

Welcome to the first issue of the UGC Newswire. It is my belief that stakeholder engagement is essential in this day and age. We can no longer operate behind closed doors, particularly when it comes to matters as important as the development of our higher education sector which is responsible for nurturing our future generation and maintaining the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong. Since I took up the Chairmanship of the University Grants Committee (UGC) in January 2016, I have been involved in a number of consultations and engagement exercises with our stakeholders, including the sector-wide briefing sessions for the universities' council members, the value-for-money audit by the Audit Commission, review of the Research Grants Council, etc. One important thing I have come to realize is that members of the public, including our key stakeholders, know little of what the UGC actually does. It is necessary for us to reach out more. The UGC Newswire is one of the key components of our latest communication plan. Through this newsletter which will be issued on a half-yearly basis, we hope to keep members of the public including our stakeholders regularly updated on the work of the UGC. We will also provide other updates of our work at the UGC website ([www.ugc.edu.hk](http://www.ugc.edu.hk)). I hope you enjoy reading this inaugural issue of the UGC Newswire.



Carlsson TONG, SBS, JP  
Chairman, University Grants Committee  
大學教育資助委員會主席  
唐家成, SBS, JP

歡迎閱讀第一期《教資會快訊》。我一直深信在現今的日子，持份者的參與至關重要。特別是我們處理如高等教育界發展般的重要大事，直接牽繫培育香港下一代人才和維持香港整體競爭力，更不能閉門做車。自2016年1月履任大學教育資助委員會（教資會）主席以來，我參與了不少諮詢工作和接觸持份者的活動，包括為大學校董舉辦的業界分享會、審計署的衡工量值式審計、研究資助局檢討等。我從中有助公眾（包括我們的主要持份者），對教資會所知甚少，故此我們需要更加積極溝通。《教資會快訊》是我們最新傳訊計劃的重點之一，這份半年一度的刊物旨在向公眾包括我們的持份者，適時介紹教資會的最新動態。我們亦會在教資會網站（[www.ugc.edu.hk](http://www.ugc.edu.hk)）匯報其他工作的最新情況。我希望你會喜歡這份《教資會快訊》創刊號。

## OUR WORK

### Establishment of "Research Impact Fund"

### 成立「研究影響基金」

*It is a challenge to measure  
research impact,  
but we will  
face it with confidence.*

To echo one of the policy objectives of the CE's 2017 Policy Address, UGC has decided to set up a pilot competitive research funding scheme called the Research Impact Fund (the Fund) to

為配合行政長官2017年施政報告的政策目標之一，教資會決定以試驗性質設立一個名為研究影響基金（基金）的競逐研究資助計劃，鼓勵本地大學進行更具影響力的研究，並推動與學術界以外的持份者更多合作的機會。

encourage more impactful research and foster more collaborative efforts with stakeholders beyond academia.

如何評估  
研究影響是一項挑戰，  
但我們有信心可以應付。

The ultimate objective of the Fund is to initiate a change in the local research culture by inviting the local academics to consider and articulate the potential of research to deliver benefit for the wider community. As a start, we would allocate an annual sum of \$50 million from the UGC Central Allocation Vote for the implementation of the Fund. The Fund will be administered by the Research Grants Council. A detailed operational framework for launching the Fund will be worked out in the second half of 2017. The first call for proposals is expected to be issued in early 2018.

我們設立基金的最終目的，是改變本地研究文化。我們會要求本地學者在制定研究計劃時，必須考慮和闡明研究計劃的潛力，務求最終為廣泛社會帶來貢獻。作為一個開始，我們每年會從教資會中央撥款撥出5,000萬元推行基金。基金會由研究資助局管理。我們會在2017年下半年制定基金的實施細則。預計基金將於2018年初接受申請。

For more information about the fund 更多有關基金的資料：

[http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/ugc/about/press\\_speech\\_other/press/2017/pr15052017.html](http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/ugc/about/press_speech_other/press/2017/pr15052017.html)

## Review of Research Grants Council (Phase I) 研究資助局檢討（第一階段）

In April 2016, the UGC decided to carry out a review of the RGC. The review is split into two separate phases and a Task Force was set up by the UGC in July 2016 to oversee the Phase I review. It was headed by Prof Rick Rylance, a renowned overseas academic with strong experience in overseas research funding agencies and comprised local and overseas experts of different disciplines. Phase I focuses on the study of portfolio balance of funding schemes, RGC structure and good practice in overseas funding agencies. An external consultant was commissioned to assist the Task Force in the review.

The Task Force concluded that the current system had worked well and kept reasonable pace with comparable jurisdictions. UGC accepts the findings and recommendations of the Task Force; and the RGC and the universities will be consulted on the review report before it is uploaded onto the UGC website. The UGC also plans to engage front-line researchers in a symposium in the second half of 2017.

我們希望是次檢討會為研資局的運作提供新的見解，並協助研資局制定今後的發展方向，以達到更高的成就水平。

教資會於2016年4月決定分兩個階段進行研究資助局（研資局）的檢討。教資會在同年7月成立了專責小組，負責第一階段的檢討工作。專責小組由一位具有豐富海外研究資助機構經驗的知名海外學者Professor Rick Rylance擔任主席，成員包括不同領域的本地及海外專家。第一階段檢討集中於研究資助計劃的組合分配、研資局的架構，以及海外研究資助機構的良好做法。教資會委任了外聘顧問協助專責小組的檢討工作。

*We hope the review will provide new insights into the operation of the RGC and help map out a way forward for the RGC to reach its next level of achievement.*

根據專責小組的總結，研資局現行的制度運作良好，並能緊貼其他可作比較地區的發展。教資會接納專責小組的檢討結果及建議。我們會在諮詢包括研資局和大學等持份者的意見後，發佈整份檢討報告。教資會計劃在2017下半年舉行研討會，邀請前線研究員參與有關討論。



Phase II review, which focuses on RGC's operational matters, will be conducted after the Phase I review.

第二階段檢討將會在第一階段檢討工作完成後展開，並集中探討研資局運作事宜。

## Institutional Governance 院校管治

The UGC strongly believes that good institutional governance underpins the core values of institutional autonomy and academic freedom. With the "Governance in UGC-funded Higher Education Institutions in Hong Kong" (Governance Report) published in March 2016, the UGC, through a task force led by Sir Howard Newby, has been following up the report recommendations in particular the establishment of a written accountability framework. We also conducted the first sector-wide briefing sessions for university council members in January 2017.

*The accountability framework aims to enhance accountability and transparency of universities in their performance and commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of activities.*

We are now working earnestly with the universities in developing the fundamental principles. Overall, there is good progress of the implementation of the report recommendations, including those which are steered by the universities.

問責框架文件旨在提升大學  
在重點領域的問責性及  
透明度，推動大學繼續  
精益求精。

教資會深信良好院校管治鞏固和維護學術自由及院校自主這些核心價值。《香港教資會資助高等教育院校的管治》（《管治報告》）於2016年3月公布後，教資會一直通過由Howard Newby爵士領導的工作小組跟進報告的建議，特別是有關訂立問責框架文件。我們亦於2017年1月首次舉辦了為大學校董會成員而設的業界簡介會。

我們正與大學緊密合作，商討框架的原則。總括而言，在落實報告建議方面，包括其他由大學督導落實的建議，均進展良好。

## ACTIVITY

### Meeting the Media

Mr Carlson Tong, UGC Chairman, Professor Benjamin Wah, RGC Chairman and Dr Richard Armour, UGC Secretary-General met with the media on 15 May 2017 to brief them on the major work of UGC including the establishment of the Research Impact Fund, RGC review and implementation of recommendations of the Governance Report, etc.

教資會主席唐家成先生、研資局主席華雲生教授及教資會秘書長安禮治博士於2017年5月15日會見傳媒，介紹教資會的重點工作包括設立研究影響基金、研資局檢討及跟進管治報告的建議等。

