

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Development of a New Academic Block and Student Hostel
by Lingnan University**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on a proposed capital works project for Lingnan University (LU) to develop a new academic block and student hostel on a site adjacent to the University campus in Tuen Mun.

JUSTIFICATION

Academic Space

2. The new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education (i.e. the “3+3+4”) will be implemented starting from the 2009/10 academic year. The first cohort of senior secondary students will undergo a four-year undergraduate programme starting from the 2012/13 academic year. The University Grants Committee-funded institutions, including LU, need to expand their campus space and facilities in order to accommodate the additional students under the new four-year undergraduate programmes and to provide a suitable teaching and learning environment as well as additional hostel places in support of the new academic structure.

Hostel Places

3. Under the prevailing hostel policy for LU, the University is provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population having regard to its remote location in Tuen Mun and its aspiration to develop itself into a small, fully residential liberal arts institution. In addition, to support internationalization, the Government has agreed to provide an additional 1 840 publicly-funded student hostel places to the UGC-funded institutions to support student exchange activities, as well as to cater for the accommodation needs of non-local exchange students. The Government will fund up to 75% of the capital cost of the approved student hostel provision, with the remainder to be met by the respective

institutions using private funds.

4. In anticipation of the increase in student population after the implementation of "3+3+4", LU will have an approved provision of around 1 300 publicly-funded hostel places by the 2012/13 academic year. Against its current provision of 1 000 publicly-funded places¹, LU will have a shortfall of about 300 publicly-funded hostel places. To address the anticipated shortfall and to fulfil its aspiration to develop itself into a small, fully residential liberal arts institution, LU plans to construct 600 additional student hostel places, of which 300 places are publicly-funded and the other 300 places are privately-funded.

Proposed Building

5. The proposed building is a 20-storey building providing about 2 980 square metres (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA) for academic facilities on the lower floors, and about 6 730 m² for 600 student hostel places with ancillary facilities on the upper floors. The academic block will have purpose-built teaching and learning facilities (*e.g.* computer and language laboratories, a market research laboratory, and a reference library), as well as some communal space and recreational facilities (*e.g.* a canteen and a fitness centre). A site plan showing the location of the project is at Enclosure.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The total estimated cost of the project is around \$404.9 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. The Government will fund up to \$241 million, of which \$142.6 million is for the academic block and \$98.4 million is for the student hostel blocks (*i.e.* 75% of the cost for the 300 publicly-funded hostel places and the ancillary facilities). LU will contribute \$163.9 million to finance 25% of the construction cost for the publicly-funded hostel places and the ancillary facilities, as well as the full cost for the 300 privately-funded hostel places.

7. The project will have no impact on tuition fees. As the additional recurrent costs associated with this project will be absorbed by LU, the proposal will have no additional recurrent financial implications on the Government. In accordance with established practice, LU will operate

¹ LU has another 500 privately-funded hostel places which were built by its own sources of funding.

the student hostels on a self-financing basis through charges levied on hostel places.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

8. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposal on 15 December 2008 and 9 January 2009 respectively. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, LU plans to start the construction works in the second quarter of 2009 for completion in the second quarter of 2011.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

9. The proposed building is located on Government land outside LU's existing campus. The Tuen Mun District Council was consulted in January 2007. Members of the Council passed a motion to support the development and requested LU to conduct further consultation with the residents in the vicinity. In response, LU briefed resident representatives of neighbouring estates on the design of the proposed works including the public open spaces for use by the local residents in March 2007. Concerns of the residents on possible environmental impact created by the project have been considered and duly addressed in the building design. Concerned resident representatives were generally in support of the project.

Education Bureau
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Site plan for the development of a new academic block and student hostel
by Lingnan University
嶺南大學新教學大樓暨學生宿舍的工地平面圖

