

For discussion on  
19 January 2021

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**

**Governance and Security Issues Relating to Recent Incidents  
on University Campus and Follow-up Work**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the governance and security issues relating to recent incidents on university campuses and follow-up work.

**Governance of the University Grants Committee-funded universities**

2. All University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities are independent and autonomous statutory bodies, and are governed by the respective ordinances and statutes. The ordinances set out the objectives, functions and governance structures of the universities, and empower the universities to carry out their objectives and functions. While enjoying autonomy in managing their internal affairs, the universities have the responsibility to ensure that their operations meet the legislative requirements, and the interests of students and society as a whole.

3. While committed to safeguarding the academic freedom and institutional autonomy of the universities, the Government and the UGC require the universities to maintain transparency and public accountability and uphold good governance with regard to their operations. The universities should have a well-established mechanism to review its policies from time to time so as to properly respond to the expectations of the community, and to ensure that their funding is put to appropriate uses, thus facilitating their effective operations in accordance with their missions and roles, as well as serving the best interests of students and society. Members of the community also expect the universities to foster in our younger generation a sense of social responsibility and national identity, an affection for Hong Kong as well as an international perspective.

4. Good governance goes hand in hand with institutional autonomy. The management of the universities must achieve good governance through effectively managing resources, organising teaching and research activities, as well as maintaining the effective operation of the universities. This helps boost public confidence in the universities, thereby safeguarding their autonomy. Over the past few years, the universities have implemented various measures to enhance their governance. Examples include drawing up or reviewing an institutional risk register and a code of practice on governance, and arranging an away-day or a retreat for Councils to reflect on existing practices and discuss key strategic risks. To gain a better understanding of the overall situation of the higher education sector, members of Councils have also actively participated in sector-wide briefing sessions organised by the UGC. Moreover, the universities are required to make an annual report to the UGC on their latest developments and performance indicators. In terms of handling of ad-hoc incidents, all universities have put in place a contingency mechanism which normally features an emergency response team led by the university management (e.g. the President or Vice-President responsible for administrative duties) to co-ordinate contingency measures among the units concerned.

#### **Campus management arrangements**

5. The universities have generally been adopting an open campus policy. In the light of the campus management needs, the universities have established dedicated security departments and engaged appropriate personnel to handle security matters so as to ensure the safety of the campuses. The universities have also put in place internal mechanisms, rules and procedures to deal with ad-hoc incidents that occur on campus. In the event of ad-hoc incidents, security personnel will be deployed to maintain order on campus as and when necessary and ensure the safety of people at the scene. Consideration will also be given to seeking the assistance of the law enforcement agencies, taking into account the actual circumstances and needs. Generally speaking, the universities will seek the assistance of the Police when their security staff are unable to control the situation or when the safety/property of people at the scene is endangered.

6. All places in Hong Kong are governed by the laws of Hong Kong. University campuses should not be used for any illegal activities and offenders on campus will not be absolved from criminal liability. It is the statutory duty of the Police to take actions if anyone contravenes the laws of Hong Kong. The institutions should, as required by the law, co-operate with the Police in carrying out the latter's duties and dealing with illegal activities taking place on campus, so as to ensure the safety of the campuses as well as its teachers and students.

7. The universities attach great importance to the safety of teachers and students. In the light of the experience of the social incidents in 2019, the UGC-funded universities have enhanced their on-campus security arrangements, taking into account their actual needs and hired additional security staff. Some institutions have also implemented access control measures, such as requiring staff members, students, and invited visitors to present their identity documents or to register before entering the campus. Individual institutions have even engaged professional security consultants to review the existing on-campus security facilities, manpower and arrangements, and offer professional recommendations on enhancing the overall on-campus security measures in the long run. Details of the additional security arrangements adopted by the universities are set out at the [Annex](#).

### **Situation of self-financing post-secondary institutions**

8. Apart from the UGC-funded universities, self-financing post-secondary institutions in Hong Kong enjoy autonomy in managing their internal affairs subject to the regulation of their relevant ordinances, and have the responsibility to ensure that their operations meet the legislative requirements, and the interests of students and society as a whole, including adopting appropriate security arrangements and handling ad-hoc incidents on campus in accordance with their internal mechanisms. Furthermore, in order to enhance the good governance and quality assurance of the self-financing post-secondary education sector for its healthy and sustainable development, the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education promulgated the Code of Good Practices on Governance and Quality Assurance (the Code) in 2015, which sets out, among others, guidelines for enhancing the institutions' transparency in operations and accountability to the public. The Committee has commissioned the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications to conduct a study on the sector-wide implementation of the Code, which showed a high level of compliance across the sector after its promulgation. The Education Bureau (EDB) will continue to maintain liaison with the relevant institutions on specific matters and will provide appropriate assistance as necessary.

### **Conclusion**

9. On the premise of looking after the interests of students and the development of higher education in Hong Kong, the EDB and the UGC will continue to liaise closely with the universities and self-financing post-secondary institutions, and provide appropriate assistance, having regard to actual needs.

**Advice sought**

10. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

**Education Bureau**

**University Grants Committee Secretariat**

**January 2021**

**Enhanced Security Measures  
in the Eight University Grants Committee-funded Universities**

<b>University</b>	<b>Contingency Arrangements</b>	<b>Access Control Measures</b>
City University of Hong Kong (CityU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CityU has set up an Emergency Response Unit, the work of which is co-ordinated by the Vice-President (Administration) and the Vice-President (Student Affairs). If necessary, the university will seek assistance from law enforcement officers in accordance with the established procedures and mechanism.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CityU has installed an electronic access system whereby staff, students and alumni must produce relevant identity documentation upon entry to the campus.</li><li>● Visitors approved by various departments must make an advance application and present to campus security staff a QR code issued by the electronic visitor registration system for identity verification before entering the campus.</li></ul>
Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● HKBU has set up a management team for ad-hoc incidents on campus to conduct a risk assessment on the incidents concerned according to the internal contingency procedure, and various contingency measures will be implemented by the responsible units/offices according to the level of risk involved.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● An electronic access system has been installed. Staff and students must produce their staff identity cards or student identity cards upon entry to the campus.</li><li>● Other persons must make prior registration with the assistance of the relevant department of HKBU and produce a QR code pass issued by HKBU, or be accompanied by staff or students for on-site registration and identity verification before entering the campus via the entrances designated by HKBU.</li></ul>

<b>University</b>	<b>Contingency Arrangements</b>	<b>Access Control Measures</b>
Lingnan University (LU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LU has set up a crisis response team led by the President. In case of ad-hoc incidents, the Office of the Comptroller will report to the team and take relevant contingency measures as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff, students and alumni must produce relevant identity documentation upon entry to the campus.</li> <li>● Visitors invited by LU must hold an invitation letter issued by LU and register their identity information. All contractors and couriers working for LU must also hold relevant documents and register at designated entrances before entering the campus. Entry of visitors to the campus is not permitted from late night to early morning unless special approval is granted.</li> </ul>
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CUHK has set up a task force to respond to ad-hoc incidents that occur on campus, the work of which is co-ordinated by the Vice-President (Administration). In case of ad-hoc incidents, the 24-hour control centre of the Security Office of CUHK will seek assistance from the relevant Government departments immediately having regard to the actual circumstances and contact members of the task force, so that the university management can co-ordinate the necessary work and take follow-up action as early as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff and students must produce relevant identity documentation upon entry to the campus. CUHK is making preparations to put in place a QR code system for visitor registration.</li> <li>● Vehicles not issued with a CUHK parking permit or teachers, students or members of the public who are unable to produce relevant identity documentation must register their identity information with security staff and explain the reason for visit before entering the campus.</li> </ul>

<b>University</b>	<b>Contingency Arrangements</b>	<b>Access Control Measures</b>
The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In case of ad-hoc incidents, the security office of EdUHK will draw up response measures with other relevant units/offices, and implement such measures upon the management's approval. It will also maintain close liaison with relevant Government departments for providing prompt and effective support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and students must produce relevant identity documentation upon entry to the campus.</li> <li>Visitors must register their information with security staff before entering the campus. Entry of visitors to the campus is not permitted from late night to early morning unless special approval is granted.</li> </ul>
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PolyU has set up a task force on campus security issues to review and enhance the safety-related policies, measures and procedures of the university. The work of the task force is co-ordinated by the Executive Vice-President and the Vice-President (Campus Development and Facilities).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and students must produce relevant identity documentation upon entry to the campus. Turnstiles have been installed at campus entrances/exits for identity verification.</li> <li>Visitors must make prior registration and present a valid QR code issued by PolyU for identity verification or register their identity information before entering the campus.</li> </ul>
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HKUST has set up a task force personally led by the President to co-ordinate and handle all potential and ad-hoc issues on campus. The security office of HKUST maintains close liaison with the Police and will seek assistance from them as and when necessary.</li> <li>HKUST is recruiting a senior security manager with relevant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff, students and alumni must produce relevant identity documentation upon entry to the campus.</li> <li>Other persons must be pre-registered online by staff or students and produce relevant proof of identity to security staff before entering the campus.</li> </ul>

University	Contingency Arrangements	Access Control Measures
	<p>professional experience and expertise in risk management.</p>	
<p>The University of Hong Kong (HKU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HKU has set up a task force to respond to crises that occur on campus, the work of which is co-ordinated by the Vice-President. In case of ad-hoc incidents, the security office of HKU will contact members of the task force, who will then decide whether or not to seek assistance from the Police, and co-ordinate the action to be taken taking into account the Police's advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff, students, alumni and visitors are required to produce relevant identity documentation upon entry to the campus. Members of the public may also enter the campus upon verification of their identity or production of an activity pass issued by HKU.</li> </ul>