

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)885/15-16
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 11 January 2016, 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 Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon Dennis KWOK
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP

Members absent : Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

Public Officers attending : Agenda item III

Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP
Secretary for Education

Mr Brian LO, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

Agenda item IV

Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP
Secretary for Education

Dr K K CHAN
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Ms Jenny CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary (Education Infrastructure)
Education Bureau

Agenda item V

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Under Secretary for Education

Miss Sharon KO
Principal Assistant Secretary (Higher Education)
Education Bureau

Agenda item VI

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Under Secretary for Education

Mrs HONG CHAN Tsui-wah
Deputy Secretary for Education (4)

Ms Frances YAU Kwok-lai
Senior Education Officer (Career Guidance)
Education Bureau

Attendance by invitation : Agenda item IV

Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union

Dr FUNG Wai-wah
President

Subsidized Primary School Council

Mr SIN Kim-wai
Chairman

Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association

Mr LAI Tsz-man
Chairman

Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers

Ms CHOI Yuk-lin
Vice-chairman

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

Staff in attendance : Mr KWONG Kam-fai
Senior Council Secretary (4)4

Miss Mandy NG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4)4

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

(LC Paper No. CB(4)434/15-16(01) -- Letter dated 14 December 2015 from Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung concerning the issues related to the use and disposal of vacant school premises

LC Paper No. CB(4)434/15-16(02) -- Administration's written response dated 4 January 2016 to the letter dated 14 December 2015 from Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung concerning the issues related to the use and disposal of vacant school premises)

Members noted the above papers issued since the last meeting.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendix I to LC Paper No. CB(4)435/15-16 -- List of outstanding items for discussion

Appendix II to LC Paper No. CB(4)435/15-16 -- List of follow-up actions)

2. The Chairman informed members that the Administration had proposed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting to be held on 1 February 2016 at 4:30 pm –

- (a) policy on kindergarten education; and
- (b) an item related to the tertiary education sector (details to be confirmed).

3. The Chairman said that he would finalize with the Deputy Chairman the items to be discussed at the next regular meeting. Members would be notified in due course.

(Post-meeting note: Upon finalization by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, the agenda for the meeting to be held on 1 February 2016 was issued to members vide LC Paper CB(4)521/15-16 on 22 January 2016.)

4. Before proceeding to the discussion items, 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.

III. Issues related to the appointment of Chancellor and the composition of the governing bodies of University Grants Committee-funded institutions

(LC Paper No. CB(4)158/15-16(05) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

5. Members noted the submissions from Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union, HKU Alumni Concern Group and The Hong Kong Federation of Students [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)454/15-16(01) to (03)].

Briefing by the Administration

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Education ("SED") briefed members on the role of the Chancellor and the composition of the Councils of institutions funded by the University Grants Committee ("UGC"), as set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)158/15-16(05)].

Declaration of interest

7. Dr Kenneth CHAN declared that he was an associate professor of Hong Kong Baptist University ("HKBU"). Dr Fernando CHEUNG declared that he was teaching at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University ("PolyU"). Mr Abraham SHEK declared that he was a Council member and

Court member of the University of Hong Kong ("HKU"). Dr Helena WONG declared that she was a member of the Council of the Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK") and a teaching staff member at PolyU.

Discussion

8. The Chairman informed members that he had received the wording of a motion proposed to be moved by Dr Helena WONG under this agenda item. He said that he would deal with the motion after the Panel had finished discussion of this item with the Administration. On the instruction of the Chairman, the wording of the motion was tabled at the meeting.

Role and powers of the Chief Executive in his capacity as Chancellor of institutions

9. Mr Gary FAN and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed grave concern about the recent appointment of Professor Arthur LI as the Chairman of HKU Council by the Chief Executive ("CE") in his capacity as the Chancellor of HKU despite strong opposition from various stakeholders including alumni and students. Mr FAN queried the rationale behind the appointment. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung questioned whether SED had offered his advice to CE on the choice of candidates for the chairmanship and membership of the Councils of UGC-funded institutions.

10. SED advised that according to the respective ordinances governing the UGC-funded institutions, CE was the Chancellor of these institutions. Relevant provisions in the ordinances and statutes of the institutions also conferred certain powers on the CE/Chancellor, which included the power to appoint a specified number of members to the Council of each institution. All along, such appointments had been made in accordance with the law and on a merit basis with a view to appointing the most suitable candidates.

11. Mr Albert HO was of the view that in appointing the chairmen of university Councils, one of the key factors that CE should take into consideration was whether the candidate could gain the trust of stakeholders. If stakeholders did not have confidence in a candidate whom they believed would destabilize the university community upon his assuming chairmanship, the person in question should not be appointed. Mr HO sought justification for the decision to appoint Professor Arthur LI as the Chairman of HKU Council.

12. SED recapitulated that in making appointments to university Councils, consideration would be given to the expertise, abilities,

experience, integrity, commitment to public service etc. of the candidates, as well as the need of individual institutions and the development of the higher education sector.

13. Ms Starry LEE noted that there were diverse views on CE's appointment of Professor Arthur LI as the Chairman of HKU Council. She considered that Professor LI possessed good academic and professional qualifications as well as extensive experience in the tertiary education sector. Given the concerns about his appointment, Ms LEE said that Professor LI should strengthen communication and maintain dialogue with stakeholders after taking up the chairmanship.

14. Mr NG Leung-sing said that in view of the significant government funding provided to the UGC-funded institutions, the Government had a legitimate interest in the operation of the institutions. He sought information on the amount of government funding provided to each UGC-funded institution and the percentage accounted for by this source of funding among all sources of funding of the institution.

15. SED advised that recurrent government expenditure on education would amount to \$74 billion a year, over 20% of which would be spent on tertiary education. This source of funding roughly accounted for more than half of the overall funding of an institution. The Administration would provide further information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written information was issued to members vide LC Paper CB(4)567/15-16(01) on 3 February 2016.)

16. Mr NG Leung-sing considered that the existing legislation specifying that CE was the Chancellor of UGC-funded institutions had been operating effectively over the years. He did not see a need to change the system merely because there were views opposing CE's appointment of certain individuals.

17. SED advised that under the prevailing statutory system, individual institutions were able to pursue their missions and excel in various aspects such as international ranking, teaching and research activities and their appeal to talents worldwide. He cautioned that any change to the existing system, which was working effectively, might have unintended and far-reaching consequences which required careful study.

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18. The Deputy Chairman did not subscribe to the view of SED. He considered that the incumbent CE should refrain from exercising to the fullest extent the powers in his capacity as the ex-officio Chancellor. The Deputy Chairman held the view that the existing governing legislation for UGC-funded institutions, in particular the provisions relating to the role and powers of the Chancellor, was in dire need of review. He further said that a wide spectrum of stakeholders and members of the public concurred with the need to conduct a review despite their different political affiliations. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Panel should hold a public hearing to receive views from the public on this subject.

19. Dr Helena WONG was gravely concerned that the incumbent CE no longer assumed a ceremonial role in his capacity as Chancellor of institutions but had exercised his powers to the fullest extent. She considered that CE had interfered in a wide range of affairs such as conferment of honorary degrees and appointment of senior university staff, to the detriment of institutional autonomy and academic freedom. Dr WONG said that according to a survey conducted by the Democratic Party, about 65% of the respondents opposed the prevailing arrangement for CE to be the ex-officio Chancellor of UGC-funded institutions. She concurred that CE's role as the Chancellor and the composition of university Councils should be reviewed. She further said that currently, there were no student representatives in the Council of CUHK and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. She also supported the Deputy Chairman's suggestion to hold a public hearing to receive views from stakeholders.

20. Mr Gary FAN noted that the role of CE as the ex-officio Chancellor of UGC-funded institutions was a legacy of colonial administration. He queried the need to retain such a practice and drew the Administration's attention to the different systems adopted by leading overseas universities, such as the University of Oxford where its Chancellor was elected by the Convocation and performed the role of the ceremonial head of the University.

21. Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that the delay in the appointment of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Staffing and Resources) of HKU and the recent appointment of Professor Arthur LI as Chairman of HKU Council were the result of excessive powers being exercised by CE and political influence in university affairs. He opined that the existing governing ordinances of institutions had failed to keep pace with the developments of the tertiary education sector.

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22. Mr WONG Kwok-hing opined that the existing system, under which CE was the ex-officio Chancellor of UGC-funded institutions and vested with specified powers, had been operating smoothly over the years. The institutions enjoyed academic freedom and institutional autonomy. He did not see any reason to amend the relevant governing legislation or to alter the existing system. Mr WONG was of the view that the recent controversies in the tertiary education sector had been politically manipulated. He criticized some politicians closely associated with the "Occupy Central" movement for interfering with institutional autonomy over matters such as the appointment of senior staff. Mr WONG considered that certain members should declare interests for having received large amount of donation when they spoke on this subject matter.

23. Dr Helena WONG raised a point of order and objected to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's remarks, which she considered unrelated to the discussion item. Dr WONG said that it was improper for Mr WONG Kwok-hing to make adverse comments on individual Members during the meeting, and to query Members over their declaration of interests. Mr WONG Kwok-hing raised objection to being interrupted by Dr WONG while it was his turn to speak. Mr Albert HO said that Members of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions should also declare interests for having received substantial donations from the Mainland authorities.

24. The Chairman reminded members to focus their comments on the subject under discussion. Whilst he had reminded members of the requirements on declaration of pecuniary interests under the relevant Rules of Procedure at the start of the meeting, the Chairman re-stated that it was for individual members to decide, with regard to their own circumstances, whether they had any interest to declare at meetings and to make such declaration accordingly.

25. As some members continued their argument despite the Chairman's reminder, the Chairman suspended the meeting from 5:07 pm to 5:09 pm for the meeting to resume order.

26. Ms Starry LEE pointed out that it was widely known that some serving university staff had actively participated in the illegal "Occupy Central" movement. Regarding the ex-officio role of CE as the Chancellor of institutions, Ms LEE sought information on the practice adopted by leading overseas universities. SED informed members that UGC had commissioned a study on the governance of universities. The report of the study had just been submitted to EDB and was under consideration.

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Issues related to the review of the existing statutory system

27. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung enquired whether the Administration would conduct public consultation and review the governing ordinances of UGC-funded institutions. SED reiterated that according to the respective ordinances governing the UGC-funded institutions, CE was the Chancellor to maintain the linkages between the Government and the institutions and to demonstrate the Government's support to the higher education sector. The respective ordinances and statues provided for the composition of their Councils as well as the powers and duties of the Chancellor in order to meet the needs of the institutions. The prevailing system had been operating effectively over the years.

28. The Deputy Secretary for Education (1) ("DS(Ed)1") supplemented that the UGC's Higher Education Review Report (also known as the Sutherland Report) published in March 2002 recommended, among others, that each UGC-funded institution should conduct a review of the fitness for purpose of its governance and management structures, including the Council. In the past 10 years or so, all the institutions had completed the review of their governance and management structures and the statutory composition of their Councils.

29. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung doubted whether the review conducted by institutions in response to the Sutherland Report had included a review on the current arrangement that CE was the ex-officio Chancellor. Dr Kenneth CHAN remarked that as far as he understood, the focus of the Sutherland Report was on the composition of the governing bodies of institutions and not CE's ex-officio role as the Chancellor of institutions. Dr CHAN was concerned that the Administration might withdraw its funding support or ask the private sector not to donate to an institution which decided to amend its governing legislation so that CE would no longer be its Chancellor. SED said that CE had already made clarification on his remarks about private donation to local universities.

30. Mr Michael TIEN said that he was not aware of any objection from the heads of universities to CE's ex-officio role as the Chancellor of institutions. He referred to the Task Force recently set up by HKBU to review its governing legislation, and considered that it was only proper for individual institutions to conduct their own review and consultation. Institutional autonomy would be compromised if politicians or other outsiders sought to meddle with the activities of individual institutions.

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31. On the composition of university Councils and the appointment of members, Mr Michael TIEN recalled that the Audit Commission had conducted a value for money audit on all UGC-funded institutions including their corporate governance and set out its recommendations in its Report No.40 published in 2003. One of the recommendations regarding the size and composition of the Councils of institutions was that there should be a majority of external members (who were not the officers and employees of the institutions) in the Councils. He noted that currently, the external members were drawn from a wide spectrum of sectors. With the exception of two institutions, the number of external members appointed by CE/Chancellor in the university Councils fell short of a majority. Mr TIEN did not consider it reasonable to overhaul the existing system merely because there were different views on the appointment of certain individuals.

32. Dr Priscilla LEUNG recalled that in 2002, a group of teachers of the Law School of City University of Hong Kong had a dispute with the university. In the absence of an effective redress system to resolve complaints lodged by staff, the case dragged on for a long time and was escalated to the then CE, Mr C. H. TUNG. She opined that if a review of the governance structures of UGC-funded institutions was to be carried out, it should also deal with the efficacy or otherwise of the grievance-handling mechanism currently in place in each institution.

33. The Deputy Chairman sought further information from the Administration on the review being conducted by the Task Force set up by HKBU. The Deputy Chairman and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the steps to be taken by the Administration if the outcome of the review indicated a need to amend the governing legislation to discontinue the current arrangement of CE being the Chancellor of the institution on an ex-officio basis.

34. Dr Kenneth CHAN asked whether the Administration would take part in the review being conducted by the Task Force of HKBU. Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired whether the Administration would take action to amend the relevant legislation if individual institutions came to a view that CE should no longer assume the chancellorship of institutions.

35. In response, SED advised that pursuant to the UGC Notes on Procedures, individual institutions enjoyed institutional autonomy in conducting and managing their own activities while remaining committed to transparency and good governance. HKBU enjoyed the autonomy to conduct a review of and formulate its own views regarding the governing legislation as it saw fit.

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36. In this connection, DS(Ed)1 supplemented that if a UGC-funded institution considered that amendments should be made to its governing legislation, the institution concerned would take forward the legislative amendment exercise in accordance with established procedures. The legislative proposals would also need to be submitted to the Legislative Council for approval.

Motion

37. The Chairman concluded the discussion, and said that he would proceed to deal with the motion moved by Dr Helena WONG and seconded by the Deputy Chairman without further debate as the Panel had thoroughly discussed the matters concerned. Members agreed.

38. Speaking on the motion moved by her, Dr Helena WONG urged the Administration to consult the public and the stakeholders of various universities on amending the governing ordinances for individual UGC-funded institutions. She also pointed out that the Sutherland Report was issued over 10 years ago and it was high time to conduct another review to address changes in the tertiary education sector and the aspiration of the community.

39. Mrs Regina IP said that principles such as academic freedom, institutional autonomy and participation in university administration had been thoroughly debated and put into practice for many years in developed countries. The well-established higher education systems in many overseas jurisdictions could provide exemplary reference for Hong Kong. For example, local universities had adopted the good practice of setting up search committees with student representatives to select their presidents. Mrs IP therefore did not consider it necessary to reinvent the wheel by conducting public consultation on the issues as proposed in Dr Helena WONG's motion. Mrs IP expressed serious reservation on the motion to be moved by Dr Helena WONG.

40. At the Chairman's invitation, SED said that as explained at the meeting earlier on, the Administration did not consider that it was necessary to conduct public consultation on amending the ordinances governing individual UGC-funded institutions.

41. The Chairman directed that members would proceed to take a vote. Dr Helena WONG claimed a division.

42. The Chairman put the motion to vote. Of the members present, the following nine members voted for the motion:

Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr Albert HO, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Ms Cyd HO, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Kenneth CHAN and Dr Helena WONG.

The following three members voted against the motion:

Mr Abraham SHEK, Mrs Regina IP and Mr NG Leung-sing.

The following three members abstained:

Ms Starry LEE, Mr Michael TIEN and Mr MA Fung-kwok.

The Chairman declared that the motion was passed (wording of the motion at **Appendix I**).

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response to the motion was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)566/15-16(01) on 3 February 2016.)

IV. Issues related to the suspension, continuation or abolition of the Territory-wide System Assessment

(LC Paper No. CB(4)435/15-16(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

43. At the invitation of the Chairman, SED updated members on the progress of the deliberation of the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy ("the Coordinating Committee") regarding the review on the Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA"), as set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)435/15-16(01)].

Oral presentation by deputations

44. A total of four deputations presented their views. Their major concerns were summarized in **Appendix II**.

Discussion

45. The Chairman said that he had received the wording of a motion to be moved by the Deputy Chairman. On the instruction of the Chairman, the wording of the motion was tabled at the meeting. The Chairman said that as the views expressed by members in the ensuing discussion were relevant to the motion, he would not arrange a separate debate on the motion. To allow sufficient time to deal with all the items on the agenda, the Chairman decided to extend the meeting for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time of the meeting.

Concerns about excessive drilling

46. As the Administration had not announced any arrangement for the upcoming Primary ("P") 3 TSA scheduled to be held in May 2016, Dr Kenneth CHAN was concerned that schools would continue their drilling of students. Dr CHAN cautioned that some parents had already indicated that they would boycott the upcoming TSA if the Administration failed to address their concerns.

47. The Deputy Chairman said that schools had been drilling their students to prepare for TSA which had become a high-stake assessment. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung concurred that if TSA was not immediately suspended or abolished, schools would not stop their drilling practices. He urged the Administration to take immediate action to suspend P3 TSA.

48. Ms Starry LEE enquired whether the situation had improved after the Education Bureau ("EDB") had issued guidelines to remind schools not to drill their students for TSA. She considered that boycotting TSA would not be helpful in resolving the problem. She urged the Administration to strengthen communication with parents.

49. SED said that all along, EDB had maintained close communication with schools and parents. He stressed that it would be for schools to make their professional judgement on how best to conduct their teaching and learning activities and prepare students for assessments including TSA. The Administration noted that after the issuance of guidelines to schools in late October 2015, some schools had reduced supplementary exercises and after-school classes for TSA.

50. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that according to some school principals, officers from EDB had made reference to the school level reports of TSA

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and exerted pressure on schools to improve their students' performance. If TSA was used as one of the measures to evaluate the performance of schools when considering the allocation of resources, schools would likely drill their students intensively in order that they could perform well in TSA. She considered that the guidelines issued by EDB reminding schools not to adopt drilling practices could not tackle the problem at its root. EDB should take effective measures to stop drilling practices.

51. Mr MA Fung-kwok opined that in addition to issuing guidelines, EDB should take additional measures to stop the drilling practices by schools. Officers from EDB and school sponsoring bodies should not exert pressure on schools with reference to the TSA reports. Mr Michael TIEN concurred that EDB should not use the school level reports to exert pressure on schools, and reiterated his view that TSA should be a system assessment rather than an assessment of individual schools or students. Hence, reference should only be made to the overall performance of students on a territory-wide basis.

52. SED said that there was a need to implement TSA at P3 level so as to gauge students' attainment of the basic competency in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at the end of the first key learning stage. He stressed that the performance of individual schools in TSA would not affect the allocation of resources to schools. TSA reports were not provided for comparison among schools. He pointed out that since the implementation of enhancement measures in 2014, the overall attainment rates of individual schools were not disclosed to schools to avoid unnecessary comparison and drilling. SED stated that as EDB had discussed with relevant School Councils, over-drilling of students was not encouraged in preparation for TSA.

53. Dr Fernando CHEUNG sought explanation on how schools could make use of the TSA reports to enhance teaching and learning if the results of individual students were not provided. In reply, the Deputy Secretary for Education (5) ("DS(Ed)5") advised that TSA reports did not contain results of individual students. Schools could make reference to the overall performance of students in terms of basic competencies as stated in the school level reports. Teachers could make adjustments to the teaching activities and arrangement accordingly.

54. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired whether SED had watched the video recording of the Panel's special meeting held on 29 November 2015, which he did not attend. Mr CHAN recalled that serious concerns had been expressed about the pressure on students arising from excessive drilling for

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TSA. In the course of the special meeting, some members appeared to have changed their stance and supported the suspension of P3 TSA in 2016. Mr CHAN also enquired about the follow-up action, if any, taken by the Administration on certain cases referred to by a school principal that officers from EDB had made reference to the school level reports of TSA and exerted pressure on some schools.

55. SED said that although he had not watched the video recording of the special meeting, he noted the concerns raised by Members and deputations. SED and DS(Ed)5 said that the Administration had followed up the case referred to by the school principal at the special meeting. According to the EDB officers concerned, their discussion with the school principal concerned was a professional exchange of views. There had not been any intention or attempt to exert pressure on schools.

56. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung requested the Administration to inform members of the measures to be taken against schools if they failed to comply with the guidelines on homework and tests and the letter advising against drilling practice issued by EDB and continued excessive drilling. The Administration agreed to provide the requested information in writing after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written information was issued to members vide LC Paper CB(4)580/15-16(01) on 5 February 2016.)

57. The Chairman said that he was disappointed to note that SED had not watched the video recording of the Panel's special meeting held on 29 November 2015. He remarked that given the tricky nature of the assessment items of TSA, it was hard for schools not to prepare their students for TSA. He considered it contradictory that on one hand, EDB had highlighted its respect for schools; but on the other hand, it had issued guidelines to remind schools to discontinue excessive drilling. The Chairman was of the view that EDB should encourage schools to exercise professional judgement in deciding how best to prepare their students for TSA. In this connection, he invited the attending deputations to inform members of the outcome after EDB had issued guidelines and letters to schools on 31 October and 21 December 2015 respectively.

58. Dr FUNG Wai-wah of Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union ("HKPTU") said that he had learned from some school principals that schools could hardly stop their preparation work if their students had to participate in TSA. According to a recent survey on school principals

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conducted by HKPTU, 75% of the respondents considered it appropriate to suspend P3 TSA in 2016.

59. Mr SIN Kim-wai of Subsidized Primary School Council said that according to some school principals, officers from EDB's regional offices had been in contact with them after EDB had issued guidelines and letters reminding schools not to adopt drilling practices. He noted that there had been exchanges of views between EDB officers and schools on the prevailing practices in schools and whether any adjustment was needed.

60. Mr LAI Tsz-man of Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association said that it might not be necessary for EDB to issue the reminders as schools were able to exercise their professional judgement. The deputation did not support excessive drilling by schools, but considered that it was in order for individual schools to take appropriate measures, with regard to their own needs and circumstances, to prepare their students for TSA.

The review and way forward for TSA

61. The Deputy Chairman and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che shared the view that the Administration should suspend P3 TSA in 2016 so as to allow more time for the Coordinating Committee to conduct a comprehensive review on TSA. The Deputy Chairman recalled that at the special meeting of the Panel, he had requested the Administration to co-opt additional members holding different views to the Coordinating Committee and its working groups. He enquired on the membership of the working groups and whether teacher and parent representatives holding strong views against TSA would be included.

62. DS(Ed)5 advised that new members representing parents and School Councils had been appointed to the Coordinating Committee. Representatives from school sponsoring bodies had also been invited to join the working group tasked to review the reporting and administration arrangement of TSA. The views of the working groups would then be forwarded to the Coordinating Committee for further deliberation. Noting that there were very diverse views on the papers and question design of TSA, the Coordinating Committee and the relevant working group agreed that focus groups and meetings would be held to collect views from parents and other stakeholders. In this connection, a series of regional seminars covering different districts as well as territory-wide seminar for parents were arranged.

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63. To improve the implementation arrangements, Mr MA Fung-kwok opined that consideration should be given to implementing P3 TSA in alternate years or drawing a sample of students to take part in TSA. Mr Michael TIEN noted that according to the Coordinating Committee's initial view, TSA would not be administered on a sampling basis. He enquired if the Coordinating Committee would consider maintaining the anonymity of candidates and schools participating in TSA. Mr TIEN was also concerned that the level of difficulty of the TSA assessment items had far exceeded the original objective of assessing students' attainment of basic competencies.

64. In this regard, SED advised that one of the working groups under the Coordinating Committee had been tasked to review the papers and question design of TSA. Meanwhile, the Coordinating Committee would discuss issues related to the reporting and administration arrangement of TSA at its next meeting. The Coordinating Committee aimed at coming up with its view to address various concerns about the implementation of TSA.

65. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung was concerned that the level of difficulty of TSA assessment items was not commensurate with the intended purpose of TSA to assess students' attainment in basic competency. He was concerned that TSA had become a tool for ranking the performance of individual students. Mr LEUNG recalled that the Acting SED had stated at the Panel's special meeting held on 29 November 2015 that the Administration would consider making significant adjustment if drilling by schools continued. He sought the Administration's response to the calls of parents to suspend the upcoming P3 TSA.

66. SED reiterated that the objective of TSA was to gauge students' attainment of basic competency in three core subjects at the end of the three key learning stages. The Administration would strengthen communication with parents and the public with a view to clarifying any misunderstanding about the operation and intent of TSA. After analyzing students' performance in TSA, schools could take various follow-up measures to cater for learner diversity. On the way forward, SED said that the Administration would make a decision with reference to the outcome of the review by the Coordinating Committee.

67. Ms Starry LEE did not support the abolition of TSA altogether. She considered that the review on TSA should include issues such as the upcoming P3 TSA in 2016, the feasibility of administering TSA in alternate years, the level of difficulty of assessment items, etc. Ms LEE enquired whether the Administration would make an expeditious decision

on whether to suspend P3 TSA in 2016 instead of awaiting the outcome of review by the Coordinating Committee. Dr Priscilla LEUNG expressed support for the suspension of P3 TSA in 2016 so as to allow more time for review. However, she disagreed with any boycotting action as this would not help resolve the problems arising from TSA.

68. SED explained that the Coordinating Committee had been tasked to review the design, objective and operation of TSA. It had given priority to examining the upcoming P3 TSA in 2016 with an open-minded attitude without presuming any position. Nevertheless, the Coordinating Committee considered that it was not appropriate to rush to a conclusion at this stage on any single recommendation, including the suspension of P3 TSA in 2016. SED assured members that the Coordinating Committee and its working groups had commenced detailed study on the pros and cons of various options in administration, reporting and improving the question design of TSA. It was expected that the Coordinating Committee would present its recommendations to EDB by late January or early February 2016.

69. Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired whether consideration would be given to not requiring all schools to participate in TSA. In this regard, SED said that all public-sector schools, including schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme, were required to take part in TSA while private schools and international schools could participate on a voluntary basis. DS(Ed)5 added that in some cases, students with special educational needs could apply for exemption to sit for TSA.

70. Dr Helena WONG expressed support for the motion proposed to be moved by the Deputy Chairman. She opined that a comprehensive review on TSA should have been conducted at a much earlier date. She said that Members of the Democratic Party were disappointed at the Administration for not making a decision before the Christmas holiday in 2015 to suspend the implementation of P3 TSA in 2016. Dr WONG was concerned whether there would be sufficient time to make necessary arrangements if the Coordinating Committee recommended in early February 2016 to suspend P3 TSA originally scheduled for May 2016.

71. SED said that the Administration had kept the implementation of TSA under review. The latest enhancement measures introduced in 2014 included extending the alternate-year arrangement for P6 TSA and not disclosing the attainment rates to individual primary schools. Regarding the review currently conducted by the Coordinating Committee, SED considered that it would be prudent to make reference to the professional views of the Coordinating Committee before deciding on the arrangement

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for the upcoming P3 TSA. As the written assessment of TSA would normally be held after the schools had completed their internal examinations, there should be sufficient time for making necessary arrangements.

Motion

72. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that he would proceed to deal with the motion proposed by the Deputy Chairman, the wording of which had been tabled at the meeting. The Chairman also said that as the issues covered in the motion had been discussed at length during this meeting, he considered that no further debate on the motion would be necessary. Members agreed.

73. In moving the motion, the Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to suspend P3 TSA, and to invite stakeholders holding different views to join the Coordinating Committee.

74. At the invitation of the Chairman, SED responded that the Coordinating Committee would deliberate on various options and suggestions, including the suggestion to suspend the upcoming P3 TSA. The members of the Coordinating Committee and its working groups had been drawn from stakeholders holding different views. Focus groups would also be arranged to gauge the views of related parties.

75. Dr Helena WONG claimed a division and requested that the division bell be rung to summon members to the meeting.

76. The Chairman put the motion to vote. The following 11 members voted for the motion:

Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Ms Cyd HO, Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Kenneth CHAN, Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Dr Helena WONG.

No members voted against the motion and no members abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed (wording of the motion at **Appendix III**).

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to the motion was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)579/15-16(01) on 5 February 2016.)

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77. Due to insufficient time, the Chairman proposed to further extend the meeting so as to complete the discussion of all items on the agenda. Members raised no objection.

V. Progress report of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme

(LC Paper No. CB(4)303/15-16(01) -- Information paper provided by the Education Bureau on the latest progress in implementing the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme)

Briefing by the Administration

78. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Under Secretary for Education ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the progress of the implementation of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme ("HKSES"), as set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)303/15-16(01)]. US(Ed) informed members that as two more students were awarded the scholarship recently to further their study in Australia, the updated number of awardees under HKSES was 92, instead of 90 as stated in the Administration's paper.

Discussion

Award of scholarships

79. The Deputy Chairman observed that similar publicly-funded scholarships in Singapore were awarded for the strategic purpose of nurturing talent in support of specific industries with urgent or keen demand for human resources. Noting that under HKSES, there was no requirement on the disciplines of study to be pursued by the awardees, he enquired whether the Administration would consider making reference to Singapore's practice when implementing HKSES.

80. US(Ed) advised that HKSES had been implemented to complement rather than compete with local universities. Priority had been given to those students applying to enrol in disciplines or programmes not available in Hong Kong but which were conducive to building up Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness. Selection of awardees was based on the

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academic achievements and other attributes of the applicants such as leadership and commitment to the society etc. US(Ed) further said that HKSES was launched in November 2014 to support three cohorts of students starting from the 2015-2016 academic year, after which its effectiveness would be reviewed.

81. Noting that seven awardees who had received full scholarship from other sources were awarded the scholarship title under HKSES as a token of Government's recognition of their outstanding achievements, Dr Helena WONG sought up-to-date information on the number of awardees who received monetary benefit under HKSES. US(Ed) confirmed that out of 92 awardees, 85 were offered the non-means-tested scholarship under HKSES. While awardees' names and their respective study programmes and universities were available at the website of HKSES, Dr WONG requested the Administration to provide further information on the secondary schools or universities last attended by these awardees.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)506/15-16(01) on 18 January 2016.)

82. In respect of postgraduate studies, Dr Helena WONG was of the view that the scholarship and bursary under HKSES should be tenable for the duration of the concerned postgraduate programmes, instead of being limited to two years under the current arrangement. US(Ed) said that the Administration would take into account members' views when reviewing HKSES in due course. Nevertheless, he recapitulated that the eligibility criteria and implementation arrangements of HKSES had been considered and approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

Undertaking to return to work in Hong Kong

83. The Chairman noted that all the awardees of HKSES had to undertake to complete the specific study programmes and to return to Hong Kong upon graduation to work for at least two years or a period equivalent to the duration of receiving the scholarship, whichever was longer. In this connection, he was concerned that as these awardees were not required to take up employment in the field which was related to their study, it might be difficult to ascertain whether they could contribute to Hong Kong with the knowledge acquired through their overseas education. The Chairman further enquired whether the awardees could run their own business or work for family business when they returned to Hong Kong upon completion of their studies.

84. US(Ed) explained that HKSES was implemented with a view to grooming a pool of talent with global vision, international network and world-class education. With these strengths, the awardees could contribute to Hong Kong's development in various ways after their graduation. It might not be appropriate to impose any requirement on their future choice of career, as in some cases, jobs related to their field of study might not be readily available in Hong Kong. US(Ed) further advised that the awardees could run their own business or work for family business when they returned to Hong Kong after graduation.

VI. Progress report on the implementation of life planning education

(LC Paper No. CB(4)435/15-16(02) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

85. At the invitation of the Chairman, US(Ed) briefed members on the progress of the implementation of life planning education ("LPE"), as set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)435/15-16(02)].

Discussion

Career and Life Planning Grant

86. On the Career and Life Planning Grant ("CLPG") provided to each public sector school and Direct Subsidy Scheme ("DSS") school operating classes at senior secondary levels, the Deputy Chairman noted that many of these schools had made use of CLPG to employ additional teachers to support the implementation of LPE. He was given to understand that in the 2016 Policy Address to be delivered by CE, it would be announced that schools might turn the existing CLPG into regular teaching posts from the 2016-2017 school year. The Deputy Chairman was concerned that this initiative, if implemented, might result in some teachers employed on contract being laid off as there might not be sufficient regular teaching posts to accommodate all serving teachers. He asked whether the Administration had information on the existing number of teachers employed by each school by using CLPG.

87. US(Ed) advised that starting from 2014-2015 school year and up to the end of November 2015, EDB had paid advisory visits to a total of

295 schools, which accounted for about 58% of schools in the territory. It was found that with strengthened financial resources to support LPE, the majority of these schools had appropriately made use of CLPG in such areas as employing additional teachers to take up the teaching duties of career teachers so as to enhance their capacity in LPE, procuring LPE-related teaching materials or assessment services for students as well as financing students to participate in career exploration activities. About 80% of these schools had spent most of CLPG on employment of additional staff. Schools could make use of various cash grants and other funding to engage teaching staff according to their needs, and were not required to submit information to EDB on the number of teachers employed with specific grants or funding such as CLPG.

88. The Chairman noted that the recurrent government subsidy provided to DSS schools was based on the average unit cost of an aided secondary school place and disbursed in the form of a block grant, the amount of which would depend on the number of students admitted. If the Administration would implement a new arrangement that schools could turn CLPG into regular teaching posts, he enquired whether this would have any implication on the calculation basis and the amount of government subsidy provided to DSS schools.

89. The Deputy Secretary for Education (4) ("DS(Ed)4") said that the Administration did not have any plan to change the existing subsidy mode for DSS schools. US(Ed) stressed that at this juncture, discussion on any new arrangement for CLPG was hypothetical as the Administration had not yet made any announcement on the matter.

90. Having regard to the programme launched by the Hong Kong Jockey Club to support career and life planning for secondary students, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che remarked that the Administration should step up collaboration with other organizations in the implementation of LPE. US(Ed) assured members that the Administration attached great importance to LPE, as manifested in the provision of the recurrent CLPG to enhance the capacity of schools to take forward comprehensive LPE and career guidance service for students. The Administration also welcomed opportunities for collaboration with other organizations in the implementation of LPE.

Business-School Partnership Programme

91. Sharing her observation from the Panel's overseas duty visit to Germany and Switzerland, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan noted that in Germany, students had the opportunity to join various placement programmes during

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their secondary education, which could help them make an informed choice in their future career or further study. However, the career exploration activities in Hong Kong under the Business-School Partnership Programme ("BSPP"), such as talks and workplace visits, were mainly for the purpose of disseminating career information. Dr CHIANG considered that the Administration should make reference to the practices in Germany and Switzerland, and arrange placement programmes of two to four weeks for local secondary students to enable them to gain exposure to authentic workplace environment.

92. In reply, DS(Ed)4 informed members that diversified work experience activities of different duration had been arranged for local secondary schools under BSPP. Students could gain exposure to a wide range of industries, such as the retail, kindergarten, tourism and legal sectors. US(Ed) further explained that at the secondary school level, LPE played a pivotal role in fostering students' self understanding, personal planning and goal setting. Career exploration was also a prerequisite for students to exercise successful career planning and management. BSPP was an effective means to provide such opportunities for students. Currently, placement programmes were mostly offered to students at the tertiary level to better prepare them for employment after graduation.

93. Whilst noting that in the 2014-2015 school year, there were more than 120 organizations collaborating with EDB under BSPP, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan was of the view that the Administration should take steps to encourage the participation of non-government organizations and government departments in BSPP. US(Ed) advised that some government departments had taken part in BSPP activities. The Administration would continue to enlist the support from professional bodies and chambers of commerce so as to expand the variety and scale of career exploration activities and enable more students to benefit from first-hand knowledge and experience in various professions.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of LPE

94. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan sought information on the evaluation tools and methods adopted by schools to assess the effectiveness of their LPE. DS(Ed)4 advised that individual schools should devise work plans with clear objectives and strategies to implement LPE for endorsement by their respective Incorporated Management Committee. In addition, each school should put in place a monitoring mechanism for continuous assessment, such as through collecting feedback from students and teachers after each LPE activity.

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95. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che considered that the Administration should conduct a longitudinal study to track the effectiveness and development of LPE across the territory. In this connection, US(Ed) said that as LPE had only been introduced since the 2014-2015 school year, it would be more useful to assess the overall effectiveness of LPE after more operational experience had been gained. Meanwhile, the Administration had been engaging schools in the sharing of good practices and professional interflow about the implementation of LPE.

96. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che expressed his view that LPE had been implemented with a view to facilitating young people to adapt to social changes, rather than encouraging them to act as the agent for change in the society. US(Ed) said that life planning was an ongoing and lifelong process for personal fulfillment, with different foci at different stages of the life time. The objective of LPE was to enable students, irrespective of their abilities, orientation and levels of studies, to understand their own career and academic aspirations, develop positive attitudes towards work and learning, and make informed decisions in their career development. Through LPE, young people could be better equipped to meet future challenges and make the best of the opportunities ahead.

VII. Any other business

97. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:56 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 April 2016

**教育事務委員會
Panel on Education**

在 2016 年 1 月 11 日會議上
就議程項目"資助院校校監和其管治團體成員之組成及產生
方法的相關事宜"通過的議案

**Motion passed under the agenda item "Issues related to the appointment
of Chancellor and the composition of the governing bodies of University
Grants Committee-funded institutions"
at the meeting on 11 January 2016**

議案措辭

本委員會促請政府當局全面諮詢和聆聽公眾及各大學持份者對修訂各資助院校條例的意見，從而維護學術自由、院校自主、及鼓勵師生民主參與校政。

(黃碧雲議員動議，葉建源議員和議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

That this Panel urges the Administration to fully consult the public and the stakeholders of various universities and listen to their views on amending the ordinances governing individual University Grants Committee-funded institutions so as to uphold academic freedom and institutional autonomy as well as to encourage democratic involvement of teachers and students in the administration of universities.

(Moved by Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan and seconded by Hon IP Kin-yuen)

Appendix II

Panel on Education Meeting on Monday, 11 January 2016, at 4:30 pm

Agenda item IV: Issues related to the suspension, continuation or abolition of the Territory-wide System Assessment

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
1.	Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)435/15-16(03)]
2.	Subsidized Primary School Council	The deputation considered that the school sector should strengthen communication with parents to clear up any misunderstanding on the implementation of Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA"). It urged the Administration to suspend Primary ("P") 3 TSA in 2016 so as to allow sufficient time for a comprehensive review on TSA.
3.	Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association	The deputation was concerned that the assessment items of TSA had become increasingly difficult and tricky. Although TSA should not be abolished altogether, excessive drilling by schools should be prohibited. It considered that EDB should strengthen communication with the public to clear up any misunderstanding on the purpose of TSA and allow schools to exercise professional judgement to prepare students for TSA.
4.	Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers	The deputation considered it necessary to expeditiously address the concerns about excessive drilling and the level of difficulty of TSA assessment items. It considered that school level reports should not be used for comparison among schools or evaluation of schools' performance. On the continuation or abolition of TSA, the deputation was of the view that the Administration should consider various views from different stakeholders.

教育事務委員會
Panel on Education

**在2016年1月11日會議上就議程項目"全港性系統評估的暫緩和
存廢的有關事宜"通過的議案**
**Motion passed under the agenda item "Issues related to the suspension,
continuation or abolition of the Territory-wide System Assessment"
at the meeting on 11 January 2016**

議案措辭

本委員會促請政府當局切實回應社會訴求，暫緩小學三年級全港性系統性評估，邀請持不同意見的家長群組、校長代表、教師代表和學者加入基本能力評估及評估素養統籌委員會，以取得各界的信任，達致各方面都同意的全港系統性評估檢討方案。

(葉建源議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

That this Panel urges the Administration to respond genuinely to the aspirations of the community by suspending the Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA"), and to invite parent groups, representatives of school principals, representatives of teachers and academics holding different views to join the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy, so as to gain the trust of various sectors and reach an option agreed by all parties following the TSA review.

(Moved by Hon IP Kin-yuen)