

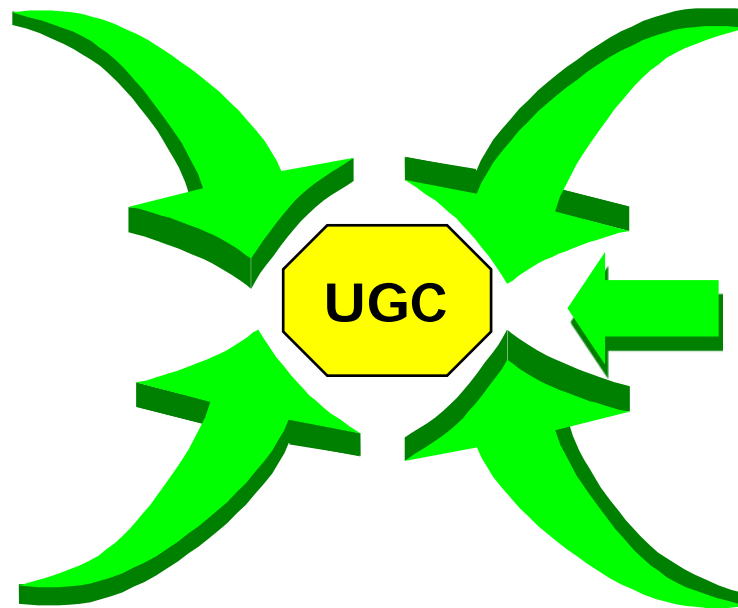
# **Roles of the University Grants Committee**

**10 December 2015**

# Ideas Behind the UGC

**Academic  
freedom**

**Institutional  
autonomy**



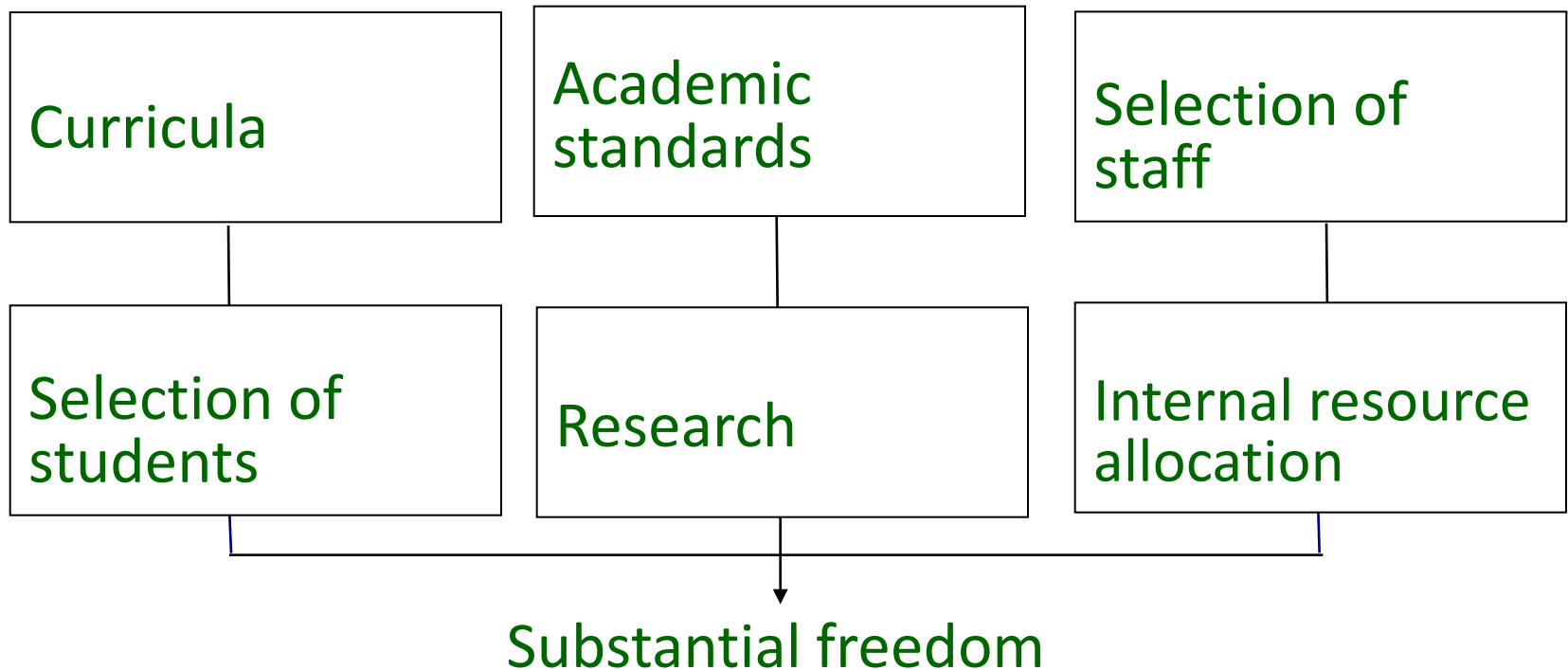
**Public  
accountability**

**Policy driven  
initiatives**

**Value for  
money**

# Institutional Autonomy

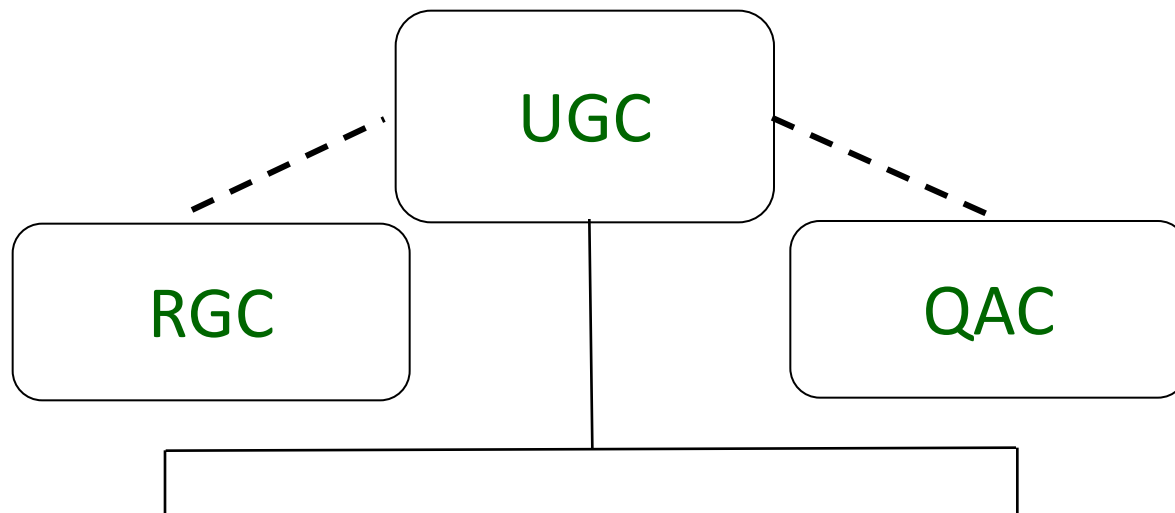
**Institutions are set up under their own Ordinances.  
Institutions (not UGC) control :**



# Terms of Reference

- To keep under review in light of the community's needs for publicly-funded universities and institutions in HK :
  - facilities
  - plans for development
  - financial needs
  
- To advise Government on :
  - applications of funds for education in UGC-funded institutions; and
  - aspects of higher education which the Chief Executive may refer to the UGC

# UGC Structure



Groups to deal with :

- Strategy
- Research policy matters
- General administration
- Communications

- Ad hoc groups as required (HKIEd Development, Academic Development Proposal, Institutions' Financial Affairs)

# UGC Members

- Appointed by the Chief Executive, in their personal capacity
- Local and non-local members, lay members as well as academics

<i>(As at 1 Aug 2015)</i>	Local	Non-local
Academics	6	8
Lay Members	7	N/A

- Members open in giving their independent advice with reference to international standard and practices
- Each UGC Member appointed into different groups/subcommittees

# Characteristics of UGC Funding

- Funding by the triennium (2012-15, 2016-19)
  - Provide, to a large extent, predictability and stability in resources
- Roll-over year (2008/09, 2015/16)
  - Roll-over arrangement: A simple extension of the approved financial arrangements following the preceding funding triennium
- Block grants to institutions
  - Provide maximum flexibility

# Approved/Estimated Grants of UGC-funded Institutions 2015/16 Roll-over Year

	\$M
➤ <b>Recurrent Grants</b> <i>including research portion of block grant : \$4,250 M</i>	<b>17,085</b>
➤ <b>Capital Grants</b>	<b>898</b>



# Sub-Committee under the UGC Advising on Research Matters

# Research Group

## Terms of Reference:

- To advise the UGC on
  - a. the strategy to promote research within the UGC sector
  - b. how it should formulate a strategy in allocating publicly-funded research postgraduate places
  - c. the balance between teaching and research within the UGC-funded institutions and of the whole sector in general

# Research Group

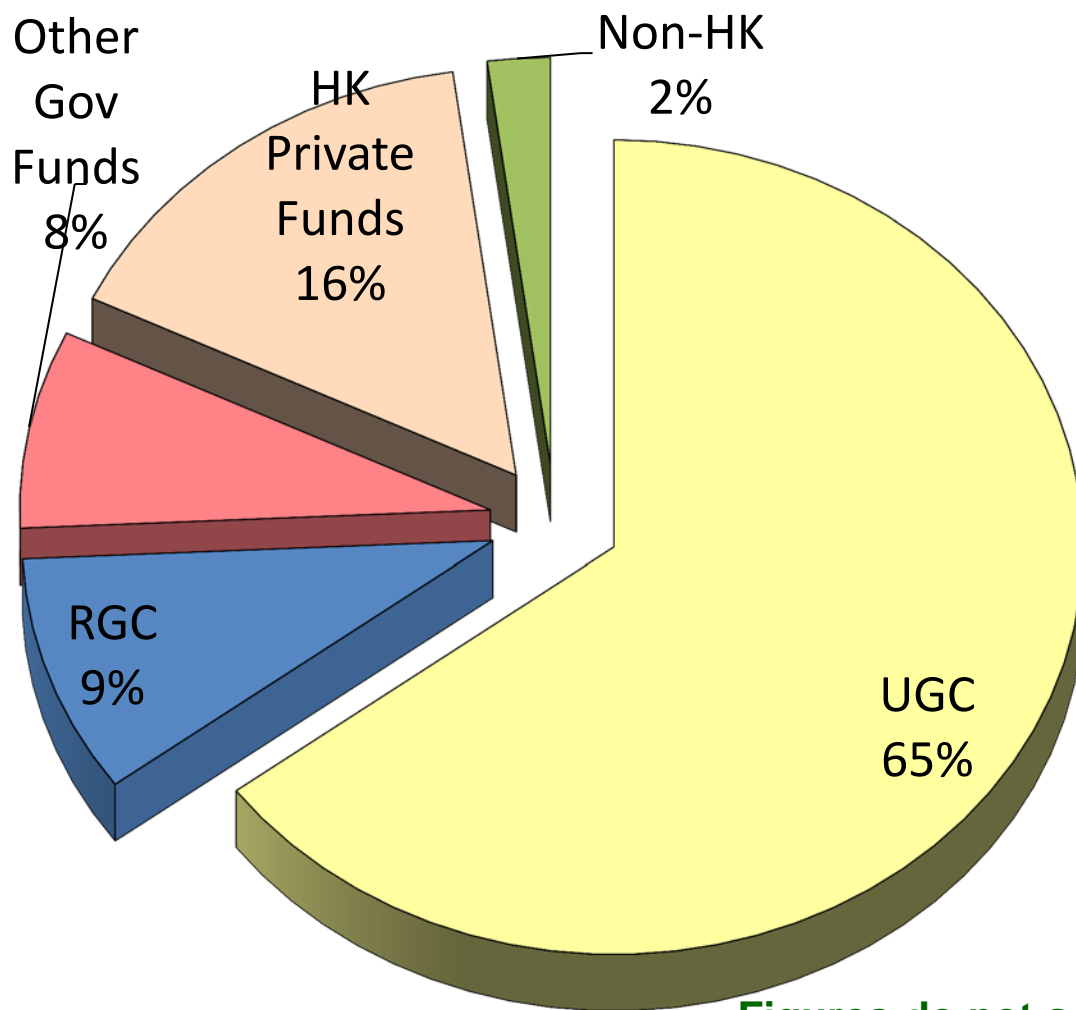
## Members (as at 18 August 2015):

- Local academics (5)
- Non-local academics (4)

# Funding for Academic Research

- The Government provides funding for academic research to the 8 higher education institutions mainly through the University Grants Committee (UGC) and its Research Grants Council (RGC)
- This constitutes the major source of research funding for the 8 institutions, making up about 74% of their total research expenditure

# Research Expenditure of 8 Institutions



**2013/14**

Source of Funding	Amount (HK\$M)
UGC	5,175.2
RGC	755.9
Other Gov Funds	627.7
HK Private Funds	1,253.3
Non-HK	172.0
Total	7,984.2

Figures do not add up to the total due to rounding

# Funding Sources

## UGC Block Grant (Yellow Portion, overseen by UGC)

- Provides research support (e.g. infra-structure, overhead) directly to institutions (about HK\$4.0 billion for 2015/16 roll-over year)  
  
Allocation based on –
  - Results of Research Assessment Exercise
  - Success in obtaining RGC Earmarked Research Grants
- Provides funding for RPg places to institutions and Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (about HK\$1.8 billion for 2015/16 roll-over year)

# Funding Sources (Cont'd)

## Research Endowment Fund (Blue Portion, overseen by RGC)

- Set up in 2009 with HK\$18 billion endowment
- Topped up by HK\$5 billion in 2012/13, of which about \$3 billion is designated for the self-financing degree sector

Sector	Fund	Estimated Investment income per year
UGC-Funded	HK\$20 billion	HK\$1 billion
Self-financing	HK\$3 billion	HK\$150 million

# Thank You