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Legislative Council

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Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for special meeting on 7 October 2011**

**Security arrangements and handling of public meetings and public
processions during visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong**

Purpose

This paper summarizes the discussions of the Panel on Security ("the Panel") on the security arrangements and handling of public meetings and public processions during visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong.

Background

2. The Vice-Premier of the State Council, Mr LI Keqiang, paid an official visit to Hong Kong from 16 to 18 August 2011. Arising from concerns over the security measures and media coverage arrangements during the official visit, including those at the University of Hong Kong and at the Laguna City, the Panel held two special meetings in late August and September 2011 to discuss, among others, the security arrangements and handling of public meetings and public processions during visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong.

Deliberations by the Panel

3. The Panel discussed the subject and received the views of the University of Hong Kong as well as other deputations and individuals concerned at its special meetings on 29 August and 12 September 2011. Concerns were raised over the legal basis for the Police's security arrangements and designation of "core security zones" for the protection of visiting political dignitaries, the international practices for protecting visiting political dignitaries, the security arrangements at the University of Hong Kong, the media coverage arrangements

and the security arrangements at Laguna City. The verbatim transcripts of the special meetings on 29 August and 12 September 2011 are in <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/chinese/panels/se/minutes/se20110829.pdf> and <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/chinese/panels/se/minutes/se20110912.pdf> respectively.

4. Members noted the announcement of the Council of the University of Hong Kong on 30 August 2011 that a panel would be set up to review issues arising from the Centenary Ceremony on 18 August 2011. The University of Hong Kong announced on 17 September 2011 that the panel would conduct its review in three stages, including fact finding, collection of comments and formulation of recommendations to the University Council, and aimed to complete its task within the shortest possible time. The membership of the panel is in **Appendix I**. The relevant press releases issued by the University of Hong Kong are in **Appendix II**.

5. Motions were proposed by Hon Emily LAU, Hon Audrey EU, Hon LAU Kong-wah and Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung respectively at the special meeting on 12 September 2011 under the item "Security arrangements and handling of public meetings and public processions at the Central Government Complex and during visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong". The wording of the motions had been issued to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2562/10-11(05), 2610/10-11(01), CB(2)2619/10-11(05) and (06) on 31 August, 9 and 15 September 2011 respectively. Owing to time constraint, the motions had not been dealt with at the meeting. The motions will be dealt with at the special meeting to be held on 7 October 2011.

Relevant papers

6. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix III**.

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Review Panel set to examine key issues of University event arrangements

The University today (September 7) announced the membership of a Review Panel set up by the Council to review issues arising from the Centenary Ceremony on August 18, 2011.

Mr Lester Garson Huang was appointed by the Council as the Convenor of the Panel. Members of the Panel have been drawn from the HKU community. They are:

Student

- Mr Zhang Yi, nominated by the Postgraduate Students Association (PGSA)

Staff

- Professor Cecilia L.W. Chan, Si Yuan Professor in Health and Social work, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Professor Johannes M. M. Chan SC (Hon), Dean of Faculty of Law

Alumni

- Mr Simon Fung Shing-cheung (BSocSc 1978)
- Mr Patrick C S Wong (BEng 1998), HKUSU President, 1997

Council members

- Mr Stephen Cheung Pok-yin, a full-time non-teaching staff of the University elected to the Council in accordance with regulations
- Mr Man Cheuk Fei, a lay Council member elected by the Court

Mr Lester Huang, Convenor of the Panel said: "We have invited the HKU Students' Union to nominate an undergraduate student to join the Panel, but regrettably, we have not received a positive response up to now and have indeed renewed our invitation today. In any event, we will strive to maintain a close dialogue with the Students' Union in the course of the review to ensure that students' views are heard."

The Panel was set up by the Council on August 30 in response to the widespread interest and concern among members of the University and the public regarding the various arrangements of the Ceremony on August 18, which Vice-Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council attended.

It will make recommendations to the Council on improving arrangements and establishing appropriate mechanisms and policies for University events in the future, to ensure that HKU will continue its commitment to freedom, liberty and diversity and will always remain a place for freedom of expression.

Mr Huang said that he planned to hold the first panel meeting within a week.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Trinni Choy (Assistant Director (Media), Communications and Public Affairs Office) tel: 2859 2606 email: pychoy@hku.hk or Ms Melanie Wan (Manager (Media), Communications and Public Affairs Office) tel: 2859 2600 email: melwkw@hku.hk.

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HKU Council sets up a panel to review and improve university event arrangements

The Council of the University of Hong Kong (HKU), at its meeting today (August 30), resolved to set up a panel to review issues arising from the Centenary Ceremony on August 18, 2011.

The move was a response to the widespread interest and concern among members of the University and the public regarding the various arrangements of the Ceremony, which Vice-Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council attended.

The panel will make recommendations to the Council on the means to improve arrangements and establish appropriate mechanisms and policies for University events in the future, to ensure that HKU will continue its commitment to freedom, liberty and diversity and will always remain a place for freedom of expression.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, Chairman Dr Leong Che-hung said: "We consider that there are many lessons learnt from the August 18 event."

"The review exercise will help provide useful advice and reference for the University in the future on pertinent issues such as ceremony protocol and security measures," he added.

Members of the panel will be chosen from the HKU community, including students, staff, alumni and Council Members. Mr Lester Garson Huang, who is a Council member, was appointed as the convenor.

Upon the completion of the review, the panel will submit the report to the Council for consideration.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Trinni Choy (Assistant Director (Media), Communications and Public Affairs Office) tel: 2859 2606 email: pychoy@hku.hk or Ms Melanie Wan (Manager (Media), Communications and Public Affairs Office) tel: 2859 2600 email: melwkwan@hku.hk.

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University Review Panel Begins Work in Three Stages

Panel aims to complete report within shortest possible time

The Review Panel set up by the Council of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to examine issues arising from the Centenary Ceremony on 18 August 2011, meeting for the first time today (17 September), will conduct the review in three stages and is aiming to complete its task within the shortest possible time.

The three stages of the Panel's work include fact finding, collecting comments and formulating recommendations to the Council.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Mr Lester Garson Huang, Convenor of the Panel, said the Panel was tasked to make recommendations to the Council on improving arrangements and establishing appropriate mechanisms and policies for University events in the future, to ensure that HKU would continue its commitment to freedom, liberty and diversity and would always remain a place for freedom of expression.

"The Panel will continue to invite the HKU Students' Union to reconsider nominating an undergraduate student to join the Panel, or to attend the Panel's meetings as observer," said Mr Huang, adding that the Panel would strive to ensure that undergraduate students' views will be heard under all circumstances.

The Panel is planning to meet every week or fortnight on average. Mr Huang said the workload would be heavy but the Panel aimed to complete its task within the shortest possible time.

The Panel has explored today whether panel meetings should be opened to the public. Mr Huang said there was no conclusion yet and the Panel would discuss the matter again in the next meeting.

In the first stage of fact finding, the Panel will invite university departments involved in organizing the 18 August event to provide information. The Panel will listen to different views and comments in the second stage. Afterwards, the Panel will submit its report to the Council with recommendations.

A dedicated email address (reviewpanel@hku.hk) has been set up for the Panel to collect information and comments.

The Panel will hold its next meeting on 29 September 2011.

-END-

This press release is issued on behalf of the Review Panel set up by the Council of the University of Hong Kong to examine issues arising from the Centenary Ceremony on 18 August 2011.

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**Relevant papers on
Security arrangements and handling of public meetings and
public processions during visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Security	29.8.2011 (Item I)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Verbatim record of the proceedings</u>
Panel on Security	12.9.2011 (Item I)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Verbatim record of the proceedings</u>

Council Business Division 2
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