

立法會

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Paper for the House Committee

Report of the Subcommittee on Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2015

Purpose

This paper reports on the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2015 ("the Amendment Statute").

Background

2. The University of Hong Kong ("HKU") offers a wide range of full-time and part-time taught postgraduate programmes, ranging normally from one to three years in duration. According to HKU, it aims at providing comprehensive education, developing fully the intellectual and personal strengths of its students, and developing and extending lifelong learning opportunities for the community. The addition of the following three taught masters degree programmes is to meet the rising needs of academic education and training in the respective disciplines –

- (a) Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages ("MA(TESOL)");
- (b) Master of Clinical Pharmacy ("MClinPharm"); and
- (c) Master of Expressive Arts Therapy ("MExpArtsTh").

The Amendment Statute

3. The Amendment Statute was made by the Chancellor of HKU under section 13(2) of the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053) ("the Ordinance") on the recommendation of the Court of HKU. It amends the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong ("the Statutes") in the Schedule to the Ordinance to add certain masters degrees which may be conferred by HKU.

4. Subject to amendments, if any, by the Legislative Council, the Amendment Statute will come into operation on 10 July 2015.

The Subcommittee

5. At the House Committee meeting held on 22 May 2015, Members agreed that a subcommittee should be formed to study the Amendment Statute. The membership list of the Subcommittee is in the **Appendix**. Under the chairmanship of Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, the Subcommittee held one meeting with representatives of HKU.

Deliberations of the Subcommittee

6. Members note and raise no objection to the Amendment Statute. Their major deliberations are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Making of the Amendment Statute

7. The Subcommittee notes that the degrees and other academic distinctions which may be conferred by HKU are set out in Statute III of the Statutes in the Schedule to the Ordinance. The newly introduced masters degree programmes have been scrutinized by the respective Faculty Boards, and subsequently approved by the Senate, the Council and the Court. HKU has also informed members that the Education Bureau and the Department of Justice have been consulted. No comments have been raised by them on the substantive provisions of the Amendment Statute; but the format of the Amendment Statute has been revised on the advice of the Law Draftsman.

The three new masters degree programmes

8. The Subcommittee notes that the three new programmes are self-financed taught postgraduate programmes. In the course of deliberation, members have sought further information on these programmes relating to admission, curriculum, practical training and professional recognition.

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

9. As informed by HKU, the one-year programme is jointly offered by Faculty of Education and the Centre for Applied English Studies in the Faculty of Arts on a full-time basis to meet the needs from schools, universities and other educational institutions in Asia for skilled professional English language teachers with TESOL qualifications. The target students for the MA(TESOL) programme are students from outside Hong Kong.

10. On student intake, HKU has informed members that 30 students have been admitted in the first cohort and they are from the Mainland. The programme is primarily knowledge-based and does not include any practicum component. To enrich student diversity, HKU will recruit students more extensively from the Asian region. Given the self-financing nature of the programme and the need to charge the necessary tuition fee to cover costs, HKU intends to set up scholarships to make the programme more accessible to students in the region.

11. Question has been raised on whether the MA(TESOL) programme is exclusively for non-local students and whether local students very interested in the programme or aspiring to teach English in places outside Hong Kong will be considered for admission. According to HKU, the MA(TESOL) programme complements existing taught postgraduate programmes on English Language education which cater more to local needs and contexts¹. Local students may be advised to apply for these taught postgraduate programmes instead. However, HKU has not ruled out the possibility of considering applications from local students for admission to the MA(TESOL) programme.

Master of Clinical Pharmacy

12. The Subcommittee notes that the MClinPharm programme is a two-year part-time programme which is only open to registered pharmacists in Hong Kong. The programme aims to meet the need to develop specialist clinical pharmacy services in Hong Kong.

13. As informed by HKU, a total of 19 students have been admitted in the first cohort, followed by 30 students in the second cohort. Due to the need to arrange ward visits, it is necessary to limit the student intake to a manageable number. Some members have enquired on the professional advancement upon completion of the MClinPharm programme. According to HKU, most of the students are Resident Pharmacists working in the Hospital Authority studying for a master degree, which is a pre-requisite for their career advancement to become Pharmacists. Members have also been informed that the MClinPharm programme places heavy emphasis on practice-based and case-based approaches and is taught by local and overseas specialist pharmacists within their field of expertise. These curriculum features are distinct from master programmes on clinical pharmacy currently offered by two other post-secondary institutions.

¹The Master of Education programme offered by the Faculty of Education of HKU has three specialisms designed to serve the needs of local teachers of English and of those who teach content subjects through the medium of English : English Language Education, English Language Studies and Language Across the Curriculum. The Centre for Applied English Studies in the Faculty of Arts offers the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Programme.

Master of Expressive Arts Therapy

14. The MExpArtsTh is offered as a two-year full-time programme and a three-year part-time programme. According to HKU, MExpArtsTh is the first-of-its-kind programme in Hong Kong and Asia to train professionals as expressive arts therapists in healthcare, education and community settings. The use of expressive arts therapy is particularly useful for client groups such as students with autism and elderly persons.

15. Regarding members' enquiry about admission, practical training and professional qualification, HKU has advised that there are 46 students on the programme. In addition to academic coursework, the students are required to undertake a practicum comprising 500 to 750 hours of prescribed work in healthcare, education or community settings. Upon successful completion of the programme, the graduates are eligible to seek qualification as Registered Expressive Arts Therapists with the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association.

Other concerns

16. In the course of deliberation, some members have raised concerns about the large number of non-local students, in particular students from the Mainland, enrolled on University Grants Committee-funded research postgraduate ("RPg") programmes. They consider it necessary to ensure that the opportunities of local students to undertake publicly-funded RPg studies would not be compromised.

17. As advised by HKU, not too many local graduates have been keen on pursuing postgraduate studies locally. Nevertheless, efforts have been made to promote RPg programmes and the opportunities for higher academic pursuits among local students. Meanwhile, HKU has also sought to recruit more meritorious postgraduate students from other jurisdictions to make the student profile more diversified.

Recommendation

18. The Subcommittee has not raised any objection to the Amendment Statute and will not propose any amendment to it.

Advice sought

19. Members are invited to note the deliberations of the Subcommittee.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 June 2015

**Subcommittee on
Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2015**

Membership list

Chairman	Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Members	Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan Hon IP Kin-yuen Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP (Total : 6 Members)
Clerk	Miss Polly YEUNG
Legal Adviser	Miss Carrie WONG
Date	2 June 2015