

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)1591/16-17

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 10 April 2017 at 4:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP (Chairman)
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Hon MA Fung-kuok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung
Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

Members attending : Hon LAM Cheuk-ting
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim

Members absent : Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

Public Officers attending : Agenda item III

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Under Secretary for Education

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

Ms Elaine MAK
Principal Assistant Secretary for Education
(Further Education)
Education Bureau

Attendance by invitation : Agenda item III

The Open University of Hong Kong

Professor Reggie KWAN
Vice President (Academic)

Mr Santiago CHUEN
Director of Finance

Clerk in attendance : Ms Angel WONG
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

Action

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

(LC Paper No. CB(4)678/16-17(01) -- Joint letter dated 21 February 2017 from Hon Tanya CHAN, Hon Dennis KWOK and Hon Alvin YEUNG concerning the issues related to student suicides

LC Paper No. CB(4)678/16-17(02) -- Administration's written response dated 10 March 2017 to the joint letter dated 21 February 2017 from Hon Tanya CHAN, Hon Dennis KWOK and Hon Alvin YEUNG concerning the issues related to student suicides

LC Paper No. CB(4)806/16-17(01) -- Letter dated 14 March 2017 from Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai concerning the monitoring of the training camps for primary and secondary students

Action

LC Paper No. CB(4)806/16-17(02) -- Administration's written response dated 3 April 2017 to the letter dated 14 March 2017 from Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai concerning the monitoring of the training camps for primary and secondary students)

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)799/16-17 -- List of outstanding items for discussion

Appendix II to LC Paper No. CB(4)799/16-17 -- List of follow-up actions)

2. The Chairman informed members that the Administration had proposed to discuss the following two items at the next regular meeting scheduled for 8 May 2017 at 4:30 pm:

- (a) 8063EG – Academic Building at No. 3 Sassoon Road, University of Hong Kong; and
- (b) 3352EP – A 30-classroom primary school at Tonkin Street, Cheung Sha Wan.

The Chairman would finalize with the Deputy Chairman the items to be discussed at the next regular meeting with reference to the Panel's "List of outstanding items for discussion", and inform members accordingly.

(Post-meeting note: Individuals/deputations were invited to express their views on "Basic Competency Assessment Research Study" at the regular meeting on 8 May 2017 and the above two items were discussed at the special meeting on 15 May 2017.)

Action

III. Start-up loan for The Open University of Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(4)799/16-17(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)799/16-17(02) -- Updated background brief entitled "Issues related to the Start-up Loan Scheme" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat)

3. Members noted the updated background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(4)799/16-17(02)].

Briefing by the Administration

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Under Secretary for Education ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to provide a loan of \$400 million under the Loan Fund to the Open University of Hong Kong ("OUHK") to cover part of the development costs of the proposed Nursing and Healthcare Complex ("NHC") for the operation of full-time locally-accredited post-secondary programmes at sub-degree level or above. Details were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)799/16-17(01)]. Subject to members' views, the Administration would submit the proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval in May 2017.

Discussion

Finance of self-financing post-secondary institutions

5. The Deputy Chairman supported the proposal to provide start-up loan for the OUHK. Referring to Annex C to the Administration's paper, he enquired about the number of loans which were unable to be repaid by the post-secondary education providers in 10 years. US(Ed) advised that some borrowing institutions listed in Annex C had applied for repayment extension of up to 20 years and undertook to provide a list of approved applications after the meeting.

(*Post-meeting note:* The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)885/16-17(01) on 21 April 2017.)

Action

6. The Deputy Chairman recalled that upon the launch of the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors ("SSSDP") in 2015-2016, all self-financing post-secondary institutions had increased the tuition fees of subsidized programmes, among which the OUHK's rate of increase was almost the highest. As SSSDP would be regularized in the 2018-2019 academic year, the Deputy Chairman asked whether the OUHK would make a promise not to increase tuition fees beyond inflation and whether the Administration had any gate-keeping measures in this aspect. US(Ed) advised that tuition fees of the SSSDP programmes should generally be set with reference to the existing fee level with adjustments allowed for inflation and justified enhancement in teaching and learning. In general the Administration would not approve any application for increase in tuition fees over the Composite Consumer Price Index save for exceptionally justified cases. Professor Reggie KWAN, Vice President ("VP") (Academic) of OUHK, supplemented that the increase in tuition fees for the OUHK's programmes would be in line with inflation according to the Education Bureau's guidelines. The tuition fee adjustment in the 2015-2016 academic year for SSSDP programmes was set on a cost recovery basis. The tuition fees of the OUHK's programmes were on par with other self-financed institutions.

Facilities and courses of the OUHK

7. Ms Starry LEE said that Members of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported the proposal. She was of the view that the general public would be greatly benefitted if the OUHK considered opening up the proposed NHC for the use of other institutions and organizations. Professor Reggie KWAN, VP(Academic) of OUHK, advised that the OUHK had all along been making available its laboratories for the use of other institutions.

8. As it was a common trend for universities to develop e-learning courses, Ms Starry LEE enquired about the OUHK's direction in this aspect. Professor Reggie KWAN, VP(Academic) of OUHK, advised that the OUHK was endeavoured to expand the offering of e-learning courses. The OUHK's "Great Speakers Series" educational TV programmes broadcasted every Sunday morning were open for all who wished to enrich their knowledge. Ms LEE hoped that the OUHK would keep up its effort in developing e-learning courses and the Administration would further encourage post-secondary institutions to promote e-learning.

Summing up

9. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the Administration's submission of the financial proposal to FC.

Action

IV. Basic Competency Assessment Research Study

(LC Paper No. CB(4)799/16-17(03) -- Paper provided by the Administration

(Other relevant document for reference)

IN06/16-17 -- Information note on the competency assessment systems in selected places prepared by the Research Office of the LegCo Secretariat)

Meeting arrangements

10. Noting that some members had concerns about the arrangements for this agenda item, the Chairman invited members to express their views before proceeding to the discussion of this item.

11. Mr HUI Chi-fung, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Ms Tanya CHAN, Dr YIU Chung-yim, Mr Nathan LAW, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Dr LAU Siu-lai, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, the Deputy Chairman, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Helena WONG, Mr Dennis KWOK, Mr KWONG Chun-yu, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Mr LAM Cheuk-ting and Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed grave concerns about the invitation of representatives from schools which had participated in the Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA") 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) ("2016 Tryout Study") to the meeting. Some of these members held the view that these representatives could not reflect the views of the general public. A meeting on Basic Competency Assessment Research Study ("BCA") should be arranged to receive views from the public, including these school representatives. In fact, in accordance with Rule 9(4) of the Rules of Procedure which stated that a public officer may be invited by any other committee or subcommittee of the Council to attend the meeting of the committee or the subcommittee if circumstances so require; and paragraph 2.21 of the Handbook for Chairmen of Panels ("the Handbook") which stated that representatives, other than those from the Administration, may be invited by a Panel to attend its meeting for discussion on a certain item of business on the agenda, school representatives should not be invited by the Administration to attend the meeting. They worried that the Administration's invitation of such a large number of school representatives to participate in the discussion might undermine the credibility and procedural fairness of the Legislative Council. In case these representatives were invited to give oral representations as deputations, the Chairman should seek members' views before invitation according to paragraph 2.22 of the Handbook. Mr Dennis KWOK said that he would move a motion expressing no confidence in the Chairman if she insisted on inviting the representatives to attend this meeting. Mr Alvin YEUNG supported.

Action

12. Ms Starry LEE, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Mr Abraham SHEK, Mr Holden CHOW, Mr CHAN Han-pan and Mr Christopher CHEUNG were of the view that these school representatives might facilitate members to have a better understanding of the 2016 Tryout Study and the differences between BCA and the previous TSA. Members should consider listening to their views on the 2016 Tryout Study at this meeting before a meeting was arranged to receive views from the public. The representatives might support or object to the implementation of BCA. Given the strong views of some members, Mr Paul TSE and Ms Starry LEE considered it desirable for the Panel to vote to decide whether the representatives would take part in the discussion.

13. The Chairman responded that this meeting was not scheduled to receive public views on the subject. School representatives were invited by the Administration in accordance with the established procedures. The attendance list of the meeting had been issued to members the previous week. No opposing views were received from members prior to the meeting date. The Administration's invitation of representatives from schools which had participated in 2016 Tryout Study to this meeting would enable members to further understand BCA to be conducted in May 2017 and facilitate their discussion on the agenda item. The Chairman stressed that the meeting had been arranged in accordance with the authority of the Chairman of a Panel as provided in the Rules of Procedure and the practices set out in the Handbook. She would discuss later with the Administration and the LegCo Secretariat whether another meeting would be held to receive public views on TSA/BCA.

(At 5:49 pm, upon the suggestion of Mr CHAN Kin-por, the Chairman directed that the meeting be suspended. The meeting resumed at 6:11 pm.)

14. Ms Tanya CHAN requested the Chairman to adjourn the meeting.

(At 6:21 pm, some members left their seats and gathered in front of the Chairman's bench. The Chairman directed that the meeting be suspended. The meeting resumed at 6:29 pm.)

15. The Chairman informed members with regret that the originally scheduled agenda item on BCA was unable to be discussed at this meeting owing to time constraint.

(Post-meeting note: The Panel met with the Administration and received views from deputations on BCA at the regular meeting on 8 May 2017.)

Action

V. Any other business

16. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:32 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
19 September 2017