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Hong Kong University Students' Union

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立法會 CB(2)496/03-04(04)號文件

香港大學學生會就政府於零四至零五年度削減大專教育資助意見書

關於政府削減大學資源一事已掀起社會廣泛而深入的討論。香港大學學生會非常 重視教育的發展,但更深明社會各界均一起分擔財赤政府問題,故此身爲大學 生,我們絕對願意共渡時艱。眾所周知,創資對各大專院校均有不同的影響,各 大專院校學生會本著公義和對教育發展的關注,在削資一事上無分你我,共同爲 香港社會謀出路。可是,我們強調政府對教育的削幅必須合情合理,以及有足夠 的咨詢和淸晰的計劃才能推行;然而,觀乎近期的輿論、與政府官員及校方討論 時的資料所得,政府並未有清晰的計劃及理據支持其削資的幅度和有關項目。因 此,香港大學學生會強烈反對政府在未有清晰的教育藍圖下以高壓手段大幅削減 大專教育經費。

就零四至零五年度的削幅,香港大學學生會對政府有三大疑問。第一,政府在削 減修課碩士資助的同時,訂明了在三個特別情況下,即「社會對該碩士課程的有 關專業的需要性」、「社會文化上對該碩士課程之需要」以及「該碩士課程所需經 費過巨以致不能自負盈虧」,政府將仍會提供資助;可是,就香港大學的法律專 業文憑(PCLL)爲例,社會對其課程有很大需要,但教資會卻於下年度大幅削減 五十三個法律專業文憑的學位資助。那麼政府有否根據上述的條件而作出相關的 資助?削減修課碩士資助的標準又如何證定?另外,學生會認爲政府削減修課碩 士資助必須與院校共同合作,研究每個修課碩士自負盈虧的可行性,避免一些有 學術價值但缺乏社會需要的課程被逼取消。

政府年前接受「高等教育檢討報告書」的一百零五點建議,教統局並付諸實行; 教統局局長李國章在回應院校提問時亦謂政府已有淸晰的未來教育發展藍圖,可 見零五至零八年度的教育發展將根據「高等教育檢討報告書」的建議而行。但是 推行全部建議必須循序漸進,因此政府有必要公開未來四年將會推行「報告書」 中那幾項建議,好讓社會及教育界作出相應的準備和配合。

另一方面·政府仍未有確實回答各大專院校於零五至零八年的十一巴仙削幅將以 哪一年的撥款數字作基數。須知道若以零四零五年削款後的撥款作基數,總削幅 會激增至二十五巴仙,大專教育將受到極嚴重的打擊!政府這樣的削幅絕對不公 平且不能接受。

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香港大學學生會

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基於上述的問題,本會強烈要求政府:

- 公開削減修課碩士資助及歷定削幅的準則;
- 在保護有學術價值的課程的前提下,與院校共同研究每個修課碩士自負盈虧 的可行性;
- 3. 公開未來四年將會根據「高等教育檢討報告書」而實行的有關建議及其他教一 育計劃:
- 以零三至零四年的撥款作爲零五至零八年削減大專教育資助的基數。

在政府財赤面前,學生願意與社會共渡時艱,但政府亦需要持開放的態度,與各 界共同相討教育發展的方向。

香港大學學生會

香港大學學生會法律學會 反對教資會創資聲明

財赤當前,未來數年的大學撥款慘被大幅削減,就研究生課程而言,由明年 起,同學們需要自資就讀所有授課研究生學位(Taught Postgraduate Degrees), - 而港大法律專業文憑課程則首當其衝成爲了犧牲品·

港大法律專業文憑課程今年共有280名學生,當中資助學額佔170個。可惜, 大學教育資助委員會(教育會)已落實將資助額進一步削減至117個,減幅高達 三成。在此削減以前,港大法律專業文憑課程的學額本來已不是全數獲資助。這 次教資會更在毫無理據的情況下進一步削減資助學額,本會認爲此學是絕對不能 接受的。

其實法律專業文憑課程與一般授課研究生學位不同,它本身就是法學士課程 的延續,而希望在香港法律界執業的同學必須修讀此課程才能當見習律師或大律 師。據統計,每年均有約九成香港大學法學士畢業生就讀此課程,教資會此舉將 六大打擊法律教育的人才培訓及未來法律專業的發展。

由於教育會未能資助所有法律專業文憑課程,大部份修讀相同課程的同學有 可能要繳付截然不同的學費,沒有獲得資助的同學需要繳交高達港幣九萬元的巨 額學費。有見及此,法律學院在過去兩年採取了一個折衷的方法,就是將教資會 的資助擬分給所有合資格修讀法律專業文憑課程的同學。此舉不但減輕了大部分 同學的負擔,令每位同學可繳交相同的學費,而最重要的是它對於政府及納稅人 並不會構成任何附加的財政壓力。本來這是一個可行的辦法,但教資會在沒有合 理原因的情况下,不批准法律學院繼續採用這種難分方法,再一次令大部分在同 一課堂中的同學需要繳付不同的學費。在此經濟低迷的環境下,這不但對同學造 成財政壓力,亦有違公平教育的原則。

本會強烈要求有關部門擱置對法律專業文憑課程創資的計劃,並容許法律學 院自行分配有關資助。本會要求與教育統籌局局長李國章及教資會主席林李翹如 會面,商討如何能有效地運用現有的教學資源。

最後,本會不希望將來會有具潛質及抱負的同學因財政問題而不能就讀法律 專業文憑課程,令市民大眾及法律專業蒙受損失。

香港大學學生會法律學會

主席:李志鵬

二零零三年十一月廿五日

外務副主席:廖冠華

Law Association, HKUSU's views towards the reduction of funding on PCLL programme

Facing a huge fiscal deficit, the Government is moving its proposal to bring about a substantial cut in the block grant allocation to the University in the coming years. Starting from the year 2004-2005, all Taught Postgraduate Degrees (TPD) have to be self-funded and amongst them is the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws programme (PCLL).

This year (2003-2004) the Faculty of Law admitted 280 PCLL students and the University Grants Committee (UGC) funded places totalled 170. Nevertheless, the UGC is resolved to reduce the funded places to 117 from 2004-2005 and thereafter which indicates a more than 30% reduction rate. It should be noted that the PCLL places have never been fully funded by the UGC before this rigorous act of cutting funding. In respect of the decision made by UGC to reduce the number of funded places of PCLL, we, the Law Association, HKUSU, hold the view that this is utterly unacceptable.

As regards the nature of the programme itself, PCLL is different from other taught postgraduate courses in the sense that it is a continuation of the Bachelor in Laws (LLB) programme, and that any law students who want to become qualified solicitors and barristers have to take the PCLL course before entering traineeship or pupilage. According to statistics, every year over 90% of LLB graduates would continue to study the PCLL course and as a consequence, the UGC's decision to cut the funded places would inevitably entail an impediment to the training of future legal professionals and the development of the legal profession as a whole.

In the past, since the UGC funded places are limited and some of the students (selffunded) have to pay a fee as high as \$90,000 which greatly diverges from that paid by the UGC funded students, the Faculty has adopted a mixed mode funding in the PCLL in the last two years, which means the averaging out of the cost of the self-funded and UGC funded places and thus allowing it to bring down the fee to \$50,000 for everyone. This method of funding has a rationale behind which states that not only would every student's financial burden be leveled as equal and a large portion of them pays a much lower fee then, but also this would not create extra burden to the Government and the taxpayers. Such a method is considered as feasible in the circumstances, but unfortunately the UGC has resolutely rejected any continuation of. mixed mode funding, and it means that students studying in the same class would have to pay different fees. Being set in the economic downturn, it will cast upon PCLL students an immense financial burden and the principle of equal opportunities to receive education will be violated.

In view of the present situation, we strongly urge the UGC to put aside the plan to cut the funded places of PCLL and allow the Faculty of Law the necessary flexibility to distribute the funding on its own. We here ask for a meeting with Professor Arthur K.C. Li, the Secretary for Education and Manpower and Dr. Alice Lam, Chairman of University Grants Committee, to discuss how to utilize the current teaching resources in an efficient manner.

Last but not least, the Law Association, HKUSU wants to express its reluctance to see future students with good potential and aspirations who cannot take the PCLL course because of financial problems as this would definitely cause immeasurable loss to the legal profession and our society.

25th November 2003