

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)456/12-13
(The minutes have been seen by the
Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 14 January 2013, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Claudia MO
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Members absent : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

**Public Officers : Agenda item IV
attending**

Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP
Secretary for Education

Ms Michelle LI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

Ms Pecvin YONG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education)
Education Bureau

Agenda item V

Mr Kevin YEUNG
Under Secretary for Education

Ms Michelle LI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

Ms Pecvin YONG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education)
Education Bureau

Agenda item VI

Mr Kevin YEUNG
Under Secretary for Education

Ms Pecvin YONG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education)
Education Bureau

Mr Gary AU
Senior Assistant Executive Director (Corporate
Governance)
Vocational Training Council

Dr LEE Kin-wang
Head, Estates, Health and Safety Division
Vocational Training Council

Agenda item VII

Mr Kevin YEUNG
Under Secretary for Education

Miss Wendy CHUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research
Support)
Education Bureau

Agenda item VIII

Mr Kevin YEUNG
Under Secretary for Education

Ms Jessie WONG
Deputy Secretary for Education (2)

Mrs Michelle WONG
Deputy Secretary for Education (4)

Clerk in attendance : Miss Polly YEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (4)4

Staff in attendance : Mr Kelvin LEE
Assistant Legal Adviser 1
(for Agenda item V)

Mr KWONG Kam-fai
Senior Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Esther CHEUNG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4)3

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(4)275/12-13 -- Minutes of meeting on 12 November 2012)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2012 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper No. -- Letter dated 6 December 2012 from Hon
CB(4)231/12-13(01) IP Kin-yuen addressed to the Head of Central Policy Unit regarding the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme

LC Paper No. -- Administration's response to a letter
CB(4)239/12-13(01) dated 21 November 2012 from Hon IP Kin-yuen regarding the remuneration system for staff employed by University Grants Committee-funded institutions

LC Paper No. -- Letter dated 19 December 2012 from
CB(4)260/12-13(01) Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor addressed to the Chief Secretary for Administration regarding academic freedom and the roles of Central Policy Unit

LC Paper No. -- Letter dated 2 January 2013 from Hon IP
CB(4)277/12-13(01) Kin-yuen addressed to the President of Hong Kong Baptist University regarding the "Blue Book of Hong Kong: Annual Report on Development of Hong Kong (2012)"

LC Paper No. -- Information paper provided by the
CB(4)287/12-13(01) Education Bureau concerning the progress of the School-based Professional Support Programmes financed by the Education Development Fund in the 2011-2012 school year)

2. Members noted the above papers issued since the last meeting.

Action

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

- (Appendix I to LC Paper No. -- List of outstanding items for
CB(4)293/12-13 discussion
Appendix II to LC Paper No. -- List of follow-up actions)
CB(4)293/12-13

3. The Chairman informed members that the Administration had proposed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for 7 February 2013 at 4:30 pm –

- (a) Progress of Implementing the E-Textbook Market Development Scheme ("EMADS"); and
- (b) Pilot Project on Revised School Complaints Handling Arrangements.

4. Dr Helena WONG suggested that the discussion on item 3(a) above should not be confined to EMADS but should also cover the e-platforms for facilitating teaching and learning. The Chairman confirmed that the two items proposed by the Administration would be discussed at the next regular meeting and the discussion of item 3(a) would be suitably revised in the light of Dr WONG's suggestion.

5. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that since the last term, this Panel had been concerned about issues related to the subject of Liberal Studies in the New Senior Secondary curriculum, such as the curriculum design and whether the subject should be a mandatory subject for university admission. She suggested that the Panel should follow up the matter in this session. The Chairman said that the matter would be included on the Panel's "List of outstanding items for discussion" for the 2012-2013 session .

6. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Panel should hold a special meeting to receive deputations on issues related to free kindergarten education. Dr Helena WONG and Dr Fernando CHEUNG concurred.

7. The Chairman recalled that the Deputy Chairman and himself had recently met with a number of stakeholders who had raised concerns about kindergarten education. He expressed support for the Deputy Chairman's suggestion to arrange a special meeting to receive deputations.

8. Dr Kenneth CHAN referred to item (10) on the "List of outstanding items for discussion" and reiterated his request for the Panel to discuss issues

Action

related to research funding and academic freedom arising from the recent change of approving authority under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme ("PPRFS") from the Research Grants Council to the Central Policy Unit ("CPU"). Dr CHAN said that the tertiary education sector was gravely concerned about the matter. He considered it necessary to arrange a special meeting to receive deputations and to seek an explanation from CPU on the latest arrangement.

9. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was of the view that academic freedom was of paramount importance and agreed with Dr Kenneth CHAN's suggestion. Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that there was an urgent need to arrange a special meeting to discuss the issues related to PPRFS. The Deputy Chairman concurred that the Panel should give priority to discussing issues arising from PPRFS as proposed by Dr Kenneth CHAN.

10. Mr TAM Yiu-chung considered that the subject of free kindergarten education, which was to be looked into by a dedicated committee as announced by the Chief Executive in his 2013 Policy Address, should receive more urgent attention by the Panel.

11. Noting members' views, the Chairman advised that it might not be feasible to arrange two special meetings with deputations within the month of February to discuss the aforesaid two items, in particular since there were the intervening Chinese New Year holidays. On the meeting arrangements, the Chairman directed that a special meeting would be held in February to discuss issues arising from PPRFS. He and the Deputy Chairman would, with the assistance of the Secretariat, decide on the appropriate arrangements for another special meeting in March 2013 or later to discuss issues related to kindergarten education and 15-year free education.

(Post-meeting note: On the instruction of the Chairman, a special meeting was scheduled for 21 February 2013 at 9:30 am to receive deputations on issues arising from PPRFS.)

IV. Self-financing post-secondary education

(LC Paper No. -- Paper provided by the Administration
CB(4)279/12-13(01)

LC Paper No. -- Background brief on issues related to
CB(4)279/12-13(02) self-financing post-secondary education
in Hong Kong prepared by the

Legislative Council Secretariat)

12. Members noted the background brief on the subject prepared by the Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(4)279/12-13(02)].

The Administration's initial response to views expressed by deputations and members at the meeting on 11 January 2013

13. At the Chairman's invitation, the Secretary for Education ("SED") said that the Administration had noted the views of deputations on self-financing post-secondary education expressed at the special meeting held on 11 January 2013. He re-affirmed the Government's policy to support the parallel development of the publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary education sectors so as to broaden the opportunities and choices for further education, thereby providing quality, diversified and flexible pathways with multiple entry and exit points for secondary school leavers. SED stressed that the Government attached great importance to the quality of post-secondary programmes and the need to safeguard against any commercialization or profiteering activities to the detriment of students.

14. Regarding concerns about possible profiteering from the forfeited enrolment deposits, SED informed members that enrolment deposits forfeited would be used by institutions for the benefit of students, such as the operation and development of institutions, improvement in facilities and provision of scholarships. On the financial assistance available to students pursuing self-financing post-secondary education, he advised that \$952 million in grants was provided to students in the 2011-2012 academic year under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students ("FASP"). About 23 000 students had benefited from grants and loans under FASP and the average grant per student was some \$41,000.

15. On the timetable for establishing a single quality assurance body as recommended in the University Grants Committee ("UGC")'s report entitled "Aspirations for the Higher Education System in Hong Kong" ("Review Report") published in December 2010, SED informed members that the Administration was working in this direction. However, as an overseas member of UGC had pointed out, it would inevitably take time to work out the details in moving towards the establishment of a single quality assurance body. Meanwhile, the Administration had taken incremental steps to enhance the quality assurance mechanism. SED said that the Administration had noted the views expressed by members and deputations and would invite the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education ("CSPE") to look into the major areas of concern carefully.

Action

Discussion

16. The Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure which provided that a Member shall not move any motion or amendment relating to a matter in which he had a pecuniary interest, whether direct or indirect, or speak on any such matter, except where he disclosed the nature of that interest. He reminded members to declare interests, if any, in the matter under discussion.

Publicly-funded and self-financing intake places

17. Ms Starry LEE declared that she was a member of the Council of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Ms LEE asked whether the Administration had any information on the further studies pursued by secondary school leavers in 2012 who had attained the general entrance requirements of local undergraduate programmes. In reply, SED advised that around 38 000 first-year first-degree places and around 39 500 sub-degree places in publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary programmes were offered in the 2012-2013 academic year, providing diversified programme choices for students.

18. Dr Fernando CHEUNG declared that he was a lecturer of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He was of the view that the present chaos in the self-financing post-secondary sector was the result of insufficient publicly-funded university places, as over 10 000 students who met the general entrance requirements could not get admitted to subsidized undergraduate programmes. Due to the huge demand for study places, self-financing post-secondary programmes had been growing in a "Great Leap Forward" manner, resulting in over-enrolment or indiscriminate admission of students by individual institutions. However, the facilities and teaching staff of these institutions could hardly cope with the large number of students admitted. Dr CHEUNG was concerned that this situation would continue to prevail if the Government continued to adopt a market-driven approach and would not increase the number of publicly-funded undergraduate places.

19. In response, SED advised that UGC-funded institutions had provided 30 300 places in 2012 which was a double-cohort year. The Government had also provided financial assistance and other means of support to students for pursuing non-UGC-funded programmes. With greater access to senior secondary and post-secondary education, the Administration expected that by 2015, at least one-third of the relevant age cohort would have the opportunity to receive degree-level education.

Action

20. Mr TAM Yiu-chung declared that he was a member of the management board of Hong Kong College of Technology. Mr TAM said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong ("DAB") agreed that the number of publicly-funded undergraduate places should be increased.

Articulation places for sub-degree graduates

21. Mr WONG Yuk-man was concerned that while sub-degree programmes had grown rapidly, the number of senior year undergraduate places in publicly-funded post-secondary institutions for articulation of sub-degree holders remained insufficient. He considered that the Administration should review its policy on sub-degree programmes and consider providing more support to the development of self-financing undergraduate programmes. Mr Albert HO shared a similar view about insufficient senior year undergraduate places for articulation.

22. Mr Tommy CHEUNG declared that he was a member of the Council of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Mr CHEUNG considered that when compared to overseas jurisdictions such as the United States, sub-degree holders in Hong Kong were disadvantaged as there was a lack of articulation places to the senior years of publicly-funded undergraduate programmes. He was of the view that individual institutions offering sub-degree programmes should also provide top-up degree programmes. Mr TAM Yiu-chung shared Mr Tommy CHEUNG's view.

23. In response, SED informed members that the number of senior year undergraduate places funded by UGC would be increased to 8 000 a year by phases starting from the 2012-2013 academic year, thereby improving the opportunities for sub-degree holders to progress to the last two years of undergraduate programmes.

Support measures and financial assistance

24. Mr WONG Yuk-man noted that approved post-secondary institutions offering undergraduate programmes, such as Hong Kong Shue Yan University and Chu Hai College of Higher Education, were required to fulfil certain requirements on quality and standard in their facilities, programme design and teaching resources, but without receiving the necessary support and assistance from the Government. Mr WONG further said that the self-financing arms of the UGC-funded institutions, however, were able to benefit from the brand names of the universities concerned in the promotion of their self-financing programmes. He considered this situation unfair, and took the view that the

Action

Administration should provide a level playing field for all post-secondary institutions in both the publicly-funded and self-financing sectors. He suggested that the Administration should consider expanding the scope of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to support self-financing post-secondary institutions that could demonstrate high academic standard but without the backing of a high level of income.

25. Mr TAM Yiu-chung expressed concern about the high tuition fees for self-financing programmes, and remarked that the students had in fact shouldered part of the construction cost of the premises of the institutions. He suggested that the Administration should examine the feasibility of providing subsidies to students in the form of education vouchers or direct funding to institutions on a per capita basis with reference to the number of students.

26. Mr Albert HO noted with concern the heavy financial burden on sub-degree holders arising from high tuition fees and their obligation to repay loans after graduation. He was of the view that the self-financing post-secondary institutions, in particular the financial aspect of their operation, had not been effectively regulated. As a result, the financial assistance provided to students might eventually become part of the operating profits of the institutions concerned. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that as the tuition fees of kindergartens were subject to regulation, the Administration should likewise regulate the level of tuition fees for self-financing programmes including sub-degree programmes.

27. Regarding financial assistance to students, SED recapitulated that financial assistance were available to students in the form of grants, low-interest loans, as well as scholarships. The Administration would continue to examine the feasibility of other means of assistance.

28. On tuition fees, SED advised that there could be considerable difference between the tuition fees of individual study programmes because their respective costs varied. As regards enrolment deposits, about 90% of such deposits received by institutions offering self-financing post-secondary programmes had eventually been used to cover part of the tuition fees payable, while the remaining portion was used for purposes such as scholarships or improvement of teaching/learning facilities. Nevertheless, SED assured members that the Administration would relay members' concerns about tuition fees and the use of surpluses to CSPE for consideration.

29. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che recalled that one of the deputations attending the special meeting held on 11 January had appealed for more support and assistance for students with special education needs studying post-secondary

Action

programmes. He cited a case that instead of providing additional assistance through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme, the Government had offered means-tested grants and loans to a student whose family was in receipt of CSSA. As a result, the student concerned was in heavy debt as he needed to repay the loans. Mr CHEUNG urged the Education Bureau ("EDB") and Social Welfare Department to give due consideration to the plight of the student concerned. In reply, SED said that the Administration would look into the case referred to by Mr CHEUNG if he could provide more information after the meeting.

Recognition of qualifications

30. Mrs Regina IP noted that some post-secondary institutions had evolved from secondary schools, or were operated by school sponsoring bodies of secondary schools. She was concerned about the recognition of the qualifications awarded by these post-secondary institutions. Mrs IP also enquired about the vision, if any, of the Administration in developing the self-financing post-secondary education sector, and whether the Administration had any plan to extend recurrent funding to this sector. Mr TAM Yiu-chung took the view that as it was the Administration's declared policy to support the parallel development of self-financing post-secondary education, it was incumbent upon the Administration to take active steps to promote the recognition of qualifications awarded upon completion of self-financing study programmes, such as sub-degree qualifications.

31. In reply, SED re-affirmed the Government's policy to support the parallel development of publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary programmes in order to provide more opportunities and choices for further education. The Administration had all along attached great importance to both the quality and quantity of self-financing programmes including degree and sub-degree programmes. The self-financing degree sector and the publicly-funded degree sector should complement each other. On the offering of sub-degree programmes by institutions, the Administration would keep in view the prospects of sub-degree graduates and the needs of relevant professional bodies and employer associations.

32. SED said that recognition of qualifications was crucial to the development of self-financing post-secondary programmes. In the process of accreditation of programmes, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications ("HKCAAVQ") would also assess the sustainability of the programmes. The 19 Industry Training Advisory Committees set up under the Qualifications Framework would formulate the specification of competency standards for different industries and help

Action

promote the qualifications within the respective industry.

Issues related to quality assurance and governance

33. Dr Helena WONG was concerned about the existing mechanism of quality assurance of self-financing post-secondary programmes. She considered that notwithstanding the presence of as many as three different oversight bodies responsible for the quality assurance/accreditation of different post-secondary education providers, it did not appear that effective quality assurance, transparency and accountability could be achieved among the institutions. Noting that UGC's Review Report had specifically recommended that there should be a single quality assurance body for the whole post-secondary system, Dr WONG asked whether the Government was working towards the setting up of the single quality assurance body; and if yes, the timetable for its establishment.

34. In response, SED explained that given the specialized functions of each of the existing quality assurance bodies, namely HKCAAVQ, Joint Quality Review Committee ("JQRC") and Quality Assurance Council ("QAC"), it would inevitably take some time to explore the feasibility of a unified quality assurance body for the entire post-secondary education sector. While the Administration was studying the matter with the three bodies and UGC, it had implemented incremental steps to enhance the quality assurance mechanism, such as transforming the Tripartite Liaison Committee into the Liaison Committee on Quality Assurance by engaging QAC, stipulating under the Sixth Matching Grant Scheme that UGC-funded institutions would need to subject their sub-degree operations benefitting from the Scheme to periodic quality audits by HKCAAVQ in future etc.

35. In this connection, Dr Helena WONG did not consider the incremental steps taken by the Administration to be effective, because well-resourced institutions that did not need to apply for funding support would not be bound by a similar requirement to submit their sub-degree programmes for external quality audits. Dr WONG was also gravely concerned about the conflict of interests arising from HKCAAVQ's role as a quality assurance body on the one hand, and its heavy reliance on the income derived from providing accreditation services for self-financing programmes on the other hand. Under such circumstances, Dr WONG doubted whether HKCAAVQ could perform its quality assurance function independently and impartially.

36. Ms Starry LEE enquired about the work carried out by the Administration subsequent to the release of UGC's Review Report in 2010. Noting that CSPE had been established since 1 April 2012, Ms LEE also

Action

sought information on the matters deliberated by CSPE and the latest progress of its work.

37. In reply, Deputy Secretary for Education (1) ("DS(Ed)1") informed members that following the publication of UGC's Review Report in December 2010, the Administration conducted a consultation exercise in early 2011, and published its detailed responses to the views received in the same year. Since then, both UGC and the Administration had been taking steps to implement major initiatives, including requiring the UGC-funded institutions to keep separate accounts for publicly-funded and self-financing programmes to ensure that there was no cross-subsidy of UGC resources to self-financing operation. Other improvement measures included the formation of the Liaison Committee on Quality Assurance ("LCQA"), and the undertakings by UGC-funded institutions participating in various funding schemes that their sub-degree operations should be subject to external audits by HKCAAVQ.

38. Regarding the work of CSPE, DS(Ed)1 advised that CSPE had drawn up a list of issues to be studied, such as considering ways to increase the transparency of self-financing post-secondary institutions and to strengthen communication among them. In this connection, Ms Starry LEE was of the view that CSPE should expedite its work and that the Administration should update the Panel on the outcome of CSPE's deliberations. SED responded that the Administration would update the Panel of the progress and outcomes of CSPE's discussion in due course.

39. Dr Kenneth CHAN declared that he was an associate professor at the Hong Kong Baptist University. Dr CHAN referred to the Lingnan University Inquiry Panel's Report released last week and highlighted that Lingnan's self-financing Advanced Diploma programmes had not been approved in time by JQRC before the admission of students. This incident demonstrated amply that member institutions of JQRC had not followed strictly the necessary quality-assurance process as agreed by member institutions. Dr CHAN was of the view that the Government should play a more proactive role in the process of setting up a single quality assurance body so as to reinforce the compliance of post-secondary institutions with the necessary requirements.

40. In response, SED said that the Administration was studying the Lingnan University Inquiry Panel's Report. Meanwhile, he referred to the Information Portal for Accredited Post-secondary Programmes ("iPASS") and pointed out that by making available updated information on individual programmes, including the number of places offered and progress of enrolment, the transparency of self-financing programmes would be enhanced and students would be able to acquire more complete information on the

Action

enrolment situation.

41. Dr Fernando CHEUNG was concerned that the number of students admitted to the self-financing post-secondary programmes of a UGC-funded institution could be several times of that admitted to publicly-funded undergraduate programmes of the same institution. In his view, this was strongly indicative that the UGC-funded institutions were more inclined to offering self-financing programmes so as to generate income.

42. Regarding the enrolment of students to self-financing programmes, SED said that the institutions had encountered some problems in the forecast of student intake in 2012 which was a double-cohort year. However, he expected that the same challenge would not arise next year as institutions would not need to handle the intake of two cohorts of students at the same time. In response to Dr Fernando CHEUNG's concern about the self-financing operation of UGC-funded institutions, SED advised that UGC had recommended in its Review Report that to achieve better governance, the self-financing operations of UGC-funded institutions should be completely separated from their parent institutions within three years.

43. The Deputy Chairman was of the view that under the existing market-driven approach, self-financing post-secondary education was merely the provision of study places in a massive manner and the enrolment of as many students as possible. He recalled that at the last meeting, both the deputations and members had expressed concerns on a broad range of issues related to self-financing post-secondary education, including tuition fees, quality assurance, transparency of operation and prospects of graduates etc. The Administration was yet to properly address these concerns. The Deputy Chairman considered that the Government had neither played a proactive role in overseeing the development of the sector, nor provided the necessary support to the self-financing post-secondary institutions. He called on the Administration to take forward without delay an overall review of its policy on self-financing post-secondary education. Dr Kenneth CHAN shared similar views and asked whether the Administration had formulated a clear direction and timetable on the regulation of the self-financing post-secondary sector.

44. The Chairman pointed out that a number of problems confronting the self-financing post-secondary sector had been identified, including shortcomings in governance on the part of the institutions, inadequate oversight by the Government, insufficient financial support for institutions and students. The Chairman urged the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review, and take expeditious action to set up an independent oversight body for the self-financing post-secondary sector.

Action

45. In response, SED informed members that issues of concern arising from the rapid expansion of self-financing post-secondary programmes, notably sub-degree programmes, in recent years would be examined holistically by CSPE. SED recapitulated that as he had mentioned at the last meeting, the Administration had noted the views of members and deputations and would convey them to CSPE for consideration.

Motion

46. The Chairman informed members that he had received the wordings of a motion proposed to be moved by Dr Fernando CHEUNG. He confirmed that the proposed motion was related to the agenda item under discussion and could therefore be moved. Dr Kenneth CHAN proposed to move certain amendments to the original motion. Both Dr CHEUNG's original motion and Dr CHAN's amendments had been set out in writing and tabled before members. Members agreed to deal with the motion, and concurred with the Chairman's advice that further debate would not be required since the Panel had already the subject at length.

47. At the invitation of the Chairman, SED said that as he had explained earlier on, while the Administration was exploring the possibility of setting up a single quality assurance body, incremental steps had already been implemented to enhance the quality assurance mechanism and strengthen the regulation of the post-secondary education sector. The Administration would continue to update the Panel on the progress made in this respect.

48. The Chairman proceeded to deal with the original motion and the amendments proposed thereto. Dr Fernando CHEUNG indicated that he agreed with Dr Kenneth CHAN's proposed amendments to his motion. The Chairman put to vote Dr Fernando CHEUNG's motion as amended by Dr Kenneth CHAN (at **Annex**). Nine members voted for the motion and no member voted against. Two members abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to the motion was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)408/12-13(01) on 7 February 2013.)

Action

V. Review of Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) and Post Secondary Colleges Regulations (Cap. 320A)

(LC Paper No. -- Paper provided by the Administration)
CB(4)293/12-13(01)

Briefing by the Administration

49. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Education ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to amend the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) ("PSCO") and the Post Secondary Colleges Regulations (Cap. 320A) ("PSCR") by highlighting the salient points in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)293/12-13(01)]. He explained that the proposed legislative amendments were purely technical in nature to replace obsolete legal requirements so as to facilitate the development of the post-secondary education sector. The Administration had conducted consultation with CSPE and institutions providing self-financing post-secondary programmes. A consultation document was uploaded on the website of EDB for public consultation from 26 October to 20 November 2012. US(Ed) informed members that the proposed amendments were supported by the self-financing post-secondary education sector. Subject to the Panel's comments, the Administration planned to introduce the Amendment Bill to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") in the second half of the 2012-2013 session.

Discussion

Removal of registration requirement on the length of programmes offered

50. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that generally speaking, the proposed legislative amendments could not address the concerns about ineffective regulation of the self-financing post-secondary education sector expressed by members earlier on. Dr CHAN said that pursuant to the proposed amendments, if enacted, self-financing institutions would still be at liberty to offer programmes with duration as short as 12 months or less, as evidenced by the self-financed Advanced Diploma programmes of the Lingnan University which had over-enrolled students in the 2012-2013 academic year.

51. In response, US(Ed) explained that at present, if a post-secondary institution mainly offered programmes with a duration shorter than four years, it was registered under the Education Ordinance (Cap.279) instead of PSCO. The proposed amendment sought to remove the restriction in section 4(c) of PSCO so that post-secondary institutions offering programmes (such as

Action

sub-degree programmes) that lasted for less than four years would be brought under the purview of PSCO. He added that the proposed amendment was to meet the development of an increasingly diversified post-secondary education sector in which the programmes varied considerably in their duration.

Removal of admission requirement on student age

52. Regarding the proposed removal of admission requirement on student age, Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked whether the Administration had any information on the number of students who could not gain admission due to the present age requirement. In response, US(Ed) advised that the removal of the admission requirement on student age aimed at enabling post-secondary institutions to admit outstanding and gifted students below 17 years of age. Regarding Mr TAM's enquiry, DS(Ed)1 said that the Administration did not have information on the number of students who did not fulfil the age requirement for admission.

Removal of admission requirement on academic qualifications

53. Noting the proposal to remove the minimum academic qualification for entry into a college, Dr Kenneth CHAN was concerned that this would attract a large number of students, mostly from overseas, applying for post-secondary places based on their qualifications, which might range from International Baccalaureate ("IB"), General Certificate of Education ("GCE") A-Level to other overseas qualifications. The Deputy Chairman considered that instead of removing the minimum admission requirement altogether, the Administration should consider amending the relevant provisions under PCSR to include other qualifications which were broadly equivalent to the former Hong Kong School Certificate or the current Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education. He was concerned that the removal of minimum admission requirement under PCSR might give rise to over-enrolment or indiscriminate admission of students on the part of the post-secondary institutions.

54. In response, US(Ed) explained that under the existing provisions of PCSR, students in possession of international qualifications such as IB or GCE A-Level could not apply for admission to the study programmes offered by the institutions registered under PSCO. As Hong Kong's education sector became increasingly internationalized and there was a growing diversity of acceptable equivalent qualifications, it would no longer be appropriate to restrict the academic requirement for admission to a single local qualification. US(Ed) further advised that in conducting accreditation of self-financing post-secondary programmes, HKCAAVQ would ensure that the programmes

Action

concerned had set appropriate minimum entry qualifications. Hence, it would not be necessary to stipulate specific entry qualifications in the legislation and the proposed amendment to remove obsolete academic qualifications (i.e. the Hong Kong School Certificate or Hong Kong Chinese School Certificate) specified in PSCR would not lead to any relaxation in the academic requirement for admission to institutions registered under PSCO.

55. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was of the view that the current development of self-financing post-secondary education was the result of inadequate publicly-funded first-year first-degree places and industrialization of education. He considered that the minimum admission requirement under existing legislation had been so specified because of inadequate university places. The removal of admission requirement could not address the issue of inadequate university places. Mr LEUNG also doubted the need for the proposed amendments as he believed that students possessing international or higher qualifications (such as IB or even a non-local degree) stood a good chance of being admitted to post-secondary institutions.

Streamlining of procedures for approving award of degrees

56. Dr Kenneth CHAN referred to the proposal that the approval authority for a college to award degrees be rested in SED instead of the Chief Executive-in-Council. He was seriously concerned that the proposed amendment might be perceived as a measure to relax the regulation of the award of degrees by post-secondary institutions. While sharing Dr Kenneth CHAN's view, the Deputy Chairman expressed further concern about the award of degrees with honours by institutions, and considered that the relevant arrangement should be subject to better regulation. .

57. In response, US(Ed) advised that the key issue of whether the institution had the capability to deliver degree programmes and the quality of the degree programmes concerned had been examined by HKCAAVQ or the appropriate authority when conducting the accreditation exercise. The proposed amendment only aimed at streamlining the procedures for granting degree-awarding authority, but not lowering the standard of the accreditation exercise.

Regulation of the names of institutions

58. Dr Kenneth CHAN referred to the Savannah College of Art and Design ("SCAD") and was concerned about the use of the term "大學" in its Chinese name, given that a local post-secondary education institution had to undergo a series of developments and meet specified requirements before it could

Action

acquire the status of a university ("大學"). The Deputy Chairman shared Dr CHAN's concern that the use of the term might be misleading. Mrs Regina IP sought clarification on the definitions of "university" and "大學" under existing legislation.

59. In response, DS(Ed)1 advised that the programmes offered by SCAD in Hong Kong led to the award of non-local qualifications and were regulated under the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance ("NHPEO") (Cap.493). These locally offered programmes should meet the same standard and quality applicable to equivalent programme offered by the institution in the home country where it was registered. DS(Ed)1 supplemented that the name "college" was commonly used in the United States by institutions offering university-level programmes. It did not have an equivalent Chinese term. Since SCAD was not registered under PSCO, the relevant provisions in PSCO did not apply to it. Currently, there were no statutory provisions which prevented SCAD from using the term "大學" in its Chinese name.

60. Despite the Administration's explanation, the Deputy Chairman remained concerned about the disparity in the regulation of the use of "大學" between PSCO and NHPEO. He pointed out that while the term "college" in English might be equivalent to "university", the Chinese terms of "學院" and "大學" meant very different institutions.

61. DS(Ed)1 further explained that at present, the names of institutions that offered courses registered under NHPEO were not subject to any statutory restriction. There were over 1 000 non-local post-secondary programmes currently offered by overseas universities to students in Hong Kong. These non-local institutions were required to be registered and recognized in their home countries and the non-local programmes offered in Hong Kong should be comparable in standard to equivalent programmes offered in their home countries. She added that local post-secondary programmes and related qualifications were recognized under the Qualifications Framework after local accreditation. The non-local qualifications attained from programmes registered under NHPEO were not recognized by the Qualifications Framework if they had not been locally accredited. It would be for employers to decide whether to recognize these qualifications in the light of their job requirements.

62. The Deputy Chairman declared that he was elected from the Education Functional Constituency. He said that serving staff of institutions registered under PSCO were eligible to be registered as voters in the Education

Action

Functional Constituency and the Higher Education subsector of the Election Committee, while the staff of institutions registered under Education Ordinance were not so eligible. The Deputy Chairman therefore remarked that the proposed amendments to PSCO might have implications on voter eligibility.

Concerns about quality assurance and governance

63. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed reservation on the proposed amendments to PSCO as he considered that they would lead to the relaxation of regulatory requirements currently applicable to post-secondary institutions. Dr CHEUNG was concerned that this would have the effect of facilitating or inducing more institutions to register under PSCO and offer an increasing number of self-financing degree or honours degree programmes. The post-secondary education sector would become further market-driven and industrialized, contrary to the Labour Party's stance on education. Dr CHEUNG opined that unless a robust quality assurance system was put in place to ensure programme quality and proper institutional governance, it was pre-mature to consider relaxing the regulation of post-secondary education as currently proposed.

64. Dr Helena WONG said that members had all along been concerned about the efficacy of the Administration's ongoing regulation of self-financing post-secondary programmes. However, as stated in paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper, it was not the Administration's intention to impose any new control measures on post secondary colleges through this legislative exercise. It appeared that the proposed legislative amendments would pave the way for further industrialization of education. Dr WONG was most concerned about the award of degrees indiscriminately by institutions as a result of changing the procedures for approving the award of degrees. Dr Kenneth CHAN shared the concern about deterioration in the quality of study programmes offered on a massive scale, in particular the possible emergence of "sub-standard universities" or degree/diploma mills which would receive very little public recognition.

65. Ms Cyd HO recalled that the proposal to establish a single quality assurance system for the whole post-secondary sector could be dated back to the recommendation in Lord Sutherland's report entitled "Higher Education in Hong Kong" in 2002, and was also stated as one of the recommendations by UGC in its Review Report in 2010. Notwithstanding, the Administration had not put in place such a system to date. Meanwhile, irregularities such as over-enrolment of students on self-financing programmes had arisen. Ms HO was concerned whether the Amendment Bill would be instrumental in

Action

addressing the various issues of concern.

66. Mrs Regina IP referred to the fact that members were concerned about a number of policy issues arising from the rapid development of the self-financing post-secondary sector in recent years. She suggested that before introducing amendments to PSCO, the Administration should take active steps to address concerns such as the setting up of an independent mechanism to regulate the quality and governance of self-financing post-secondary programmes.

67. Noting members' views, US(Ed) advised that the Administration would take into account members' concerns when drafting the Amendment Bill. Regarding the objective of the proposed amendments, US(Ed) reiterated that the legislative exercise was purely technical in nature and aimed at removing obsolete requirements. Contrary to concerns that the regulation of institutions would be undermined, the proposed amendments in fact sought to bring more post-secondary institutions under the regulatory purview of PSCO, instead of the Education Ordinance as currently provided. He further explained that at present, six institutions were registered under PSCO. Other institutions, such as UGC-funded institutions, were governed by their respective Ordinances or by other relevant legislation. As far as the six institutions registered under PSCO were concerned, US(Ed) recapitulated that they were all accredited and quality assured by HKCAAVQ. The current legislative exercise would not bring any change to this arrangement.

Members' stance on the legislative proposal

68. The Chairman sought members' views on whether they would support the introduction of the legislative amendments to LegCo in the second half of the 2012-2013 session as proposed by the Administration.

69. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that discussion on amendments to PSCO had taken place over the past few years in tandem with the development of the post-secondary education sector. The DAB supported the proposed legislative amendments to streamline certain procedures and remove obsolete requirements.

70. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that at this stage, the Liberal Party did not have any strong views on the proposed amendments. He believed that details of the amendments would be further scrutinized by LegCo after the Amendment Bill was introduced. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that he supported in principle the proposed amendments, but considered it necessary for the Administration to address issues related to quality assurance.

Action

71. Ms Cyd HO was of the view that the Administration should advise the Panel on how it would take forward the UGC's recommendation for setting up a single quality assurance body for the whole post-secondary sector before introducing the Amendment Bill to LegCo. Mrs Regina IP echoed Ms Cyd HO's view and said that the proposed legislative amendments should be considered prudently in the light of public concerns about the self-financing post-secondary sector.

72. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that the Civic Party had submitted its views during the public consultation. He could not support the proposed amendments as he considered that the Administration's explanation had not adequately addressed members' concerns. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that he did not support the proposed amendments. Dr Helena WONG said that the legislative exercise should be shelved until the Administration had provided a satisfactory response to address members' concerns.

73. Summing up, the Chairman concluded that members had diverse views on the Administration's proposed amendments to PSCO. He asked the Administration to take into account members' views and concerns, and to carefully consider whether or not to submit its legislative proposal as originally planned.

VI. Development of International Culinary College of Vocational Training Council

(LC Paper No. CB(4)293/12-13(02) – Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

74. At the invitation of the Chairman, US(Ed) briefed members on the proposed development of the International Culinary College ("ICC") of Vocational Training Council ("VTC") as detailed in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)293/12-13(02)]. Senior Assistant Executive Director (Corporate Governance)/VTC ("SAED(CG)/VTC") gave a Power-Point presentation on the programmes offered by ICC, the site-location plan and the proposed building design. Subject to members' views, the Administration planned to submit the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") for endorsement in March 2013, and to the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval in May 2013. Members noted that the construction works of the ICC campus would commence in the third quarter of 2013 and was scheduled for completion in late 2015. The first intake of

Action

students to ICC would take place in the 2014 -2015 academic year.

(*Post-meeting note: A set of the Power-Point presentation materials was circulated to members by email on 15 January 2013.*)

Financial implications

75. Mr Tommy CHEUNG expressed support for the proposed development of ICC. Noting from paragraph 10 of the Administration's paper that an underground linkage between the ICC building and the VTC's Pokfulam Complex was planned to be built, he was gravely concerned about the high cost of the underground linkage, and asked whether VTC had explored other alternatives in order to minimize the project cost.

76. In response, SAED(CG)/VTC explained that VTC had previously planned to build a footbridge. However, having considered the views of the Southern District Council and the Antiquities and Monuments Office, VTC had decided to build an underground linkage in view of the surrounding environment and the presence of historic buildings in the vicinity.

77. Whilst expressing support for the proposed ICC to provide more training opportunities and pathways for young people, Ms Cyd HO considered that the project cost might be on the high side, and asked the Administration to provide a breakdown of the respective construction costs of the two basement floors and the underground linkage in its paper submitted to PWSC. In response, US(Ed) agreed to provide the requested information in its submission to PWSC.

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Training programmes of ICC

78. Mrs Regina IP expressed support for the proposed ICC in view of Hong Kong's development as a gourmet's paradise. She anticipated that the provision of 2 000 study places annually for secondary graduates and in-service personnel leading to qualification awards at different levels would likely be well-received. She sought information on the level of course fees at ICC and the subsidies available for students.

79. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that to his knowledge, some cooking courses currently operated by the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute ("CCTI") were provided free of charge for young school leavers. He asked whether VTC would continue to offer these courses for free or it would charge course fees upon the commissioning of ICC.

Action

80. In response to Mrs Regina IP and Mr Tommy CHEUNG, SAED(CG)/VTC advised that under the Government's 12-year free education policy, Secondary 3 school leavers admitted to VTC courses (including the Certificate courses offered by CCTI) which were subvented by the Government would continue to receive three years of free education in pursuing these courses. For courses leading to qualifications equivalent to Level 4 of the Qualifications Framework (Higher Diploma in the case of VTC) or above, the course fees payable by students would be comparable to other equivalent courses run by VTC. Nevertheless, SAED(CG)/VTC assured members that no students would be deprived of learning opportunities at VTC due to lack of financial means. Where appropriate, VTC might use its own resources to provide appropriate assistance to needy students.

81. Dr Fernando CHEUNG showed some photos of the award-winning dishes prepared by students with special educational needs ("SEN"), many of whom aspired to pursue their careers in the culinary industry. However, he remarked that CCTI had become a high-end cuisine training institute which was inaccessible to SEN students because the latter lacked the requisite academic results and English language proficiency. In this regard, Dr CHEUNG considered that VTC should design appropriate courses at ICC for aspiring SEN students so that they could have the opportunities to acquire the necessary training and qualifications for entry into the catering industry. While expressing support for the proposed ICC, Dr Kenneth CHAN concurred with Dr CHEUNG's view.

82. In response, SAED(CG)/VTC explained that due to the limited number of study places available, application for admission to CCTI courses was highly competitive. Most of the basic courses and practical classes run by CCTI were conducted in Chinese. Nevertheless, students enrolled were expected to possess basic English language skills. Whilst there was an emphasis of "learning by doing" in most of the training courses at CCTI, SAED(CG)/VTC advised that there was certain theoretical contents related to food science, safety and hygiene which were considered essential for practitioners. He nevertheless took note of Dr CHEUNG's view for consideration by VTC.

83. On the issue of vocational training, the Deputy Chairman said that there were different pathways to qualify as a chef, and studying at CCTI or ICC was one of the avenues. He was of the view that vocational training should not be entrusted to just a few institutions. Instead, the Administration should give further thoughts to devising an overall vocational training framework, and enhancing career guidance for students in senior secondary years. US(Ed) noted the Deputy Chairman's view.

Action

Environmental issues and heritage conservation

84. Ms Cyd HO declared that she lived in the vicinity of the proposed ICC, and said that she felt quite strongly against the architectural design of the ICC building, in particular the use of glass curtain walls which, in her view, was totally incongruent with the surrounding environment. The glittery external wall might also cause a nuisance to the neighbourhood. Given the presence of green landscape and the breezy environment, Ms HO considered that windows, instead of curtain walls, should be used for better ventilation and illumination. In response, SAED(CG)/VTC informed members that the Southern District Council, when being consulted, had expressed similar concern. He said that VTC would seek the consultants' advice on the selection of suitable building materials to enhance ICC's compatibility with the surrounding environment.

85. Mr MA Fung-kwok noted that the site of the proposed ICC was adjacent to several graded historic buildings including Bethanie (Grade 1) and a group of old Dairy Farm buildings, namely the Senior Staff Quarters (Grade 1), the Main Office (Grade 2) and the Cowshed (Grade 2). Instead of developing ICC as a stand-alone entity which might cause an impact on the nearby historic buildings, Mr MA drew the attention of the Administration/VTC to the synergy effect which could be achieved if the proposed ICC could be developed in such a way that it would blend with the surrounding environment rich in heritage. For example, he suggested that VTC might consider the feasibility of collaborating with the occupants of some of these historic buildings to promote Hong Kong's diverse dining culture by operating restaurants offering a variety of cuisines. Accordingly, it was necessary to ensure adequate provision of support facilities at the planning stage, such as parking spaces. Mrs Regina IP referred to her recent visit to a development in Foshan which was located in the vicinity of a heritage site, and agreed with Mr MA's views.

86. In response, SAED(CG)/VTC said that the Bethanie and the group of old Dairy Farm buildings were currently used by the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("HKAPA") for teaching and related purposes. He further advised that VTC would incorporate various features in the design of the building so as to better match with surrounding environment, such as reducing site coverage and the inclusion of a heritage trail.

87. Referring to paragraph 9 in the Administration's paper on the Heritage Impact Assessment ("HIA") study to be conducted by the consultant appointed by VTC and the need to seek the approval of the Antiquities Advisory Board, Dr Kenneth CHAN reminded the Administration that the Panel on Development, which was the Panel tasked to examine issues related to

Action

heritage conservation, might also be concerned about the heritage impact of this project. US(Ed) took note of Dr CHAN's concern.

(Post-meeting note: The preliminary findings of the HIA study conducted by a consultant appointed by VTC were included in Annex D of LC Paper No. CB(1)580/12-13(09) for the meeting of the Panel on Development on 26 February 2013.)

Location and accessibility of ICC

88. Noting that ICC would be located in Pokfulam, Mr Tommy CHEUNG considered the location highly unsatisfactory as it was far away from the workplace of in-service personnel and was not accessible by the Mass Transit Railway. In his view, VTC should explore other locations for ICC, such as other VTC campus in urban districts.

89. The Deputy Chairman asked whether VTC would consider opening the campus of ICC to members of the public, similar to the current practice of universities. In response, SAED(CG)/VTC said that this might not be feasible as unrestricted public access to ICC might pose a hazard to the maintenance of stringent standards in food hygiene and safety in the training process.

90. Summing up, the Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the submission of the proposal to PWSC and FC for consideration.

(The Chairman left the meeting at this juncture and the Deputy Chairman took over the chair.)

VII. Redevelopment of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Fut Nam College at Oxford Road, Kowloon

(LC Paper No. CB(4)293/12-13(03) – Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

91. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, US(Ed) briefed members on the justifications, public consultation and implementation plan of the proposed redevelopment of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Fut Nam College ("the School") at Oxford Road, Kowloon as detailed in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)293/12-13(03)].

Action

The need for redevelopment

92. Mrs Regina IP expressed support for the proposed redevelopment project, and enquired about the criteria according to which schools were identified for redevelopment. She also sought information on the number of schools to be redeveloped in the next two years or so.

93. In reply, US(Ed) advised that in considering whether redevelopment should be carried out, the Administration would usually accord priority to schools which had been built for more than 30 years as their facilities might become sub-standard, falling short of the prevailing requirements and the development needs of the schools. Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research Support) ("PAS(IRS)") supplemented that the Administration would also take into account other relevant factors when considering the redevelopment of schools. Priority would usually be given to those which had undergone only limited improvements or had not benefited under the School Improvement Programme. Schools with a site area of less than 3 000 square meters would not be considered for in-situ redevelopment.

94. PAS(IRS) also informed members that the Administration would consult the Panel shortly on two proposals which involved the reprovisioning of three primary schools in Wong Tai Sin to the Kai Tak Development Area in Kowloon City. Subject to comments of the Panel, the Administration would submit these proposals to PWSC and FC in due course.

95. In reply to Mrs Regina IP's enquiry regarding the difference between redevelopment and reprovisioning, US(Ed) said that the School would be redeveloped in-situ while the abovementioned three primary schools would be relocated to other districts.

Financial implications and project scope

96. Dr Kenneth CHAN stated that Members of the Civic Party supported the proposed redevelopment project. Referring to media reports, he was concerned that because EDB had failed in its internal bid for resources last year, the redevelopment proposal was delayed and its cost was increased from the originally estimated \$280 million to over \$323 million. Dr CHAN was of the view that the Government's land policy might have been lopsided towards housing development, at the expense of education and other needs of the society.

97. Whilst noting the scarcity in land resources, US(Ed) clarified that the amount of \$280 million mentioned in newspaper reports was only the

Action

estimated cost expressed in September 2012 prices. Similar to other public works projects, the expenditure arising from the redevelopment of the School would be phased over several years. As such, the estimated Government capital subvention of \$323.7 million as stated in the Administration's paper was the estimate expressed in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices when the project is completed by the end of 2015.

98. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the proposed redevelopment. He relayed the School's proposal to increase its campus area by excavating the slope facing Ho Tung Road, which was subsequently turned down by the Government. He also sought information on the implementation timetable of the project and urged for its early commencement.

99. In reply to the proposal to increase the site area of the School, US(Ed) explained that the redeveloped School would have six storeys, 30 classrooms and standard necessary facilities which were similar to other schools. PAS(IRS) added that according to the Education Regulations (Cap. 279A), the height of schools should be no more than 24 metres above ground level, and this was calculated from the level the building(s) being constructed, discounting the height of the slope underneath should construction be carried out thereon. However, on the advice of the Director of Fire Services pursuant to the Education Regulations, the redeveloped School would now be built up to a height of 30 metres, which was six metres higher than the 24 metres, in order to accommodate all the required rooms and facilities within the smaller site.

100. As regards the implementation plan, US(Ed) said that subject to the Panel's comment, the Administration would seek the endorsement and approval of PWSC and FC for the redevelopment proposal in February 2013 and March 2013 respectively. Upon obtaining funding approval, the project was expected to commence in end 2013 and scheduled for completion by the end of 2015.

Accommodation arrangement during redevelopment

101. Noting that during redevelopment, the School would be temporarily accommodated at the vacant school premises of the ex-Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School ("STTSS"), the Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the physical conditions at STTSS including its serious water leakage problem, and enquired whether repairs works could be completed in time to provide temporary accommodation, as well as the party that would bear the repair costs.

Action

102. In reply, US(Ed) confirmed that the cost for the necessary repair and renovation works at STTSS would be borne by EDB. The Administration would see to it that the relevant works would be completed in time for decanting by the School. Nevertheless, to minimize disruptions, it was expected that the School would schedule its move to STTSS during the summer break in 2013.

103. Summing up, the Deputy Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the submission of the funding proposal to PWSC.

VIII. Any other business

Measures to address issues arising from the drop in secondary student population – Follow-up to meetings on 2, 3 and 12 November 2012

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (LC Paper No.
CB(4)229/12-13(01) | -- Administration's responses to the motion passed by the Panel at the meeting on 12 November 2012 |
| LC Paper No.
CB(4)247/12-13(01) | -- Administration's responses to the issues arising from special meetings on 2 and 3 November 2012 |
| LC Paper No.
CB(4)290/12-13(01) | -- Administration's further information on its responses to the issues arising from special meetings on 2 and 3 November 2012) |

104. The Deputy Chairman referred members to his letter to the Chairman which contained the wordings of his motion and a discussion paper prepared by him, both of which were tabled at the meeting. He sought members' views on whether he should chair the discussion of this item. Dr Fernando CHEUNG had no objection to his chairing the meeting. Mr TAM Yiu-chung considered that it was not appropriate for the Deputy Chairman to deal with a motion to be moved by himself. He also drew the Deputy Chairman's attention to the lack of a quorum at the material time.

105. In response to the Deputy Chairman, US(Ed) said that the Administration had provided written responses to issues arising from the special meetings on 2 and 3 November 2012 and to the motion passed at the meeting on 12 November 2012. He would be pleased to answer members' questions, if any, relating to the Administration's responses.

Action

106. Noting the lack of a quorum, the Deputy Chairman advised that his motion would be dealt with at the next meeting, subject to the Chairman's agreement. Members noted his advice.

(Post-meeting note: The letter from the Deputy Chairman to the Chairman regarding his proposed motion and his discussion paper, which were tabled at the meeting, were circulated to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(4)314/12-13(02) and (03) on 15 January 2013.)

107. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:24 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 March 2013

在 2013 年 1 月 14 日會議上通過的議案
Motion passed at the meeting on 14 January 2013

議案措辭

鑒於政府資助大學學額不足，去年有萬多名學生考獲大學入學資格卻未能進入大學。自資專上課程卻「大躍進」式地發展，出現個別院校超收、濫收等現象。本委員會促使政府 (1) 大幅增加資助的大學學額及銜接副學位畢業生的學額；並成立法定獨立機制，監管自資專上課程的質素和管治，以保障香港專上教育的質素；(2) 就局方與各開辦自資專上課程的機構商討建立監管制度的細節，進度及遇到的問題向委員會下次會議作書面報告。

(張超雄議員動議並經陳家洛議員修訂)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

That, given that while over 10 000 students who met the entrance requirements of universities could not get admitted to universities last year due to insufficient number of publicly-funded university places, self-financing post-secondary programmes have been developing in a "Great Leap Forward" manner, resulting in such phenomena as over-enrolment of students or admitting students indiscriminately by individual institutions, this Panel urges the Government to (1) significantly increase the numbers of publicly-funded university places and articulation places for sub-degree graduates as well as set up a statutory independent mechanism to regulate the quality and governance of self-financing post-secondary programmes, so as to safeguard the quality of post-secondary education of Hong Kong; (2) provide, for the next meeting of this Panel, a written report which accounts for the details and the progress of the discussions between the Education Bureau and the providers of self-financing post-secondary programmes about the setting up of the aforesaid regulatory regime as well as the problems encountered in the course of the discussions.

(Moved by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung and as amended by Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok)