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3 July 2015

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Polly Yeung)

Dear Miss Yeung,

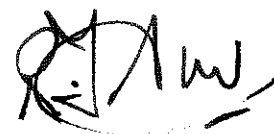
Panel on Education

**Policy on funding support provided to post-secondary institutions
by the University Grants Committee**

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2015.

The response to the issues raised by Dr Hon Helena WONG is set out at Annex for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Richard T Armour)
Secretary-General

c.c. Secretary for Education, Education Bureau
(Attn: Mr Wallace Lau)

**Legislative Council
Panel on Education**

Response to issues raised by Dr Hon Helena WONG on 16 June 2015

The funding methodology of the University Grants Committee (UGC) has been adopted since 1994 for the assessment of the recurrent grants for the UGC-funded institutions. The recurrent grants are mainly in the form of a single lump-sum block grant to institutions which are given the autonomy to allocate funds internally as they consider fit. The bulk of the block grant is allocated for teaching and about 23% for research.

2. Regarding the Teaching element, the UGC conducts academic planning and recurrent grants assessment with its funded institutions on a triennial basis. For the 2016-19 triennium, the academic development planning exercise was conducted in a fair, transparent and interactive manner. The UGC consulted and agreed with institutions on the principles, evaluation criteria, rules and procedure of the exercise. It also provided the institutions with a clear set of guidelines for their preparation of the academic development proposals.

3. Regarding the Research element, it comprises two parts. One part is allocated with regard to the institutions' performance in the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), while the other part is informed by the success of institutions under the Research Grants Council Earmarked Research Grant. In the case of the 2016-19 triennium, it has been agreed with the institutions that the results of the RAE 2014 will be used to inform allocation of part of the Research element. The UGC will continue to adhere to the principle that funding is allocated in a fair and publicly accountable manner, taking into account sustainability and stability of institutional funding.