THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

UGC's Review of Research Policy and Funding
Interim Report for Consultation

Items	Views / Comments
A. Substantial Increase in Research Funding	While we are very supportive of the increase of the fund in each round of research funding exercise, we are concerned that the funding in Humanities is always neglected or inadequate. We are in the view that junior colleagues should be provided with more funding opportunities for their career development and advancement. It is also important and relevant for the Task force to look into the share of (additional) funding across disciplines. Generally speaking, projects related to Humanities may request smaller amounts of research fund compared to other disciplines such as physical science, medicine. We wonder how the RGC / Government would ensure that the additional funding can benefit research projects in the domain of Humanities. On top of providing more research funding amount, we would also like the UGC to consider boosting successful rate of applications with an aim to encourage more researchers to apply for the fund.
B. Substantial Strategies and Support for Research Talent	We welcome the suggestion to have additional resources to nurture research talent to promote R&D, and to encourage and support the PDF or research fellows for research activities, in partnership with the academic staff in the universities. Having said that, retaining talent is also a key issue. We believe that the matter of academic career development is of vital importance to research staff. In other words, we wonder if research fellows will be given the opportunity to take up the position of academic staff after completing the projects.
C. Support for Research Infrastructure	We are pleased to note that the Task force would be reviewing the funding schemes for collaborative research as colleagues are encouraged to undertake this kind of research. We also welcome the review on R-portion and on-costs, especially on how they will be allocated to individual faculties / departments in a transparent manner. We consider that the R-portion calculation has to be critically reviewed and should not be regarded as the only criteria for resources distribution among different sectors. In view of the fact that the teaching load of colleagues are too heavy, more support for supporting staff and workload reduction are expected, if research outcomes are encouraged.

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D. Coordination Among Different Research Funding Bodies	We support the idea to have a central database on research so that colleagues can have more access to up-to-date information of researchers working in the same field. This is particularly essential for looking for research partners for collaborative projects. ORCID may be considered as a good platform for serving this purpose.
E. Other View and/or Comments	--