

**Panel on Education**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 6 February 2007)

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**1. Progress of the study on small class teaching**

Item proposed by the Administration in response to members' request for an update on the progress of the study on small class teaching at the meeting on 11 December 2006 12 February 2007

**2. Workload of teachers**

Item proposed by Ms Audrey EU at the meeting on 12 December 2005. Ms EU expressed concern about the long working hours and heavy workload of teachers in schools. Members agreed to discuss the item at a future meeting. 12 February 2007

At the meeting on 8 January 2007, members agreed to discuss the final report of the Committee on Teachers' Work at the meeting in February 2007

**3. Member's Bill on the governance structure of the English Schools Foundation**

At the meeting on 8 January 2007, Mr Abraham SHEK said that in response to the Public Accounts Committee Report No. 43 concerning, inter alia, the corporate governance of the English Schools Foundation (ESF), the ESF had sought his assistance to introduce a Member's Bill to follow up the matter. Mr SHEK would like to brief the Panel on the Bill before its introduction into the Legislative Council. Members agreed to discuss the subject at the regular meeting in March. 12 March 2007

**4. Retitling of the Hong Kong Institute of Education as a university**

At the meeting on 8 January 2007, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the retitling of the Hong Kong Institute of Education as a university be discussed by the Panel. Members agreed to discuss the item at a future meeting. 12 March 2007

**5. Grant to the Open University of Hong Kong for establishing a Centre for Innovation**

Item proposed by the Administration. The Open University (OUHK) of Hong Kong was established to provide tertiary education opportunities for learners through open access and distance learning. Building on its reputation as the leading regional distance learning providers, the OUHK proposes to establish a Centre for Innovation (CFI) to develop various innovative and e-learning tools to enrich the course content of previously mainly print-based distance learning materials and enhance students' learning experience. The Administration considers the CFI project conducive to OUHK's mission and proposes to provide a one-off grant of \$62.8 million.

12 March 2007

**6. School Development and Accountability (SDA)**

The Panel discussed the progress of implementation of the school development and accountability framework at its meeting on 13 December 2004, with emphasis on the implementation of school self-evaluation and the external school review processes. Members agreed to revisit the issue and meet deputations at a future meeting.

To be confirmed

The Administration had proposed to report on the progress of SDA implementation at the meeting on 10 July 2006. At the meeting on 12 June 2006, members agreed to defer discussion of the item to the new session. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel at a future meeting.

**7. Use of Language Fund - proposals to strengthen support in language education at pre-primary and primary levels**

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, members requested the Administration to review the allocation for the professional development of pre-primary teachers and keep members informed of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research's (SCOLAR's) final decision on the issue. Members also requested the Administration to arrange the Chairman of the SCOLAR to brief the Panel on the progress of its implementation at a future meeting. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel later.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**8. Review on governance structure of University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions and their grievances and complaints mechanisms**

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the Panel should follow up discussion on the governance structure of UGC-funded institutions and their internal grievances and complaint mechanisms. He also suggested that deputations should be invited to present views at the meeting. At the meeting on 10 April 2006, Dr Fernando CHEUNG raised the same suggestion again. To be confirmed

**9. Remuneration systems in UGC-funded institutions after deregulation of university salaries**

The Panel had a follow-up discussion on this matter on 26 January 2006 at which views and concerns of deputations were received. The Administration will consider the members' views and revert to the Panel at a future meeting. To be confirmed

**10. Future development of the textbook industry and development of talents for textbook writing**

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Members noted that arising from the Administration's proposals on various copyright-related issues, the textbook industry had expressed grave concern about the impact of the proposed exemption of non-profit-making educational establishments and educational establishment subvented by Government from the proposed criminal liability for copying and distribution of copyright infringing printed works on the future development of the textbook industry. Members agreed to receive views from the industry and other sectors which might have different perspectives on the issue, including the Consumer Council which conducted annual surveys on textbook prices. Members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry will be invited to join the discussion of this item. To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mrs Selina CHOW proposed and members agreed to discuss the development of talents for textbook writing.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**11. Arts and cultural studies in school education**

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mrs CHOW considered that the Panel should discuss the curriculum for arts and cultural studies in schools in the light of the Government's policy commitment to enrich the quality of life in Hong Kong. To be confirmed

**12. Appointment of government school teachers on permanent terms under the new civil service entrance system**

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned that some serving teachers in government school are unable to convert to permanent terms upon completion of a six-year contract. To be confirmed

**13. Implementation of research projects funded by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB)**

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned about the allegation made by the University Education Concern Group that EMB had unduly influenced the work of academics in the conduct of research projects funded by EMB by way of the bidding mechanism. Members agreed to discuss the issue at a future meeting. To be confirmed

**14. Use of information technology in education**

Item proposed by Mr SIN Chung-kai at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr SIN is concerned about the next strategy for the use of information technology in education in 2007 and onwards. To be confirmed

**15. Remuneration for school clerks and janitors**

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr LEE is concerned that since the inclusion of salaries and allowances for clerks and janitors in aided schools under the Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) in 2000, the salaries and allowances of clerks and janitors in some aided schools have not been increased in line with the inflation and OEBG adjustments. To be confirmed

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**16. Use of vacated school premises**

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mrs CHOW is concerned about the overall plan for the use of vacated school premises. To be confirmed

**17. Member's Bill on the Chinese University of Hong Kong**

At the meeting on 8 January 2007, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) had requested him to introduce a Member's Bill to amend the CUHK Ordinance to include two recently established colleges of CUHK as its constituent colleges. He would wish to brief the Panel on the Bill before its introduction into LegCo. Members agreed to discuss the item at a future meeting. To be confirmed