the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat to conduct a research on external complaints handling mechanisms in the higher education sector in selected overseas places; the Legal Service Division to provide legal advice on the response of the Heads of Universities Committee concerning the establishment of an elected independent inter-institutional complaints committee; and the Administration to provide a written response to address the issues raised at the meeting, including the proposal to extend the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to cover the University Grants Committee sector.

July 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Student Hostel, Phase 3 (1 650 places), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The Administration will propose discussion of the item at a future meeting date. To be confirmed

9. Sub-degree education and first-year-first-degree places

Item proposed by Miss Tanya CHAN at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Miss CHAN is concerned about the issues relating to sub-degree education. Members' concern about the number of publicly-funded first-year-first-degree places remaining at 14 500 for many years will be considered when the subject is discussed. To be confirmed

10. Developing Hong Kong into a regional education hub

Item proposed by Professor Patrick LAU at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Professor LAU suggested that the discussion should cover the provision of hostels for non-local students and the use of vacant school premises for such purpose. To be confirmed

11. Review of financial assistance schemes for primary and secondary school students

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr LEE considered that the Government should comprehensively review the eligibility criteria for the financial assistance schemes for primary and secondary school students administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency, including the School Textbook Assistance Scheme and the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme. To be confirmed

12. Liberal Studies

Item proposed by Mrs Regina IP at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mrs IP was concerned about the teaching and learning of the subject of Liberal Studies at senior secondary levels, and considered it imperative to carefully plan the implementation to avoid adverse impact on the quality of education. The subject was discussed in reporting the progress of preparation for the NSS Academic

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Structure on
30 March 2009

13. Education for students with special educational needs (SEN)

Item proposed by Mr Abraham SHEK at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr SHEK considered that the Panel should continue to discuss the provision of education for students with SEN. To be confirmed

14. Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme

The Benefits and Welfare Committee of the Native English-speaking Teachers' Association wrote to the Panel in July 2008 concerning the remuneration package and qualifications for native-speaking English teachers under the Scheme. Members agreed to include the item on the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. To be confirmed

15. The arts and culture in the school curriculum

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. The Chairman suggested that the subject be discussed in the context of the West Kowloon Cultural District Development at a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs. To be confirmed

16. Progress of promotion of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education qualification

At the meeting on 10 November 2008, members agreed to revisit the subject when the results of the study conducted with the Universities and Colleges Admission Services and other international agencies were available. To be confirmed