

Message from UGC Chairman

Happy New Year! In this issue of UGC Newswire, I am very excited to share with you some updates of University Grants Committee (UGC)'s major work.

On 11 January, the UGC was glad to meet the Chief Executive (CE) at Government House to exchange views on the UGC's efforts in nurturing talents and promoting research work in the UGC-funded universities so as to maintain Hong Kong's competitiveness and address the city's strategic needs. We also took the opportunity to express our gratitude for the staunch support and substantial resources the Government had given to the UGC-funded sector in the past year.

CE reiterated that the Government's expenditure on education would be the most meaningful investment for Hong Kong's future and her Administration's commitment to supporting innovation and technology (I&T) development. The CE also expressed confidence that the UGC-funded universities would play a key role in contributing to the development of Hong Kong as a global I&T hub. We shared with her our work in various research initiatives, including the preparatory work for implementing the three new initiatives announced in the 2018 Policy Address to strengthen the research capacity of Hong Kong, i.e. a \$20 billion injection into the Research Endowment Fund and the launch of a \$3 billion Research Matching Grant Scheme, as well as the establishment of three new research fellowship schemes under the Research Grants Council. We also shared with her our initial thoughts on the review of the UGC triennial Planning Exercise.

Looking ahead, both CE and the UGC believed that the Government, the UGC and universities should continue to work in partnership for the better development of Hong Kong and the higher education sector.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the UGC Newswire. If you wish to learn more about the work of the UGC, you are welcome to visit our website (www.ugc.edu.hk).

With Chinese Lunar New Year approaching, may I wish you all good health and many blessings to come in the Year of the Pig!



主席的話

Carlsson TONG, SBS, JP
Chairman, University Grants Committee
大學教育資助委員會主席
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新年快樂！在本期《教資會快訊》，我非常高興與大家分享一些大學教育資助委員會（教資會）重點工作的最新發展。

在1月11日，教資會很高興能在禮賓府與行政長官會面，就教資會在促進各教資會資助大學在培育人才和推動研究以保持香港的競爭力及滿足本港的策略性需要交換意見。我們也藉此感謝政府在去年鼎力支持教資會資助界別和提供了大量資源。

行政長官強調，政府在教育的開支是對香港未來發展最有意義的投資，政府承諾支持創科發展。她亦有信心教資會資助大學會為香港成為國際創科中心發揮關鍵作用。我們與她分享了各項研究方面的工作，包括準備推展在2018年《施政報告》內提出的三項新措施，以提升香港科研能力。三項新措施為向研究基金注資200億元、設立30億元的研究配對補助金計劃，以及研究資助局為研究人員增設三項傑出學者計劃。我們還與她分享了對教資會三年期規劃工作的初步想法。

展望未來，行政長官和教資會均同意，政府、教資會及各大學應繼續合作，共同推動香港和高等教育界的更好發展。

我希望你會喜歡這份《教資會快訊》。你亦可到我們的網站(www.ugc.edu.hk)，進一步了解我們的工作。

農曆新年快臨，我祝各位豬年安康，萬事如意！

OUR WORK

Review Report on Research Policy and Funding

《研究政策及資助檢討報告》

The Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding led by Prof Tsui Lap-chee presented its finalised recommendations in its Review Report for the consideration of the Government in September 2018. The UGC is delighted to note the Government's full acceptance of the recommendations proposed in the Review Report, and welcomes the various new initiatives as announced in the 2018 Policy Address to support the research work of the higher education sector. The Government has committed to injecting \$20 billion into the Research Endowment Fund (REF), proposed to launch a \$3-billion Research Matching Grant Scheme and reserved a recurrent expenditure of \$190 million per annum in support of the Research Grants Council (RGC) to introduce three new recurrent fellowship schemes.

The \$20-billion injection into the REF would provide significant investment return and lift research funding, with a view to attracting and retaining research talent, and furthering the development of research ecosystem in Hong Kong, such that the competitiveness of local higher education sector's research on the international arena would be significantly enhanced. The pioneering 3-billion Research Matching Grant Scheme would proactively motivate the private sector to provide research and development funding and donations for the eight UGC-funded universities as well as other local self-financing degree-awarding institutions. Subject to the Legislative Council (LegCo)'s approval on the funding, this 3-year Scheme will be launched in July 2019.

The three new RGC Fellowship Schemes, namely Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme, RGC Research Fellow Scheme and RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme, will be launched with effect from the 2019/20 academic year, subject to the LegCo's approval on the funding. Regularised fellowship schemes will help attract and retain research talent.

We are encouraged to see the Government's commitment to dedicate such a substantial amount of additional resources to ensure the sustainability of research funding, and provide strong support to the research community. The RGC will continue working closely with the UGC and other stakeholders in driving research excellence for the social and economic benefit of Hong Kong.

徐立之教授領導的檢討研究政策及資助專責小組於2018年9月向政府提交《研究政策及資助檢討報告》，詳列一系列最終建議。教資會欣悉政府全面接納檢討報告提出的建議，並於2018年《施政報告》內提出多項有關支持高等教育界研究工作的新措施，包括向研究基金注資200億元，提出設立30億元的研究配對補助金計劃，以及預留每年約1億9千萬元經常開支，以支持研究資助局(研資局)為研究人員增設三項恆常的傑出學者計劃。

向研究基金注資200億元將賺取可觀的投資收益，有助提供更穩定的研究資金來源，以吸引和挽留人才，及發展本港的科研究生態環境，繼而提高香港高教界的研究在國際上的競爭力。開創性的30億元研究配對補助金計劃能積極推動私營機構，向本地八間教資會資助大學及其他本地自資學位頒授院校提供研發開支和捐款。待立法會批准撥款後，此為期三年的計劃可於2019年7月開展。

新增的三項研資局傑出學者計劃，即博士後獎學金計劃、研資局研究員計劃及研資局高級研究員計劃，將於2019/20學年推行。恆常化的傑出學者計劃，有助吸引和挽留研究人才。

得到政府承諾投入大量新資源，確保研究經費得以持續，為研究界別提供強力的支援，我們實在感到十分鼓舞。研資局將繼續與教資會與其他持份者緊密合作，推動卓越的研究工作，為香港帶來社會及經濟層面的裨益。

Planning Exercise for 2019-22 Triennium

2019-22三年期規劃工作

The UGC adopts a triennial planning cycle in determining the recurrent funding for the UGC-funded sector. Under the triennium planning exercise, the UGC-funded universities will, taking into account a host of factors such as social developments, market demand, relative strengths and the Government's observations on manpower trends of different industries, submit their respective Planning Exercise Proposals and the student number target for each UGC-funded programme for the UGC's consideration.

For the current 2019-22 triennium Planning Exercise, the UGC-funded sector has responded very positively to the Government's appeal to address strategic and manpower needs of Hong Kong. Responding to the challenges brought upon by an aging population and the shortage of healthcare manpower, UGC recommended increasing the number of annual intake for First-Year-First-Degree medical and allied health places by about 150 in the 2019-22 triennium, including medicine, nursing and dentistry, etc. After considering the suggestions from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong and The University of Hong Kong, additional Taught Postgraduate programmes for dentists, clinical psychology and educational psychology will also receive support. In addition, in view of the importance attached by the community to I&T, the universities have proposed cross-disciplinary programmes that would serve Hong Kong's needs, e.g. FinTech, artificial intelligence and data science, etc.

In October 2017, a Task Force was established to examine City University of Hong Kong (CityU)'s latest proposal on the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme. In particular, we focused on whether graduates would be able to practise veterinary medicine upon graduation, and the sustainability of their financial condition. The Task Force was satisfied with CityU's performance and responses to all the concerns raised and supported CityU to introduce a publicly-funded six-year undergraduate programme in Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine starting from 2019/20. Meanwhile, CityU was requested to submit annual progress report for the Task Force's consideration until the programme is fully accredited.

The Executive Council approved the recommended recurrent funding for the 2019-22 triennium by end of last year. The LegCo's Panel on Education also discussed the UGC's recommendation to allocate a total of \$60.47 billion recurrent funding for the 2019-22 triennium to eight UGC-funded universities in early January, which represented an increase of about 13% as compared with that for the previous triennium.

After the 2019-22 triennium funding is approved by the LegCo, the UGC will sign the University Accountability Agreement (UAA) with each university. With the UAA as the basis, the UGC will continue to closely engage the universities by monitoring their development and performance during the triennium to ensure that universities will commit to continuous improvement and public accountability in accordance with their strategic plans.

教資會會以三個學年為一周期，釐定教資會資助界別的經常撥款。在三年期規劃工作下，大學均會按社會發展、市場需求、相對優勢，以及政府對不同行業的人力趨勢的觀察等因素，向教資會提交規劃工作建議書及各教資會資助課程的學生人數指標，以供教資會考慮。

就現正進行的2019-22三年期規劃工作而言，教資會界別積極回應政府的呼籲，協助解決香港的策略和人力需求問題。為應對人口老化帶來的挑戰及不同醫療職系人手短缺的情況，教資會建議在2019-22三年期內每年合共增加約150個第一年學士學位醫療學額，其中包括醫科、護理科、牙醫學等。在積極考慮香港中文大學、香港理工大學和香港大學的建議後，亦會新增牙醫學研究院修課課程的學額，以及增加臨床心理學和教育心理學修課課程的學額。此外，因應社會對創科的重視，各大學也擬議開辦香港需要的跨學科的課程，例如：金融科技，人工智能和數據科學等。

在2017年10月，教資會成立工作小組以審視香港城市大學(城大)最新的獸醫學學士課程建議書，當中我們特別留意若干因素，包括學生畢業後能否從事獸醫工作，以及財政上的可持續性。經檢視後，工作小組對城大在各方面的回應和表現均表示滿意，並支持城大由2019/20學年起開辦教資會資助的六年制獸醫學學士課程。同時，我們亦要求城大在該課程取得全面認證資格前，每年均須提交進度報告，以供工作小組跟進。

行政會議於去年底批准了2019-22三年期的經常撥款建議，立法會教育事務委員會亦已在一月初審議教資會的建議，在2019-22三年期提供合共604.7億元經常撥款給八所教資會資助大學，與上一個三年期比較增加了約13%。

在立法會批准2019-22三年期撥款後，教資會會與各大學簽署大學問責協議。教資會將以有關協議為基礎，監察各大學在三年期內的發展和表現，確保大學依據其策略計劃，致力精益求精，並向公眾問責。

Research Assessment Exercise 2020

The UGC conducts the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) as part of its commitment to assessing the research performance of UGC-funded universities, with the aim to drive excellence and encourage world-class research. The RAE 2020 is the sixth exercise conducted by the UGC since 1993.

The UGC has been developing the implementation details of the exercise in consultation with universities and stakeholders. An open forum was held in July 2018 where the Convenors and Deputy Convenors of assessment panels conducted a dialogue with universities on RAE assessment criteria. Some 460 academics and stakeholders participated in the forum to provide their views in developing the panel guidelines.

With the useful views from academics and stakeholders, the four constitutional documents for the RAE 2020: Framework, Guidance Notes, General Panel Guidelines and Panel-specific Guidelines on Assessment Criteria and Working Methods have been finalised. These documents are now available on the UGC website.

It is the first time that RAE includes research impact as part of the assessment to encourage the conduct of research of broader social relevance and economic and social benefits. The UGC organized a workshop on impact submissions on 14 January 2019 for the UGC-sector and the response from the sector was enthusiastic.

2020年研究評審工作

研究評審工作是教資會評核各資助大學研究表現的其中一環，旨在推動學者追求卓越，鼓勵世界級的研究。2020年的研究評審工作是教資會自1993年以來進行的第六次同類工作。

教資會一直邀請各資助大學及相關持份者參與有關2020年研究評審工作推行細節的擬訂工作。教資會於2018年7月舉行公開論壇，讓各評審小組召集人及副召集人與大學就研究評審工作的評審標準進行交流。是次論壇約有460名學者及持份者出席，就評審標準發表意見。

參考了學者和持份者的寶貴意見，2020年研究評審工作的四份主要文件：框架、指引、評審小組一般工作指引和個別小組評審標準及工作模式指引，均已經落實，並上載到教資會網頁。

是次研究評審工作首次把研究影響納入評審，以鼓勵更多與社會相關、具高經濟及社會效益的研究。教資會於2019年1月14日為教資會界別舉辦了研究影響工作坊，反應踴躍。

Research Grants Council Review

The Review of the RGC is conducted in two phases. The Phase I review was completed in 2017. It focused on macro issues such as the portfolio balance of the research funding schemes, the RGC's structure and good practice in overseas funding agencies.

The task force on the Phase I review concluded that the current system had worked well and kept reasonable pace with comparable jurisdictions. The RGC is following up the recommendations made by the task force, such as enhancing communication and engagement with stakeholders, reviewing the grant assessment processes, etc.

The Phase II review which commenced in 2018 focused on the operational issues of the RGC taking into account relevant recommendations of the Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding led by Prof Tsui Lap-chee.

The RGC has set up a working group and engaged a consultant to conduct the Phase II review. The Phase II review is expected to be completed in 2019. As in the past, universities and institutions will be involved in the course of the Phase II review.

研資局檢討

研資局檢討分兩個階段進行。第一階段檢討已於2017年完成，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。

第一階段檢討的專責小組認為現行制度運作良好，緊貼其他地區的發展。研資局正跟進各項專責小組的建議，例如加強持份者溝通和參與，以及檢討審批資助的程序等。

第二階段檢討已於2018年展開，主要檢討研資局運作事宜，亦會考慮由徐立之教授領導的檢討研究政策及資助專責小組提出與研資局有關的建議。

研資局已成立工作小組及委聘顧問進行檢討工作。第二階段檢討預計於2019年完成。一如以往，我們會邀請大學和院校參與研資局第二階段檢討。

Funding Scheme for the Joint Laboratories between Chinese Academy of Sciences and Hong Kong Universities

中國科學院與本港大學聯合實驗室資助計劃

To inject further impetus into our research community and encourage local talents to collaborate with the Mainland and participate in major research projects, the UGC decided in September 2018 to allocate \$30 million to set up a one-off "Joint Laboratory Funding Scheme". The funding scheme will provide research support to the 22 joint laboratories accredited by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to conduct impactful research.

The funding scheme is administered by the RGC. The RGC will adopt the well-established peer-review mechanism to assess the proposals and allocate funding on a competitive basis. The call for proposals was issued in December 2018. The funding results will be announced in June 2019.

Prof Bai Chunli, President of the CAS and his delegation met the Chairmen of UGC and RGC in November 2018 to exchange views on the new funding scheme and promotion of research collaboration between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

為進一步支持本港學術研究，推動本地專才與內地的科研合作及鼓勵本地學者參與大型研究項目，教資會於2018年9月決定撥款3,000萬元成立一個一次性「聯合實驗室資助計劃」。資助計劃為獲中國科學院（中科院）認可的22個聯合實驗室提供研究資助，以進行有影響力的研究。

資助計劃由研資局管理。一如以往，研資局會以既有的學者評審機制評審建議書，並以競逐形式撥款。計劃於2018年12月開始接受申請。撥款結果將於2019年6月公布。

中科院院長白春禮教授於2018年11月率領代表團與教資會主席和研資局主席會面，就新資助計劃及促進內地與本港的科研合作交換意見。

The Eighth Round of Matching Grant Scheme

第八輪配對補助金計劃

The UGC welcomes the Government's proposal to allocate \$2.5 billion to launch the Eighth Matching Grant Scheme for 10 publicly funded post-secondary education institutions. The Education Bureau consulted the LegCo's Panel on Education on 4 January on the implementation details with a view to launching the scheme in mid-2019.

With the maturing philanthropic culture of the community towards investment in education and the success of the previous rounds of the Matching Grant Scheme, the UGC believes that another round of the scheme will help sustain the momentum for private donations and other sources of funding to support the growth of the institutions.

教資會歡迎政府建議撥款25億元，為十間公帑資助專上教育院校推行第八輪配對補助金計劃。教育局已就計劃細節在1月4日諮詢立法會教育事務委員會，以期在2019年中推行計劃。

現時社會對投資在教育事務方面的捐獻文化越見成熟和鞏固，有見之前數輪配對補助金計劃的成功，教資會相信新一輪計劃將為院校籌募私人捐款及開拓其他經費來源的工作提供新動力，以支持各院校的校務發展。

ACTIVITY

Chief Executive meets UGC members

行政長官與教資會成員會面

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met UGC members at Government House on 11 January 2019 to exchange views on the UGC's efforts in nurturing talents and promoting research work in the funded universities so as to maintain Hong Kong's competitiveness and address the city's strategic needs. She expressed her gratitude to some 20 local and non-local experts on the UGC under the leadership of the Chairman, Mr Carlson Tong, for their valuable advice to the Government on allocation of funding to the funded universities and the strategic development of higher education in Hong Kong. UGC Chairman thanked the Government for its favourable response to the needs of higher education with concrete support and substantial resources for the UGC-funded sector in the past year. The UGC will continue to work closely with the Government, universities and stakeholders to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a leading regional education hub.

行政長官於2019年1月11日在禮賓府與教資會成員會面，就教資會在促進各資助大學在培育人才和推動研究以保持香港的競爭力及滿足本港的策略性需要交換意見。林鄭月娥感謝教資會二十多位海內外專家在唐家成主席領導下，就資助大學的撥款分配，以及香港高等教育的策略性發展向政府提供寶貴意見。教資會主席感謝政府在過去一年，積極回應高等教育所需，向教資會資助界別提供了具體支持和大量資源。教資會將繼續與政府、大學及持份者緊密合作，提升香港作為主要區域教育樞紐的地位。



The Chief Executive (second right) meets members of the UGC at Government House on 11 January.

行政長官（右二）於1月11日在禮賓府與教資會成員會面。



The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam (third right), takes photo with UGC Chairman, Carlson Tong (third left), and Secretary of Education, Mr Kevin Yeung (second right), and the UGC members.

行政長官林鄭月娥（右三）與教資會主席唐家成（左三），教育局局長楊潤雄（右二）及教資會成員合照。

Workshop on Impact Submissions for the Research Assessment Exercise 2020

2020年 研究評審工作 研究影響工作坊

The Workshop on Impact Submissions for the RAE 2020 was held on 14 January 2019. The programme included a meeting with senior management of universities, and presentations and Q&A sessions for university faculty members and other stakeholders. Representatives from the RAE Group (RAEG) of UGC, RAE Consultant and guest speakers gave presentations on the essential elements of impact submissions and shared their experience in the preparation of impact submissions and formulation of impact case studies. The Workshop concluded successfully with some 400 stakeholders' attendance.

2020年研究評審工作研究影響工作坊於2019年1月14日舉行。是次活動包括與大學管理團隊會面，以及有演講及問答環節的學者工作坊。教資會研究評審工作小組代表、研究評審工作顧問及嘉賓講者就2020年研究評審工作中，提交研究影響項目的主要元素作介紹，並就籌備研究影響項目提交的文件和撰寫研究影響個案作經驗分享。是次工作坊共吸引了多達400名學者及持份者出席參加。



Exchange of views between the delegation and senior management of universities.

代表團與大學管理團隊會面及交流。



About 400 academics and stakeholders attended the workshop.

約400名學者及持份者參與是次工作坊。

Workshop on Impact Submissions

14 January 2019



From left to right: Prof Philip Gummert (RAE Consultant), Prof James Tang (Secretary-General of UGC), Prof Benjamin Wah (Deputy Convenor of RAEG), Prof Chris Brink (Convenor of RAEG), Prof Jenny Cheshire, Prof Peter McGuffin and Prof Miles Padgett (guest speakers).

左至右：Philip Gummert 教授 (研究評審工作顧問)、鄧特抗教授 (教資會秘書長)、華雲生教授 (研究評審工作小組副召集人)、Chris Brink 教授 (研究評審工作小組召集人)、Jenny Cheshire 教授、Peter McGuffin 教授及 Miles Padgett 教授 (嘉賓講者)。