

ASSOCIATION OF LECTURERS AT THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Submission to the LegCo Panel on Education for its Meeting on 17 May 1999

1. Accessibility of HKIED Council Documents

At present, the rule of confidentiality is applied to all HKIED Council documents. Release of information for consultation with the elected HKIED Council members' constituency is allowed only after prior approval has been obtained from the Council/ Standing Committee. In practice this arrangement creates difficulties for the elected HKIED Council members to exercise their entitled rights and bars them from fulfilling their responsibilities to inform and consult their constituency on matters discussed at HKIED Council meetings.

To resolve this predicament, the elected HKIED Council members have put forward the following proposal for the HKIED Council's consideration:

I. Agenda items:

- a. All items in the agenda are assumed to be non-confidential except
 - matters related to personal privacy;
 - items classified by the Chairman as being confidential.
- b. The classification of any item as being confidential can be revisited during the meeting.

II. Resolutions and minutes:

All resolutions and minutes are assumed to be non-confidential except

- matters related to personal privacy;
- items classified by the meeting as being confidential.

The HKIED Council is still considering the matter.

2. Appeal Mechanism

Appeals concerning matters of employment contracts, such as contract termination or renewal, are handled by the Staff Selection and Review Sub-committee under the Staffing Committee of the Council. However, there are no formal representatives from the Association of Lecturers at the Hong Kong Institute of Education on this Sub-committee. The Association proposes that:

- i. there should be formal representatives from the Association on the Staff Selection and Review Sub-Committee; and
- ii. an appellant should have the right to invite a "friend" to attend the proceedings of the Sub-committee related to the case.

The Association would also support the idea of establishing an independent committee to handle grievances and appeals by staff of all UGC-funded institutions.