

立法會
Legislative Council

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the Administration)

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Panel on Health Services and Panel on Education

**Minutes of joint meeting held on
Friday, 5 March 2021, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Panel on Health Services

- * Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP (Chairman)
- * Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
- * Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
- * Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
- * Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yeet, GBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
- * Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
- * Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
- * Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Panel on Education

Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

**Members
absent**

: Panel on Health Services

- * Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
- * Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
- * Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Panel on Education

Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP

(* Also members of the Panel on Education)

**Public Officers
attending**

: Agenda item II

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr FUNG Pan-chung, Chris
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health
(Health)³

Mr LAI Chi-kin, Derek
Principal Assistant Secretary (Higher Education)

Mr LEUNG Sze-ho, Louis
Deputy Secretary-General (1)
University Grants Committee Secretariat

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor CHIU Wai-kwun, Rossa
Associate Dean (Development), Faculty of Medicine

Ms WONG Chak-hung, Nowell
Faculty Secretary and Director of Planning,
Faculty and Planning Office, Faculty of Medicine

Mr FUNG Siu-man
Director, Campus Development Office

Mr LI Sing-cheung
Deputy Director, Campus Development Office

The University of Hong Kong

Professor CHAN Ying-shing
Associate Dean, (Development and Infrastructure)
Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine

Mr Eddie YIU
Senior Assistant Director, Estates Office

Mr Jason LUK
Assistant Director, Estates Office

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (4)3

Staff in attendance : Ms Angela CHU
Senior Council Secretary (4)2

Ms Peggy CHUNG
Council Secretary (4)3

Miss Ariel SHUM
Legislative Assistant (4)3

Action

I. Election of Chairman

Election of Chairman

Ms Elizabeth QUAT, Chairman of the Panel on Health Services, advised that Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Chairman of the Panel on Education, recommended Ms QUAT to chair the joint meeting. In accordance with rule 22(k) of the House Rules, members decided that Ms QUAT should chair the meeting.

II. Enhancement of healthcare teaching facilities of University Grants Committee-funded universities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)580/20-21(01) to (02)]

Declaration of interests

2. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals before they spoke on the subject.

3. Mr Tommy CHEUNG and Ms Alice MAK declared that they were elected by Members to serve as a Council member of The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK"). Mrs Regina IP declared that she was elected by Members to serve as a Court member of the University of Hong Kong ("HKU").

Briefing by the Administration

4. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") and Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health)³ briefed members on the following funding proposals to enhance the healthcare teaching facilities of CUHK and HKU: the remaining renovation works in Choh-Ming Li Basic Medical Sciences Building of CUHK and the consultancy study for the construction of additional academic building and ancillary facilities for the Faculty of Medicine of HKU. The estimated amounts of the above funding proposals were \$57.2 million and \$102.3 million respectively. The Administration planned to submit the funding proposals to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC") of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for consideration in the 2020-2021 legislative session.

(Post-meeting note: The powerpoint presentation material was provided to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)597/20-21(01) on 5 March 2021.)

Discussion

Ethical and moral standards of medical students

5. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that the Liberal Party supported the funding proposals to upgrade and increase the healthcare-relevant teaching facilities of

CUHK and HKU. However, he expressed deep concern about the ethical and moral standards of healthcare professionals in Hong Kong. Citing the recent incident of some healthcare professionals who went on strike to protest against the Administration's response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, he opined that the participating healthcare professionals were sacrificing patients' rights and shirking their responsibilities as frontline medical professionals amidst the difficult times of COVID-19 outbreak. While it was important to enhance the hardware facilities for healthcare-related professional training, Mr CHEUNG was of the view that it was equally important to nurture socially responsible and ethical healthcare professionals for Hong Kong. In particular, he pointed out that a person's political standpoints and opinions should in no way override his or her professionalism as a healthcare personnel.

6. Sharing similar views, the Chairman and Ms Alice MAK emphasized the importance of providing ethical training in addition to skills training so as to instill a proper attitude amongst medical students. In this regard, they enquired whether the universities would review the adequacy in the provision of ethical training for students, and ways to enhance their ethical standards, professional conduct and integrity. Mrs Regina IP also sought information on the curriculum of General Education ("GE") courses provided by the two universities.

7. Associate Dean (Development and Infrastructure) Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine ("Associate Dean/HKU") said that the Faculty of Medicine of HKU had all along placed strong emphasis in nurturing the ethical standards of medical students. Its medical students were required to take medical ethics courses in their pursuit of the bachelor degree programme. Associate Dean (Development) Faculty of Medicine of CUHK ("Associate Dean/CUHK") said that the GE programme of CUHK comprised both the University GE and the College GE. All students, including medical students, were required to complete certain units of GE courses before graduation. The GE curriculum covered a wide spectrum of courses which provided students with a broad intellectual perspective and instilled in them an understanding of the values of different academic disciplines.

8. Ms Alice MAK suggested that the universities should explore ways to enhance the ethical standards of serving healthcare practitioners. Associate Dean/HKU responded that while the Faculty of Medicine of HKU provided medical students with training on ethics during undergraduate study, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine was responsible for providing them with postgraduate training and conducted examinations for them.

9. Mrs Regina IP enquired whether the GE curriculum included management training for medical students and covered topics of controversial issues like genetic editing. She also asked whether newly admitted medical students were required to take oath and pledge to serve patients and the community and uphold the professional and ethical standards of medical doctors after graduation.

10. On oath taking, Associate Dean of HKU replied in the affirmative and said that medical students were required to take a medical vow and pledged to behave and act according to the vow throughout their course of being a medical doctor. Associate Dean of CUHK said that newly admitted medical students would attend the "White Coat Inauguration Ceremony for Medical Freshmen" at which they would take oath before their teachers and relatives and pledge to uphold the professional standards as a medical student and a future doctor. As regards courses relating to management and controversial issues, both Associate Dean of HKU and Associate Dean of CUHK said that relevant courses were provided to offer an all-round training to equip students as medical professionals. Associate Dean of CUHK added that given the fast-changing social environment and biological advancement, the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK had kept abreast of the latest development and continuously review the curriculum to help students acquire the most optimal skillset.

11. At the request of Mrs Regina IP and the Chairman, Associate Dean of HKU and Associate Dean of CUHK undertook to provide the wording of the oath taken by newly admitted medical students, and ways to enhance the ethical education provided for the students.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's supplementary information in relation to the above request was provided to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1028/20-21(01) on 27 May 2021.)

Funding of healthcare-relevant teaching facilities

12. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan noted that the Government would provide funding to upgrade and increase healthcare-relevant teaching facilities of the universities to cope with the additional medical student intake so as to prepare for the foreseeable tight manpower situation of the healthcare profession. She also observed that universities might raise funds or deploy their existing resources in undertaking improvement works within the campus. She enquired about the criteria for determining the funding source and the conditions under which the universities would seek funding support from the Government. Mr YIU Si-wing

raised a similar enquiry and asked whether the repair and maintenance works carried out as a result of the damages to the CUHK campus arising from the recent social order events would be borne by the Administration.

13. USFH replied that matters relating to the funds and grants of universities were under the purview of the University Grants Committee ("UGC") and the policy portfolio of the Education Bureau. As a result of the announcement in the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address of an increase of 150 healthcare-related UGC-funded first-year first-degree ("FYFD") intake places per year from the 2019-2020 academic year, the Administration had earmarked about \$20 billion for short, medium and long-term works projects to expand the capacity and enhance training facilities of HKU, CUHK and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for this purpose. The Administration would provide funding support to the universities on renovating existing teaching facilities as well as the construction of new teaching complex. Funding proposals would be submitted to FC of LegCo for consideration in due course. Associate Dean of HKU added that while the Administration would provide funding support to major infrastructural projects such as the construction of a teaching complex, HKU might allocate its own resources to meet the development needs, such as the procurement of teaching and research equipment.

14. On the provision of funding for minor works projects within the campus, Director, Campus Development Office of CUHK said that there was an established procedure for allocating resources. The cost for regular maintenance and repair of premises was covered by the recurrent block grants to the university. CUHK would also submit proposals for minor works not more than \$30 million each to UGC for consideration of providing funding support under the Alterations, Additions, Repairs and Improvements block allocation each year on a need basis.

15. As regards the repair and maintenance for the damages of the CUHK campus arising from the recent social order events, Director, Campus Development Office of CUHK said that the cost incurred by CUHK was in the range of around \$50 million. The majority of the cost was for replacing the damaged coaches, and the remaining expenses was used on other fronts, such as road repair and maintenance. All relevant cost was met by CUHK from non-UGC funding.

16. At Dr CHIANG Lai-wan's request, the Administration agreed to provide information on the fiscal reserves of HKU and CUHK with breakdown after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's supplementary information in relation to the above request was provided to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1028/20-21(01) on 27 May 2021)

Progress of works projects

17. Ms Alice MAK expressed concern about the progress of the renovation of facilities in Choh-Ming Li Basic Medical Sciences Building ("BMSB") of CUHK, and urged expedition of the construction of a teaching-research complex on campus in Tai Po Area so as to increase the teaching capacity as early as practicable. USFH responded that the universities had undertaken short, medium and long-term measures to address the insufficiency of teaching facilities with a view to coping with the intake of medical students. Faculty Secretary and Director of Planning, Faculty and Planning Office of the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK added that spatial reorganization and improvement works for the nursing facilities and teaching laboratories of BMSB were being implemented. In medium-to-long term, the Faculty was planning the construction of a teaching-research complex on the campus and a multi-purpose building and student residence around the Prince of Wales Hospital. Associate Dean of CUHK supplemented that the Faculty would continue to discuss with the Hospital Authority ("HA") and the Food and Health Bureau with a view to expediting the construction works of new teaching facilities. However, completion of statutory procedure (such as traffic impact assessment of the proposed building) was required before the project could be taken forward.

18. Mr YIU Si-wing noted that HKU planned to construct phase 2 of the construction of additional academic building and ancillary facilities at Sassoon Road, and planned to conduct a consultancy study for the project at an estimated cost of \$102.3 million. He enquired about the projected cost for the whole construction project, and whether the consultancy cost of \$102.3 million was considered an appropriate ratio to the whole construction cost. Assistant Director, Estates Office of HKU replied that the projected construction cost for the project would be around \$3 billion, and the consultancy cost for the above project was comparable to that for the other construction projects undertaken by the University. UFSH added that the Administration would evaluate the funding application submitted by HKU on the relevant construction works in accordance with established procedure. As regards the cost of the consultancy study, the Administration considered the amount appropriate.

19. Noting that the Administration would submit funding proposals for the renovation works of Choh-Ming Li BMSB of CUHK as well as the consultancy study for the construction of additional academic building and ancillary facilities for the Faculty of Medicine of HKU to PWSC for consideration within the current legislative session, Ms Alice MAK suggested that the Administration should separate the two items for members to vote at PWSC.

20. In view of the insufficiency of teaching facilities to cope with the additional intake of medical students, Mr Holden CHOW suggested that the Administration should consider collaborating with the universities in the Greater Bay Area, such as the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital, so that relevant teaching facilities could be shared for use by medical students in Hong Kong. It would also be beneficial for Hong Kong students to acquire new skills and knowledge from other universities.

21. Associate Dean/HKU replied that under the curriculum of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, arrangements had been made for students to attend training and clinical placement at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital. Such learning was considered fruitful as medical students could enrich their experience in contacting different patients. Associate Dean/CUHK said that CUHK did not have any University hospital campus in the Greater Bay Area, but students from the School of Chinese Medicine were required to attend clinical placement at Chinese medicine hospitals in Mainland to enrich their exposure.

Healthcare manpower

22. Mrs Regina IP commented that the addition of 150 health-care related UGC-funded FYFD intake places per academic year was far from sufficient to address the growing service demand arising from the ageing population. In particular, there was a serious shortage in specialist medical practitioners and members of the public often had to wait for a long time before they could receive specialist treatment in public hospitals. She asked whether the Administration would allocate more resources to the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine so that more specialist training could be provided for postgraduate medical practitioners.

23. USFH responded that the Administration would conduct healthcare manpower projection once every three years in tandem with the triennial planning cycle of UGC to review the adequacy of healthcare manpower in coping with the growing service demand. In addition, the Administration was actively preparing a proposal for the admission of qualified non-locally trained doctors to practise in the public sector in Hong Kong and the relevant legislative framework. As

regards the provision of specialist training, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, as a statutory body to organize, monitor, assess and accredit all dental and medical specialist training, would ensure the quality of continued professional development of specialist training in Hong Kong. Specialist trainees would be required to undergo six years of intensive training according to their chosen stream at HA hospitals. The Administration would review the quantity and standards of teaching facilities of hospitals under the first and second 10-year hospital development plans.

Conclusion

24. The Chairman concluded that members raised no objection to the Administration's submission of the funding proposals to PWSC for consideration. She reminded the Administration to take concrete actions to enhance the ethical standards and professional conduct of medical students.

III. Any other business

25. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:36 pm.