

(Translation)

**Motion on
“The development of self-financing post-secondary institutions”
moved by Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 16 March 2011**

Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong, Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon Tanya CHAN

That, given that since 2000, private education providers have multiplied in number, offering a great variety of self-financing post-secondary programmes; with the continuous expansion of self-financing institutions, there are quite a number of concerns in society, including the possibility of institutions running into financial difficulties, their development lacking co-ordination, unsatisfactory programme quality and tuition fees exceeding students' affordability, in addition to the Government's inadequate resource allocation in encouraging the development of self-financing institutions, resulting in the interests of the students concerned not being protected effectively; in order to ensure programme quality and safeguard students' interests, this Council urges the Government and the relevant authorities:

- (a) to reform the existing mode of regulating post-secondary education, so as to ensure that the non-publicly-funded segment of the post-secondary education system is effectively monitored and co-ordinated;
- (b) to amend the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance and abolish outdated provisions to regulate the teaching facilities, qualifications of teaching staff, academic levels as well as financial capabilities, etc. of local self-financing post-secondary educational institutions, so as to ensure teaching quality and student interests;
- (c) to provide matching grants for self-financing post-secondary institutions to build campuses, so as to alleviate the pressure of tuition fee increases exerted by campus construction costs;
- (d) to consider providing tuition fee subsidies for students enrolling in self-financing post-secondary programmes through various channels, including studying establishing a post-secondary education fund or by way of education vouchers, etc.;
- (e) to ensure the diversity of self-financing programmes, so as to provide programme options in different academic disciplines for students;

- (f) to adopt quality as the means of gate-keeping for monitoring the places of self-financing programmes, so as to avoid an excessive supply of self-financing post-secondary places and any impact on education quality;
- (g) to strengthen the monitoring mechanism to ensure that institutions must comply with admission requirements and exit performance standards, so as to avoid substandard programmes and doubts about academic qualifications;
- (h) to ensure that self-financing post-secondary institutions must be equipped with sufficient full-time teaching and non-teaching staff with long-term employment, so as to enable the sustainable and stable development of research and teaching work; and
- (i) to establish a fair and effective redress mechanism to safeguard academic freedom and protect the interests of teaching and non-teaching staff;
- (j) to consider lowering the interest rate under the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme to avoid a situation where the interest rate determined under the Scheme is higher than the interest rates of bank loans, and at the same time, changing the time to commence calculating interests from loan drawdown dates to after students' graduation, so as to alleviate young people's burden and enable them to expeditiously discharge their repayment obligations; and
- (k) to raise the tax allowance for expenses of self-education, so as to relieve the pressure on working persons in pursuing further studies;
- (l) to review the existing approval and certification system for offering post-secondary education programmes, so as to ensure programme quality;
- (m) to review the various existing financial assistance, loan and scholarship schemes for post-secondary students to alleviate the financial burden of students who are pursuing self-financing post-secondary education programmes; and
- (n) to comprehensively review the existing academic accreditation system and study strengthening the monitoring of non-local post-secondary programmes jointly offered by local educational institutions and overseas post-secondary institutions.