



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

Department of Applied Social Sciences

VIA FAX

應用社會科學系

June 30, 2003

Mr. Stanley Ma
Education Panel
Legislative Council

Dear Mr. Ma,

I am writing to request for an opportunity to participate and speak briefly at today's Education Panel meeting on the item related to the City University's associate degree programmes. We are deeply concerned about the City University's intention to drop most of its sub-degree programmes, including programmes in social work, public administration, and community services management.

According to a survey conducted in June to 568 social service unit supervisors, 87.7% of the respondents think that there is a need to employ sub-degree social work graduates in their work units. Their experience in working with these sub-degree holders has been mostly satisfactory (84.1%). Over 95% of the supervisors think that there are jobs within the profession that are appropriate for sub-degree graduates to fill. And almost 80% of them think that the reduction in government subsidies in these sub-degree programmes is inappropriate.

We are in principle object to the government's intention to make sub-degree programmes largely self-financed, particularly in the case of social work. And we are concerned that this policy may deprive students of lower income strata the opportunity to receive higher education. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me

Sincerely,

Fernando Cheung, PhD
Special Task Force