



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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2 February 2016

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

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Follow-up to meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Education
held on 11 January 2016**

At the meeting of the Panel on Education held on 11 January 2016, a motion was passed under the agenda item of “Issues related to the appointment of Chancellor and the composition of the governing bodies of University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions”. The Government’s response is set out below.

We would like to re-iterate that the eight UGC-funded institutions are all independent autonomous statutory bodies. They have their own governing ordinances and statutes which set out their objectives, functions and governance structure. The legislation provides the institutions with the power and freedom to carry out their objectives and functions. Under the law, our institutions enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy. The UGC also safeguards academic freedom and institutional autonomy, and the respective roles of the Government, the UGC and the institutions are clearly defined in the UGC Notes on Procedures.

As we mentioned during the meeting, the existing statutory provisions governing chancellorship have been in place since the enactment of the relevant ordinances and are operating effectively. Meanwhile, all institutions have throughout the past decade or so carried out comprehensive reviews of the statutory composition of their Councils, the results of which ensure fitness for purpose. Any proposal for amendments to the governing ordinances of the institutions will have to go through the proper legislative process and seek the approval of the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sharon Ko', written in a cursive style.

(Miss Sharon Ko)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Secretary-General, University Grants Committee (Attn.: Ms Eva Yam)