

Committee on Rules of Procedure

List of issues studied during the period from October 2008 to June 2009

Item	Issue	Reference	Progress/Remarks
1	To draw up proposed procedural arrangements relating to the implementation of Article 73(9) of the Basic Law on impeachment of the Chief Executive	Article 73(9) of the Basic Law	The Committee will discuss the outcome of consultation with Members on the proposed procedural arrangements at its meeting on 6 July 2009. The Committee will continue its deliberation in the next session.
2	To review the current rules regarding order in Council and committee	Rules 41, 42, 44 and 45 of Rules of Procedure	The Committee has agreed that: (a) it is not necessary to introduce a new arrangement to deal with Members' disorderly conduct in Council and committee; (b) a list of offensive and insulting or unparliamentary expressions will be provided to the chairmen of committees for reference and made available to the public; and (c) no change is proposed to Rules 44 and 45 of the Rules of Procedure to extend the power of the President and chairmen of standing committees and select committees to the chairmen of other committees.

Item	Issue	Reference	Progress/Remarks
3	To review the notice periods for motions to amend, or extend the scrutiny period of, subsidiary legislation which is subject to a scrutiny mechanism very similar to section 34 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap.1)	Rules 21(5), 29 and 49(6) of Rules of Procedure and House Rule 2	<p>The House Committee supported the Committee's proposed amendments to Rules 21(5), 29 and 49(6) and endorsed its amendments to House Rule 2.</p> <p>The amendments to the Rules of Procedure were approved by the Council on 10 June 2009.</p> <p>The relevant House Rule was amended accordingly.</p>
4	To review the current arrangements for the debate on the Motion of Thanks	Rule 13 of Rules of Procedure	Following the discussion with the Administration, the Committee agrees that the current arrangements for debating the Motion of Thanks should remain unchanged.
5	To consider whether the number of Members present should be counted to ensure that a quorum is present upon resumption of a Council meeting after suspension	Rule 17(2) of Rules of Procedure	The Committee considers that there is no need for the President to follow the practice of the former President to do such counting.
6	To consider the provision of a standing arrangement to facilitate debates in Council on subsidiary legislation subject to negative vetting but to which no amendment has been proposed	--	The Committee will further consider the issue at its meeting on 6 July 2009. The Committee will continue its deliberation in the next session.
7	To consider whether a joint subcommittee should be allowed to have more than one deputy chairman	--	The Committee concludes that there is no need to follow up the matter, as it cannot find a good reason to agree to the proposed arrangement of electing two deputy chairmen for a joint subcommittee.

Item	Issue	Reference	Progress/Remarks
8	To consider whether clearer and more stringent provisions on unauthorized disclosure of information relating to the internal deliberations and draft report of committee of the Council should be made in the Council rules	Rule 81 of Rules of Procedure	A mechanism for handling cases of such disclosure will be presented to the Committee for consideration in the next session.
9	To consider the indication of choice of candidate in the election of the chairman and deputy chairman of committees	House Rule 20(d) and Appendix IV to House Rules	The Committee has asked the Secretariat to study overseas practice in this regard and present the findings to the Committee for consideration once ready.
10	To rectify the discrepancy between Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and section 9 of the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382) on attendance of witness	Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure	The proposed amendments to Rule 80, which had the support of the House Committee, were approved by the Council on 11 February 2009.
11	To refine the wording of the Chinese text of Rule 73(1)(d) of the Rule of Procedure on the functions of the Committee of Members' Interests	Rule 73(1)(d) of Rules of Procedure	The proposed amendment to Rule 73(1)(d), which had the support of the House Committee, was approved by the Council on 10 June 2009.