

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香港大學

**HKU SPACE**香港大學專業進修學院
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Clerk to Bills Committee on
Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Bill,
Legislative Council Secretariat,
3/F Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to raise one issue of clarification on the draft Bill which provides for accreditation of academic and vocational qualifications under the Qualifications Framework and for amendments to the Hong Kong Council of Academic Accreditation Ordinance.

Under the existing HKCAA Ordinance, there seems to be clear provisions that the self-accrediting University institutions established under their own separate ordinances of the laws of Hong Kong do not fall under the purview of HKCAA unless so referred by the University Grants Committee (section 4 of the HKCAA Ordinance refers). This section is specifically to be deleted and an alternative wording substituted. However, I am not quite clear from the amendment how the current autonomy of the University institutions established under ordinance is protected and maintained. As I understand it, in relation to the Qualifications Framework and the Qualifications Register, the Universities have established the Joint Quality Review Committee a company limited by guarantee to specifically undertake the work required under the Framework and the Register for their sub-degree qualifications to be placed in the Register whereas the University Grants Committee itself is responsible for the degree and above level qualifications. This situation is nowhere reflected in the legislation, nor in any of the briefing material (as far as I am aware) provided to the Legislative Council members.

I would like therefore to seek clarification of the situation that my understandings as above are correct and that the autonomy of the university institutions is not affected by the legislation. The only references I can see are in Schedules 2 and 3 and these are subject to amendment by the Secretary under Part 5, clause 17 and clause 25. It would seem that the Universities would be classified under the description of "operator" in part 1 clause 2 and further refined by the description of "self-accrediting operator" in the same clause but it is not otherwise apparent that their current academic autonomy is maintained.

Yours sincerely,

John Cribbin
School Secretary & Registrar

JC/sp