

立法會
Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 23 November 2011

**Amendments to motion on
“Improving further education and employment of
sub-degree students”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 126/11-12 issued on 11 November 2011, five Members (Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong, Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon Starry LEE, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG and Hon Tanya CHAN) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Cyd HO’s motion on “Improving further education and employment of sub-degree students” scheduled for the Council meeting of 23 November 2011. As directed by the President, the respective amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon Cyd HO to speak and move her motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Cyd HO’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the five Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong;

- (ii) Hon WONG Kwok-hing;
 - (iii) Hon Starry LEE;
 - (iv) Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG; and
 - (v) Hon Tanya CHAN;
- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
 - (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
 - (f) the President gives leave to Hon Cyd HO to speak for the second time on the amendments;
 - (g) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) again to speak;
 - (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the five Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong's amendment;
 - (i) after CHEUNG Man-kwong's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other four amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Cyd HO to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Cyd HO's motion, or her motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' ease of reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Ms Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Improving further education and employment of
sub-degree students”
to be held at the Council meeting
of 23 November 2011**

1. Hon Cyd HO’s original motion

That, since the SAR Government announced in the Policy Address 2000 the policy objective of providing 60% of local young people with the opportunity of receiving tertiary education and rolled out a series of measures, the number of self-financing programmes at associate degree level or above offered by local institutions has been increasing; however, as the social recognition of sub-degree qualifications over the past 10 years is still lacking, sub-degree students have to face various problems in further education and employment and even have to bear high tuition fees and loan repayments, thus making them the new blood of the poverty population; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (a) increase the number of subvented university places;
- (b) offer subsidies in the form of education vouchers to sub-degree graduates for studying in private universities;
- (c) expand the channels to study in universities for sub-degree graduates;
- (d) increase the number of civil service entry ranks for sub-degree graduates; and
- (e) review student financial assistance as well as loan and repayment arrangements, including abolishing the risk rate.

2. Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

That, *given that* since the SAR Government announced in the Policy Address 2000 the policy objective of providing 60% of local young people with the opportunity of receiving tertiary education and rolled out a series of measures, the number of self-financing programmes at associate degree level or above offered by local institutions has been increasing; however, as the social recognition of sub-degree qualifications over the past 10 years is still lacking,

sub-degree students have to face various problems in further education and employment and even have to bear high tuition fees and loan repayments, thus making them the new blood of the poverty population; ~~in this connection~~, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (a) increase the number of ~~subvented university places~~; ***first-year and senior year articulation places for publicly-funded universities***;
- (b) ***establish a mechanism for monitoring and assuring programme quality, so as to ensure adequate credibility and recognition of sub-degree qualifications***;
- ~~(b)~~(c) offer subsidies in the form of education vouchers ***or direct subsidies*** to sub-degree graduates for ~~studying in private universities~~ ***enrolling on self-financing degree programmes***;
- ~~(c)~~(d) expand the channels to study in universities for sub-degree graduates;
- (e) ***increase the transparency of institutions' admission systems and establish a credit accumulation and transfer system to ensure that institutions admit students under the principles of fairness and 'selectivity', so as to rationalize and link up articulation pathways for sub-degree graduates from different backgrounds***;
- ~~(d)~~(f) increase the number of civil service entry ranks for sub-degree graduates; and
- ~~(e)~~(g) review student financial assistance as well as loan and repayment arrangements, including abolishing ***the fixed interest rate (2.5%) for means-tested low interest loans and the risk rate for non-means-tested loans***.

Note: Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

That, ~~since~~ ***in order to raise the rate of local senior secondary school graduates pursuing tertiary education***, the SAR Government announced in the Policy Address 2000 the policy objective of providing 60% of local young people with the opportunity of receiving tertiary education and rolled out a series of measures, ***and*** the number of self-financing programmes at associate degree level or above offered by local institutions has ***thus*** been increasing; however, as the social recognition of sub-degree qualifications over the past 10

years is still lacking, sub-degree students have to face various problems in further education and employment and even have to bear high tuition fees and loan repayments, thus making them the new blood of the poverty population; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (a) *review the contents covered by sub-degree programmes, so as to enhance the applicability and recognition of such programmes;*
- (b) *strengthen the monitoring of sub-degree programme quality and fees;*
- ~~(a)~~(c) increase the number of subvented university places;
- ~~(b)~~(d) offer subsidies in the form of education vouchers to sub-degree graduates for studying in private universities;
- ~~(c)~~(e) expand the channels to study in *local and overseas* universities for sub-degree graduates;
- ~~(d)~~(f) *increase enhance the employment support for sub-degree graduates, including increasing* the number of civil service entry ranks for sub-degree graduates; and
- ~~(e)~~(g) review student financial assistance as well as loan and repayment arrangements, including abolishing the risk rate; *significantly lower the interest rates of all loan schemes for tertiary students, waive the interest accrued during students' study periods under the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme, and change the situation where interest rates of student loans are higher than those of bank mortgages; allow tax deduction on repayment amounts of university education loans; study the feasibility of allowing local students to apply for student loans for pursuing further education overseas; and increase the grant amounts for tertiary students.*

Note: Hon WONG Kwok-hing's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon Starry LEE

That *increasing young people's opportunity of receiving post-secondary education is a social consensus; and*, since the SAR Government announced in the Policy Address 2000 the policy objective of providing 60% of local young people with the opportunity of receiving tertiary education and rolled out a series of measures, the number of self-financing programmes at associate degree level or above offered by local institutions has been increasing; however, as the social recognition of sub-degree qualifications over the past 10 years is

still lacking, sub-degree students have to face various problems in further education and employment and even have to bear high tuition fees and loan repayments, thus making them the new blood of the poverty population; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (a) increase the number of subvented university places;
- (b) offer subsidies in the form of education vouchers *or study establishing a post-secondary education fund to offer subsidies* to sub-degree graduates for studying in private universities;
- (c) *ensure the diversity of self-financing programmes, so as to provide programme options in different academic disciplines for students;*
- ~~(c)~~(d) expand the channels to study in universities for sub-degree graduates;
- ~~(d)~~(e) increase the number of civil service entry ranks for sub-degree graduates; ~~and~~
- ~~(e)~~(f) review student financial assistance as well as loan and repayment arrangements, including abolishing the risk rate, *and replace the means-tested loans with interest-free loans;*
- (g) *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;*
- (h) *collect data on sub-degree graduates' further education and employment, so as to accurately grasp the destinations of graduates and make good preparation for the planning of sub-degree programmes and their number of places;*
- (i) *conduct surveys on employers' opinions about the work performance of sub-degree graduates for assessing the value-adding effectiveness of sub-degree programmes, so as to enable post-secondary institutions to better understand employers' needs and make corresponding curriculum arrangements; and*
- (j) *assist Hong Kong sub-degree graduates in pursuing studies in mainland universities, including studying the establishment of a mutual recognition mechanism between Hong Kong sub-degree qualifications and Mainland tertiary diploma qualifications, and striving for sub-degree graduates' exemption from the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities in the People's Republic of China for*

Overseas Chinese, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Students, so as to promote exchanges between Hong Kong and Mainland students.

Note: Hon Starry LEE's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG

That, since *in order to develop a knowledge-based economy*, the SAR Government announced in the Policy Address 2000 the policy objective of providing 60% of local young people with the opportunity of receiving tertiary education and rolled out a series of measures, *and* the number of self-financing programmes at associate degree level or above offered by local institutions has *thus* been increasing; however, as the social recognition of ~~sub-degree~~ *associate degree* qualifications over the past 10 years is still lacking, *many* sub-degree students have to face various problems in further education and employment and even have to bear high tuition fees and loan repayments, thus making them ~~the new blood of the poverty population~~ *an anxious group in society*; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (a) increase the number of subvented university places;
- (b) offer *study offering* subsidies ~~in the form of education vouchers~~ to sub-degree graduates for studying in private universities;
- (c) expand the channels to study in universities for sub-degree graduates;
- (d) ~~increase the number of civil service entry ranks for sub-degree graduates;~~ *and study relaxing the academic requirements for appointment to more civil service posts, so that sub-degree graduates can have more opportunities to apply;*
- (e) review student financial assistance as well as loan and repayment arrangements, including abolishing the risk rate, *and allow the date of calculating interest accrual under the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme to commence after students' graduation; and*
- (f) *add more elements of vocational training or practical skills to existing sub-degree programmes, so that students can secure employment more easily after graduation.*

Note: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

6. Motion as amended by Hon Tanya CHAN

That, since the SAR Government announced in the Policy Address 2000 the policy objective of providing 60% of local young people with the opportunity of receiving tertiary education and rolled out a series of measures, the number of self-financing programmes at associate degree level or above offered by local institutions has been increasing; however, as the social recognition of sub-degree qualifications over the past 10 years is still lacking, sub-degree students have to face various problems in further education and employment and even have to bear high tuition fees and loan repayments, thus making them the new blood of the poverty population; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (a) increase the number of subvented university places, *including first-year university places and senior year places for articulation of sub-degree programmes, and increase the rate of local students admitted to publicly-funded bachelor's degree programmes;*
- (b) ~~offer~~ *study the feasibility of offering* subsidies in the form of education vouchers to sub-degree graduates for studying in private universities, *and proactively support the development of private universities, so as to provide more students, particularly sub-degree graduates, with more opportunities of admission to bachelor's degree programmes in universities;*
- (c) expand the channels to study in universities for sub-degree graduates;
- (d) increase the number of civil service entry ranks for sub-degree graduates; ~~and~~, *and review the academic requirements for appointment to the various civil service posts and other government posts, so as to absorb more post-secondary graduates;*
- (e) ~~review~~ *expeditiously finalize the review of* student financial assistance as well as loan and repayment arrangements, including abolishing the risk rate; *and*
- (f) *vigorously monitor the quality of self-financing post-secondary education programmes, so as to ensure the recognition of the relevant programmes by more higher education institutions and employers.*

Note: Hon Tanya CHAN's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.