

**Extract from the minutes of meeting between Legislative Council Members  
and Sha Tin District Council Members held on 8 December 2005**

---

\* \* \* \* \*

**Members present** : Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP (Convenor)  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon Ms Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

**By invitation** : Sha Tin District Council

Mr WAI Kwok-hung, JP (Chairman)  
Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing  
Mr CHENG Cho-kwong  
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man  
Mr CHOW Ka-kong, MH  
Dr CHUI Hong-sheung  
Mr HO Sau-mo, MH  
Mr LAM Hong-wah  
Mr LAU Tai-sang  
Mr LEE Lap-hong, Almustafa  
Mr LEUNG Chi-kin, MH  
Dr LO Wai-kwok, MH, JP  
Mr SIU Hin-hong  
Mr TING Tsz-yuen  
Mr TSOI Ah-chung  
Mr TSOI Yiu-cheong, Richard  
Mr WAI Hing-cheung  
Ms YEUNG Sin-hung  
Mrs LEUNG YUEN Kit Ming, Beatrice  
Miss BOW Yuk Yu, Jadee

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **IV. Policy on financial assistance for sub-degree students**

15. Dr CHUI Hong-sheung, STDC member, expressed concern about the policy on financial assistance for sub-degree (SD) students. He pointed out that it was unfair for the Administration to adopt different criteria for providing financial assistance to students enrolled in publicly-funded and self-financing SD programmes. He cited the example of a family in which one child enrolled in a publicly-funded SD programme received financial assistance from the Government, whereas another child enrolled in a self-financing one did not. Besides, under the existing policy on student financial assistance, SD graduates enrolling in self-financing bridging courses were not eligible for student financial assistance. He pointed out that such policy failed to take into account the financial circumstances of students' families, thereby depriving needy students of further education and therefore did not help getting them out of poverty. He urged the Administration to review the policy on student financial assistance.

16. Ms Emily LAU advised that the Panel on Education had been following up various issues relating to student financial assistance and SD programmes. She also informed STDC that the Administration was reviewing the policy on student financial assistance in order to examine the alternative of providing student-based financial assistance.

17. Dr CHUI Hong-sheung, STDC member, pointed out that there was also unfairness in the academic accreditation mechanism for SD programmes and the admission of SD graduates to the second-year of undergraduate courses at universities. Regarding the academic accreditation mechanism, institutions funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) could accredit SD programmes offered by their own school of continuing studies/education; whereas SD programmes offered by other institutions were subject to accreditation by recognized bodies. He questioned whether it was fair to allow UGC-funded institutions to accredit their own SD programmes, and opined that this might lead to concerns about quality. In relation to the admission of SD graduates to the second-year of undergraduate courses at universities, Dr CHUI pointed out that according to the information provided by the Administration, the UGC-funded institutions mainly admitted graduates from their own SD programmes to the second-year of the undergraduate courses at their universities. He questioned whether the universities had fairly allocated their resources and adopted open and fair criteria in admitting SD graduates to the second-year of the undergraduate courses at their universities.

18. Ms Emily LAU pointed out that UGC-funded institutions enjoyed autonomy and were free to formulate their own internal administration policies, including student admission. She was of the view that their autonomy should be respected and believed that they had adopted open and fair criteria in student admission. Mr LI Kwok-ying considered that the UGC-funded institutions, which receive public funding, should enrol students according to impartial criteria.

Action

LegCo  
Secretariat

19. Ms Emily LAU and the Convenor recommended that STDC's concerns about the policy on student financial assistance be referred to the Panel on Education for follow-up, and their concerns about the criteria for admitting SD graduates to the second-year of undergraduate courses at universities be referred to the relevant authorities. They also suggested that the institutions concerned should be requested to provide their admission criteria to STDC for reference.

LegCo  
Secretariat

\* \* \* \* \*