

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 7 November 2008)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Recurrent Funding for University Grants Committee-funded Institutions in the 2009/10 to 2011/12 Triennium and Establishment of Research Endowment Fund

Item proposed by the Administration. The University Grants Committee (UGC) recommends a recurrent funding of \$33,992 million for the 2009-2010 to 2011-2012 Triennium. Separately, the Administration proposes a one-off grant of \$18 billion to establish a Research Endowment Fund, the investment earnings of which will replace the existing annual funding to the Research Grants Council of the UGC and finance appropriate research projects on specific themes. Subject to the Education Panel's support, the Administration will seek funding approval of the Finance Committee.

December 2008

2. Development of the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSEE) system and further improvement to the examination processes

Item originally proposed by the Administration for discussion at the regular meeting in November 2008. According to the Administration, the examination systems and infrastructure of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority supporting the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination cannot support the requirements of the new HKDSEE. There is a need to develop a new examination system for the HKDSEE. The opportunity is taken to improve further the examination processes.

December 2008

3. Refinement of medium of instruction (MOI) policy for secondary schools

The Panel discussed the proposed refinement of the MOI policy at the meeting on 17 July 2008. The Administration had undertaken to revert to the Panel on the outcome of its consultation with the stakeholders on the fine-tuning proposals as soon as practicable.

January 2009

In response to the Secretariat's enquiry, the Administration has advised that it will report to the Panel in around December 2008 or January 2009.

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for discussion**

4. UGC-funded institutions' capital projects

The Administration has indicated that it will propose the following capital projects for discussion at the meeting on 12 January 2009 - January 2009

- i) Phase 8 Development, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University;
- ii) Centennial Campus, Phases 1 and 2, The University of Hong Kong;
- iii) Academic and Administration Building, City University of Hong Kong;
- iv) Two Integrated Teaching Buildings, The Chinese University of Hong Kong;
- v) Centralized General Research Laboratory Complex (Block 1) at Area 39, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and
- vi) New Academic Building, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

5. Implementation of the Education Amendment Ordinance

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr CHEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance and the need to extend the deadline for submission of draft constitutions to the Permanent Secretary for Education for the establishment of Incorporated Management Committee (IMC) in aided schools to 1 July 2011. March 2009

The Administration advised that it had engaged a professional consultant to conduct a three-year review study on the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance covering the period from 2005-2006 to 2007-2008 school years. The study report is expected to be completed by end of 2008. The Administration will brief the Panel on the study report including whether a resolution will be moved to extend the deadline for submission of draft IMC constitutions by aided schools.

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6. School of Design Development, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The Administration has indicated that it will propose discussion of the item at the meeting on 9 March 2009. March 2009

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

The Administration has indicated that it will propose discussion of the item at the meeting on 16 April 2009. April 2009

8. Electronic textbooks

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

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. May/June 2009

10. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

At the meeting on 12 November 2007, members agreed that the Administration, UGC and members of the public be invited to comment on the research report on academic freedom and institutional autonomy prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat. Members also agreed to discuss the subject upon receipt of submissions from interested parties and the responses from the Administration and UGC. To be confirmed

The Panel discussed the governance structure and the grievances and complaints mechanisms of the UGC-funded institutions and received deputations at the meeting on 17 July 2008. Members passed a motion urging the councils and the administrative arms

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of the UGC-funded institutions to, among others, establish an elected independent inter-institutional complaints committee, and agreed to follow up the subject matter in the new session.

At the meeting on 14 October 2008, members agreed to revisit the subject after receipt of the responses from the UGC-funded institutions on the motion and other issues raised at the meeting.

11. 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

12. 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

13. Review of Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme

Item proposed by Miss Tanya CHAN at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Miss CHAN requested the Administration to review the eligibility criteria of the Scheme to cover both non-profit-making and private independent kindergartens. To be confirmed

14. 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 at senior secondary levels, and considered it imperative to carefully plan the implementation to avoid adverse impact on the quality of education. To be confirmed

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15. International school places

Item proposed by Miss Tanya CHAN at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Miss CHAN was concerned about the supply of places in international schools. To be confirmed

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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