

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 9 December 2010)

	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme	
At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members agreed to follow up the subject and to receive views from deputations before the release of the review report on the Scheme.	17 December 2010
2. Report on the Higher Education Review 2010	
Item proposed by the University Grants Committee ("UGC"). UGC released the Report on the Higher Education Review 2010 on 1 December 2010. The Chairman of UGC will brief members on the findings and recommendations made in the Report.	10 January 2011
3. Start-up Loan for Post-secondary Education Providers	
Item proposed by the Administration. The item seeks members' views on applications for start-up loans from two post-secondary institutions for the two sites at Ho Man Tin and Siu Lek Yuen.	10 January 2011
The Finance Committee ("FC") approved in February 2010 an increase of \$2 billion in the commitment for the Start-up Loan Scheme to meet the prospective loan requirements from institutions for developing campus premises at five land sites (including the two sites at Ho Man Tin and Siu Lek Yuen) earmarked for the development of self-financing higher education.	
The Administration intends to submit the above proposal to FC for consideration on 18 February 2011.	

Proposed timing
for discussion

4. Research and Academic Building, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology ("HKUST")

Item proposed by the Administration. The item seeks members' views on HKUST's proposal to construct a multi-storey academic building within the campus, accommodating classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, offices, and support facilities, etc. The estimated government fund required is \$444 million.

10 January
2011

Subject to the members' support, the Administration will seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee and FC on 9 February and 6 May 2011 respectively.

Subject to FC's approval, HKUST plans to commence works in the third quarter of 2011 for completion in the third quarter of 2013.

5. Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund

Item proposed by the Administration. The item seeks members' views on the establishment of the Fund.

February 2011

6. Review of Non-means-tested Loan Schemes – Stage II Public Consultation

Item proposed by the Administration. Phase 1 of the public consultation ended on 15 June 2010. The item seeks members' views on the proposals to improve the operation of the loan schemes taking into account the views received for further consultation with the public under Phase 2 by the end of the year.

February/March
2011

Proposed timing
for discussion

7. Progress of support measures for non-Chinese speaking students

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will brief members on the progress of various support measures, in particular the measures relating to Chinese learning, for non-Chinese speaking students.

February/March
2011

Members noted the enhanced services to be provided for new arrivals and ethnic minorities to help them integrate into the society as outlined in the 2010-2011 Policy Address. Members requested the Administration to provide detailed written information in respect of the education arena. The Administration provided the requisite information vide LC Paper No. CB(2)235/10-11(01) on 8 November 2010.

8. Revitalizing vacant school premises

Tai Po District Council members raised concern about revitalizing vacant school premises in Tai Po at its meeting with Legislative Council Members held on 3 June 2010. Members had made several suggestions concerning the effective use of vacant school premises and agreed that the subject of use of vacant school premises be referred to the Panel as well as the Panel on Home Affairs for follow up. The referral memo was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2197/09-10 on 24 August 2010.

April 2011

The Administration will brief members on the progress of disposing vacant school premises for school and educational uses as well as the mechanism for releasing premises for other non-educational uses.

Proposed timing
for discussion

9. Review of Examination Fee Remission Scheme

Item proposed by the Administration. The item seeks members' views on the proposals to improve the operation of the Examination Fee Remission Scheme in the light of the implementation of the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination in 2011-2012.

April 2011

10. Progress on the implementation of the new academic structure ("NAS")

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will report on the progress on the learning and assessment under the NAS (students' subject choices, school-based assessment, etc), issues related to interface with post-secondary and university education, support for schools, communication with various stakeholders, international recognition and evaluation and monitoring.

July 2011

Members considered it necessary to discuss the issues concerning the marking of the examination papers of Liberal Studies. It is proposed that the subject should be discussed in the context.

11. Internet Learning Support Programme

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will update members on the latest development of the five-year Internet Learning Support Programme in helping needy students and parents from low-income families to gain access to the Internet for learning by providing economical Internet access services, suitable computers and necessary complementary services such as training and technical support.

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

12. Grievance procedures of the University Grants Committee-funded institutions

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, the UGC briefed members on the guidelines of best practices in redress mechanisms developed by the UGC having regard to the findings of the research on grievance procedures of 10 reputable overseas institutions and the responses of local institutions to these best practices. Members requested the UGC to provide updated complaint/grievance handling flow charts of individual institutions and the institutions' responses to the UGC's recommendations for the Panel to follow up.

To be
confirmed

The research report entitled "Complaint handling mechanism in higher education sector in selected places" prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat was circulated to members on 13 October 2010 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)32/10-11.

13. Issues relating to the relocation of the centres of the Christian Zheng Sheng Association

The Administration provided an information paper on the matter which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2322/09-10 on 30 September 2010.

To be
confirmed

14. Trial scheme on school drug testing in Tai Po District and development of rehabilitation centre-cum-schools

The subject was discussed at the meeting on 8 September 2009. At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members agreed to follow up the subject jointly with the Panel on Security.

To be
confirmed

The Panel on Security discussed school drug testing at its special meeting on 11 November 2010 and members of the Panel on Education had been invited to attend the meeting.

Proposed timing
for discussion

15. Matters relating to sex education in schools and sex crime committed by teachers

The subject on sex education in schools was proposed in the 2009-2010 session. It was proposed that schools should include sex education in the curriculum so as to provide correct information on sex to students.

To be
confirmed

At the meeting on 8 November 2010, members raised concern about sex crime committed by teachers and suggested that the Panel should discuss the matter.

16. International schools

At the meeting on 15 October 2009, members raised concern about student enrolment in international schools built on land granted by the Government. The Administration provided an information paper on the subject which was circulated to members on 2 December 2009 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)429/09-10.

To be
confirmed

The Administration advised that to facilitate monitoring of the provision of public resources to international schools, it would conduct a comprehensive survey in the international school sector and keep track of the supply and demand of international school places. The Administration will brief the Panel upon the completion of the survey in 2011.

17. Integrated education

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members agreed to follow up the provision of support and resources for the implementation of integrated education in mainstream schools.

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

18. Arts education in schools

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members raised the concern about the provision of resources for implementing arts education in primary and secondary schools. Members proposed to hold joint meetings with the Panel on Home Affairs as the subject also fell within its purview.

To be
confirmed

19. School Textbook Assistance Scheme

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members suggested discussion on the School Textbook Assistance Scheme. Members noted that the flat rate grant under the Scheme would be increased from the next school year. Members were concerned that the income limit under the Adjusted Family Income mechanism for assessing the eligibility of a family for the Scheme had not been reviewed for more than a decade.

Proposed to be
deleted

The matter was discussed at the briefing on the 2010-2011 Policy Address on 21 October 2010.

20. Publicly funded first-year-first-degree places

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members noted the proposal in the 2010-2011 Policy Address to increase the publicly funded first-year-first-degree places to 15 000 from 2012-2013 academic year including the progressive doubling of articulation places to 4 000 each year for sub-degree graduates, and requested the Administration to provide the relevant details to the Panel.

Proposed to
be deleted

The Panel touched on the subject at the Policy Briefing on 21 October 2010 and the Administration provided information on the subject vide LC Paper No. CB(2)235/10-11(01) on 8 November 2010.

Proposed timing
for discussion

21. Comprehensive Student Guidance Service

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members proposed discussion on the Comprehensive Student Guidance Service in primary schools. The issues of concern included manning ratio of student guidance personnel and the provision and the procurement of the service.

Proposed to
be deleted

The Panel touched on the subject at the Policy Briefing on 21 October 2010 and the Administration provided information on the subject vide LC Paper No. CB(2)235/10-11(01) on 8 November 2010.

22. Graduate teacher posts

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members raised that many graduate teachers were not offered graduate teacher posts in public sector schools. Members agreed that the Administration should be requested to provide information on the number of graduate teachers not taking up graduate teacher posts in public sector schools, and the measures to resolve the problem.

Proposed to
be deleted

The Administration provided the requisite information vide LC Paper No. CB(2)235/10-11(01) on 8 November 2010.