

Tung Wah College

Submission to the Legislative Council Panel on Education

For Meeting on 7 February 2015

1. Founded by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in 2011, Tung Wah College (TWC) was an approved post-secondary college registered under the Post-Secondary Colleges Ordinances (Cap. 320). This submission briefly gives TWC's views on issues related to the governance and quality assurance of the self-financing post-secondary sector with reference to the Consultancy Report "Local and International Good Practices in the Governance and Quality Assurance of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Sector".
2. TWC appreciates the Government's continuous efforts and supports to improve the self-financing post-secondary education sector by introducing a number of initiatives over the past years. In view of the sector's growing importance in higher education and the community at large, we fully agree on the need to compile a code of good practices on governance and quality assurance (QA) for further advancing the development of the sector.

Framework on Proposed Code of Good Practices on Governance and QA

3. The framework of the proposed code of good practices comprises several recommendations in the 3 key aspects: (a) institutional governance and management (b) programme design and delivery, and (c) staffing, physical resources and student support. In general, TWC is very supportive to these recommendations as we believe that they would facilitate the achievement of accountability and transparency and thus further enhance the governance and QA of the sector.
4. Indeed, being a responsible institution offering quality higher education, TWC has established an effective governance and QA system which already incorporates many of these recommendations. It would not be difficult for the College to adopt the remaining and follow the code fully.
5. As regards the recommendation of information disclosure (e.g. abstract of development plans, summary of financial statements) to the public, TWC suggests to

have further discussion and delineation of what concrete information should be disclosed. This follows because of the worries that some information may be very sensitive and subject to misinterpretation (if without having a full picture).

6. It is noted that the DSE student population is shrinking and there will be increasingly oversupply of degree and sub-degree places in coming years. The self-financing post-secondary sector is entering into a critical stage of consolidation. To ensure healthy and sustainable development of the sector, TWC suggests the Government to review its policy in accommodating new players into the sector.
7. In addition, we also urge the government to fix a concrete timetable to implement a single and independent QA body for the entire post-secondary education sector in order to ensure a level playing field for all post-secondary institutions regardless of whether they are publicly-funded or self-financing.

30 January 2015