

**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**  
**College of Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE)**

**Submission to the Legislative Council Panel on Education**

**18 March 2014**

**Quality Assurance and Regulatory Bodies**

In the light of our experience, the existing quality assurance and regulatory mechanisms concerning the governance and oversight of the self-financing post-secondary sector are effective.

CPCE's sub-degree and top-up degree programmes are subject to JQRC (Joint Quality Review Committee) Review and QAC (Quality Assurance Council) Audit respectively. Additionally, CPCE reports annually to the Education Bureau (EDB), and provides comprehensive information for both the "iPASS" and "Concourse" databases set up by EDB. It should also be noted that the quality of CPCE programmes is subject to a comprehensive internal quality assurance system at the unit level (i.e. programme host), and college and university levels, with external input at various stages. A recent benchmarking exercise with various US community colleges has demonstrated that: (a) our teachers are, in general, better qualified; (b) our staff-to-student ratio is comparable, if not better; (c) our admission requirements are much more stringent; and (d) the articulation rates of our graduates are much higher. Analyses of the performance of our Associate Degree/Higher Diploma graduates articulated to UGC-funded senior year places in PolyU show that they perform just as well as other PolyU students and that those admitted to PolyU-SPEED self-financing top-up degree programmes also perform satisfactorily. A survey of employers shows that employers are generally satisfied with self-financing sub-degree graduates (<http://www.jqrc.edu.hk/challenges.htm>).

Furthermore, the strong market demand for CPCE programmes and high articulation rates for our sub-degree graduates provide good evidence of the high quality of our programmes.

Regarding the possibility of setting up a single quality assurance body and related issues, we welcome the idea of setting up a Working Group to Plan for and Oversee External Quality Audits on Sub-degree Operations of UGC-funded Institutions, with members from UGC, HUCOM (Heads of Universities Committee), and HKCAAVQ, to review the possibility of a single quality assurance body overseeing the sub-degree operations of UGC-funded institutions and related issues. We look forward to the findings and recommendations of this Working Group.

### **Transparency in Governance and Accountability**

We support transparency in respect of both governance and accountability. The CPCE governance framework is described on CPCE's website. Students are represented on relevant CPCE committees. Student feedback on our daily operation, including learning and teaching, programme planning and development, student development and campus facilities enhancement, is encouraged and carefully considered. In addition, we actively seek feedback from our graduates, alumni and employers.

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