

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of HKBU, I would like to present the following views on research funding and university governance for the reference of the LegCo Panel on Education:

On research

- (a) HKBU recommends that the Government, through the University Grants Committee (UGC), to provide more funding support to the eight UGC-funded institutions to help maintain the competitive edges of their research outputs at the international arena. At present, the research expenditure in Hong Kong as a percentage of its Gross Domestic Product compares less favourably with similar figures among the Asian countries, and are paled by those in the developed countries in the West like the US and Germany, etc.
- (b) HKBU supports further increase of UGC/RGC research funding allocation to UGC-funded institutions through the existing mechanism as follows:
 - (i) The overarching policy of allocating research funding basing on the principle of academic freedom, i.e. allowing faculty staff and research students to choose their research interest and research topic at their own free will, and flexibility to compete for research funding, which will ensure research diversity across institutions;
 - (ii) The hybrid system of allocating research funding to UGC-funded institutions to encourage competition and also to support the internal research initiatives of each institution;
 - (iii) The earmarked funding to support, on a competitive basis, centres of excellence in research through the bottom-up approach, i.e. funds allocated to proposals submitted by researchers of institutions; and
 - (iv) The earmarked funding outside of the UGC/RGC funds to support mid-stream research, for endeavours related to knowledge transfer and commercialisation of research outputs, including grants from the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

On university governance

- (a) HKBU welcomes the release of the “Governance in UGC-funded Higher Education Institutions in Hong Kong” report (the Newby Report) by the UGC on 30 March 2016, and supports the recommendations contained therein.

- (b) HKBU endeavours to work closely with all stakeholders, including the UGC, HKBU Council, staff, students, alumni and friends of the University, to implement the recommendations of the Newby Report to further enhance the governance of the University at both the Council and the University management levels, noting that the enhancement endeavours will take time to complete.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.