

Ref: V(36) in Adm/500/1

9 January 2009

Miss Odelia Leung
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(2)632/08-09(02)

Dear Miss Leung,

I would like to refer to the decision of the Panel on Education to urge the universities to make public the minutes and papers of their Council meetings to enhance transparency of their governance.

The Council of Lingnan University discussed the matter at its meeting on 15 December 2008 and agreed to support the call for a higher degree of transparency regarding the governance of the University provided that any action in response to such a call does not affect:

- (a) the need to respect personal data privacy and to observe confidentiality (given that personnel, contractual and other sensitive matters related to institutional management are deliberated by the Council);
- (b) freedom of discussions at council meetings; and
- (c) institutional autonomy.

The Council noted that currently decisions of the Council are made known within the university through its internal communication channels. If appropriate, decisions of the Council are made known to the public. It is also the general practice that prior to presenting to the Council for consideration of approval, matters related to policies, regulations and statutory provisions have been communicated to the relevant persons by the respective administrative units and/or lower level committees, or through open consultation among staff.

At the above said meeting, the Council was of the view that the University should enhance the existing communication channels to the public. It was however yet to decide whether the minutes of or a report summarizing the decisions of a Council meeting should be put on the web. It is anticipated that the Council at its next meeting on 16 February 2009 will reach a decision.

Yours sincerely,



Li Kam-kee
Secretary to the Council

c.c. Chairman of the Council
President