



## **Submission to the Panel on Education meeting to be held on Monday, 11 July 2011**

### **Agenda Item no. V - Allocation of research funding and undergraduate student places**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on the allocation of research funding and undergraduate student places.

#### **1. Allocation of research funding**

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) welcomes the recent initiatives by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to introduce more elements of competition, direct or indirect, to the allocation of research resources. We are confident that more open competition for research resources will allow PolyU to break from the stranglehold that the legacy research resource allocation formula has put on PolyU's research development in the past. We strongly believe that the allocation of research funding should not be based solely on success in winning funding from the General Research Fund, Collaborative Research Fund, and Theme-based Research Scheme. The allocation should be based on a broader set of criteria. It should take into account the entire research funding portfolio of a university. The success in winning grants from other sources (such as the Innovation and Technology Fund) and consultancy from industry (such as contract work) should be part of the criteria. All these research activities contribute to the intellectual as well as economic vitality of Hong Kong.

#### **2. Allocation of undergraduate student places**

We appreciate the UGC's comments on our Academic Development Proposal (ADP) for the 2012-2015 triennium noting that it showed a deep commitment and adherence to our differentiating role and our efforts in maintaining a strong link with the business and professional communities both locally and abroad. In August 2010, we wrote to the UGC that the proposed top slicing and bidding exercises involving the entire University would create disruptions to the planning and implementation of the University's 4-year curriculum, which is currently at a critical stage. The reduction of FYFD places in existing undergraduate programmes would be discouraging to staff who have been working industriously to plan and

implement the 4-year curriculum. Nevertheless, PolyU respectfully accepts the UGC's decision, and we wish to note for the record that PolyU shall do everything in its power to support the decision made by the UGC.

Meanwhile, following the Government's policy that sub-degree and taught postgraduate programmes should be self-financed, the UGC has determined that eight Higher Diploma (HD) programmes in the School of Design, School of Hotel and Tourism Management, Faculty of Business and Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles need to be phased out. The University is working with the UGC to mitigate the impact of the phasing-out of these HD programmes. We shall do our utmost to ensure that the quality of education for our students is not affected.

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