

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Executive Summary

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) continues to make use of the over HK\$140 million of Teaching Development and Language Enhancement Grant (TDLEG) in the 2019-22 triennium allocated by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to support its strategic direction and institutional development. In its Plan for the Use of the TDLEG 2019 – 22 and the Mid-Triennium Report for the TDLEG 2019–22, CUHK has articulated the strategic direction, themes and priorities to be supported, funding allocation principles and criteria, establishment of theme-based funding schemes to address the teaching and learning (T&L) needs emerged during the period, as well as updates on the funding usage and project progress respectively. This Triennium-end Final Report for the TDLEG 2019–22 gives a comprehensive summary on the overall achievements of all the initiatives supported by the TDLEG.

The TDLEG, overseen by the university-level committee – Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning, adopts a broad funding allocation that gives flexibility of administration in support of: (i) language enhancement (LE) initiatives among the strategic focus areas of CUHK; (ii) general teaching development initiatives; (iii) worthwhile initiatives resulting from previous UGC funding schemes; (iv) the Course Development Grant Scheme (CDGS); (v) funding schemes that support CUHK’s other strategic development areas such as Internationalisation at Home; and (vi) theme-based funding schemes that support emerging T&L needs such as online learning. The Senate Committee on Language Enhancement and the Subcommittee on Education Technologies of the IT Governance Committee are further delegated the authorities to administer the funding set aside for LE and CDGS.

In response to the comments of the UGC, specific targets on the utilisation of the TDLEG have been laid down. To achieve these targets, efforts have been devoted to promote a wider participation by teachers and students. Clear proposal templates, guidelines and assessment criteria have been developed and workshops conducted to facilitate the application of new potential applicants. Transparent and vigorous approval mechanisms are in place to ensure the approval of quality projects with viable plan and workable timeline only. Experienced members of CUHK are involved to assess proposals against well-defined assessment criteria. Monitoring measures of the TDLEG projects, including withholding a portion of the project funding to be released subject to satisfactory progress, are adopted to ensure high completion rate.

A record high number of 308 projects led by teachers from eight Faculties and 65 Departments/Units/Programmes/Colleges/Offices were funded by the TDLEG 2019-22. The successful implementation clearly demonstrates the positive reception of teachers towards the TDLEG, that they are interested in applying for these resources to support their teaching initiatives. There is also positive impact on pedagogies as positive student feedback on innovative pedagogies and T&L materials is noted in many progress reports. The Principal Supervisors continue to utilise a variety of channels and means to share project deliverables, outcomes and good practices generated by their projects internally, locally and internationally.

The TDLEG 2019-22 has been particularly useful in providing immediate support to teachers and students to tackle issues in face of the pandemic, which started just a few months after the commencement of the triennium, and to facilitate the implementation of virtual teaching and learning during the period. CUHK's smooth switch to online teaching in 2020 can be attributed to the continuing development of eLearning pedagogies, courseware and facilities, many of them were supported by the TDLEG. A Special Funding Scheme for Online Learning was established to offer timely support to teachers and students, which achieved very good results and received encouraging feedback. For example, in a biology laboratory course, videos were produced as a solution to substitute face-to-face classes to demonstrate laboratory skills and replace specimen tours. The adoption of theme-based grant schemes aligns with the strategic goals and directions of the CUHK Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which makes possible pilot studies on major curriculum changes and other enabling strategies in education. CUHK acknowledges the high importance of TDLEG, which has evidently contributed to the achievement of institutional goals.