

Foreword from
the Chairman
主席序言

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It is a privilege for me to present my first Annual Report of the University Grants Committee (UGC) as the Chairman. I am honoured to have been appointed as the Chairman of the UGC earlier this year. I would like to thank our former chairman, Mr Edward Cheng, for his leadership, invaluable guidance and wise counsel to the UGC and have laid a solid foundation for its continuous accomplishments.

Having celebrated its 50th anniversary in September 2015, the UGC continues to stand ready to help our universities in scaling new heights. In fact, the UGC-funded sector has been doing well as evidenced by institutions' international and regional high rankings. The fact that the Education University of Hong Kong recently being recognised as worthy of the university status testifies to the formidable developments of the UGC-funded sector over the years.

Meanwhile, it has also been an eventful year for UGC itself. There have been a lot of discussions on various issues, particularly on governance, research and internationalisation, etc. All these are important tasks for UGC to deal with.

這是我履任大學教育資助委員會（教資會）主席後提交的首份年報。年初，我獲委任為教資會主席，深感榮幸。在此，我先衷心感謝前任主席鄭維新先生領導有方，見識卓越，為教資會奠下堅實的基礎，使教資會取得纍纍碩果。

教資會於2015年9月慶祝成立50周年後，定必繼續積極協助本港各大學再上層樓。事實上，教資會的各所資助院校在國際及區內排名甚高，足證教資會資助界別一直表現卓越。香港教育大學獲授大學名銜，實為教資會資助界別歷年長足發展的明證。

教資會過去一年亦經歷了不少重要事件，並就不同議題展開大量討論，特別是關乎管治、研究及國際化等議題。這些都是教資會需要跟進處理的重要工作。

Governance

Governance of the funded universities has been a topical issue throughout the year. The UGC has always been keenly aware of the importance of robust governance in universities which underpins the core values of institutional autonomy and academic freedom. After completion of the review of the financial governance of universities in 2013, the UGC considered it opportune to look into institutional governance and accepted the invitation of the Education Bureau in December 2013 to conduct a study on governance of UGC-funded universities focusing on the role of the councils.

With the assistance of Sir Howard Newby, the immediate past Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, who has rich experience in university governance and management, we completed the review report. The document entitled "Governance in UGC-funded Higher Education Institutions in Hong Kong" was released on 30 March 2016. We are glad that the Government has endorsed the overall direction and recommendations of the report. Drawing on international good practice, the UGC is confident that the report will help universities reflect on their current practices, enhance the effectiveness and transparency of their governing councils and better equip council members with the necessary knowledge, skills and protocol in the proper discharge of their duties. The UGC has set up a Task Force led by Sir Howard Newby to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations in consultation with the universities. As the inspiring report stresses, the UGC strongly believes that effective governance is the fundamental key to sustain the public confidence in our universities and hence assuring institutional autonomy.

管治

過去一年社會上有不少圍繞資助大學管治問題的討論。教資會一向強調穩健的管治對大學至關重要，對維護院校自主和學術自由這些核心價值所不可或缺。教資會於2013年完成檢討各大學的財務管治後，認為是適當時候探討院校管治事宜，故接受教育局於同年12月的邀請，針對校董會的角色，就教資會資助大學的管治事宜進行研究。

研究報告在Howard Newby爵士襄助下得以順利完成。他是利物浦大學前校長，在大學管治及管理方面饒有經驗。《香港教資會資助高等教育院校的管治》報告於2016年3月30日公布。我們欣悉政府接納報告的整體方向及建議。報告提供了國際上的良好做法，教資會有信心報告有助各大學檢視其現行做法，提升校董會的效能和透明度，並讓校董會成員能更有效掌握其管治角色所需的知識、技巧和規約，從而適當地履行職責。教資會已成立由Howard Newby爵士領導的專責小組，跟進落實報告的建議並會諮詢各大學。一如這份深具啟迪作用的報告所強調，教資會堅信有效管治是使公眾對本港大學維持信心的關鍵，從而確保院校自主。

Research

Universities have always been a major cradle of research and development. Across the world, different jurisdictions rely increasingly on their higher education sector to carry out research in order to meet society's needs and enable industry to flourish, thus enhancing long term competitiveness at the international level. In Hong Kong, research has continuously been nurtured by the UGC and the Research Grants Council (RGC) through the allocation of recurrent grants and competitive research funding schemes. We have laid a solid foundation for research in Hong Kong.

We are constantly aware of the need to improve in order to meet challenges ahead. A review of the RGC will be conducted by phases. The Phase I Review will examine macro issues such as the portfolio balance of the research funding schemes administered by the RGC, the RGC's structure and good practice in overseas funding agencies. The Phase II Review will study operational issues such as the quality of the assessment and monitoring processes conducted by the RGC assessment panels and committees. The outcome of the RGC Review will assist the RGC to formulate a strategic plan to further streamline its operation and enhance its efficiency and effectiveness in the use of competitive research funding.

研究

大學一直是研究和發展的重要搖籃。環顧全球，各國各地均日趨依重其高等教育界別進行研究，以應付社會需要及推動產業蓬勃發展，從而增強本身在國際層面的長遠競爭力。在香港，教資會及研究資助局（研資局）一直通過經常補助金的分配工作及推行競逐研究資助計劃，培育本地的研究發展，為香港的研究工作奠下穩固的基礎。

我們向來知道，只有積極求進，才能應付未來的挑戰。因此，教資會將分階段進行研資局檢討。第一階段將會檢視宏觀事宜，例如研資局所管理的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。第二階段將探討運作事宜，例如研資局轄下評審小組及委員會進行評審和監察程序的質素。研資局檢討工作的結果將有助研資局制訂策略計劃，進一步精簡其運作程序，以及提升在運用競逐研究資助方面的效率和成效。

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning, the other important mission of universities, continue to be central to our endeavours. Apart from quality audits currently underway to ensure systems in place at universities to ensure student learning experience is of good quality, looking forward, we want to encourage universities to consider innovations in teaching and learning. Encouraged by the overwhelming support from the institutions to a tripartite teaching and learning funding scheme in the 2012-15 triennium, and to send a strong signal to the academic community and stakeholders that UGC attaches great importance to teaching and learning, we will launch the Funding Scheme on Teaching and Learning Related Proposals in the 2016-19 Triennium to incentivise universities in exploring and developing further in the sector-wide strategic areas. Internationalisation and student integration at universities, which are also important to enrich students' learning experience and broaden their horizons, will be one of the key themes of the scheme. This coming funding scheme will be able to support projects with a total project cost of about \$200 million.

教與學

教與學是大學另一重要使命，我們一向極為重視。除了為確保各大學設有制度保證學生學習經驗質素良好而正在進行的質素核證外，展望將來，我們亦希望鼓勵大學在教與學方面有所創新。在2012-15的三年期內，我們推出了三方撥款的教與學資助計劃。有見各院校對計劃反應踴躍，並為向學術界和持份者強調教資會對教與學質素的重視，我們將在2016-19的三年期再推出「教與學項目資助計劃」，以推動大學進一步研究及發展涉及整個界別的策略性範疇。計劃的其中一個重要主題是大學國際化與學生融合，這對豐富學生學習經驗及擴闊他們的視野亦非常重要。這項計劃將可資助的項目總經費約為2億元。

Financial Governance

In this day and age, public universities need to be accountable to stakeholders, given the substantial public resources invested in universities and the importance of higher education to the development of society. Universities should thus ensure that their funding is put to appropriate use and serve the best interests of the community and students.

UGC has been working with the universities on enhancing financial transparency in universities, through the work of Financial Affairs Group and Financial Affairs Expert Working Group. The Groups also provide steer on the implementation of the Statement of Recommended Practice for UGC-funded Institutions (the SORP) and the Cost Allocation Guidelines for the UGC-funded and the Non-UGC-funded Activities (the Guidelines) in universities for incorporation of the SORP and Guidelines' requirements in their financial reports by phases by 2018/19. The implementation work has been making excellent progress.

I believe that through the provisions in the SORP and the Guidelines, universities could provide greater assurance to the public that the use and application of public funds is appropriate.

財務管治

由於投放於大學的公眾資源龐大，加上高等教育對社會發展的重要性，今時今日，公帑資助大學須向持份者負責。因此，大學應確保經費用得其所，符合社會和學生的最佳利益。

教資會一直透過財務小組和財務專家工作小組的工作，與各大學合力提升大學的財政透明度。該兩個小組亦主導在大學推行《教資會資助院校的建議準則》(建議準則)和《教資會資助與非教資會資助活動的成本分攤指引》(指引)的工作，以期在2018/19學年或之前分階段將建議準則和指引的規定納入其財務報告。有關的推行工作取得良好進展。

我相信，通過建議準則和指引的規定，大學可加強向公眾保證公帑會得到妥善使用和運用。

Conclusion

The higher education sector in Hong Kong is going through challenging times. It is my view that there is an overriding need to reinforce confidence and stability back into the system. We value greatly the exploration of ideas and knowledge as well as expression of different views, since these are the essential elements of higher education that are important to the development of the younger generation and society as a whole. At the same time, teaching and learning of students is a fundamental mission for universities. It is vital that universities and the academic community do not become distracted but continue to accord high priority to teaching and learning of our younger generation. The UGC-funded universities have been performing very well. As a buffer between the Government and the universities, the UGC, with all the dedicated and distinguished international and local members, will continue to tender independent advice to the Government and facilitate universities in excelling further.

I would like to thank our committee members and the UGC Secretariat team for their support, commitment and hard work over the year. With the continued support from the Government, the UGC and the universities will be able to work together to meet the current challenges and grasp the opportunities to build a brighter and fulfilling collective future for the UGC sector. I look forward to working closely with all stakeholders for an even better higher education sector for Hong Kong.

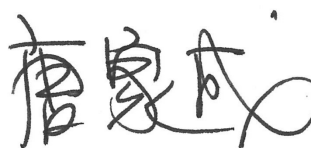


Carlson TONG, SBS, JP
Chairman

結語

香港高等教育界別正面對種種挑戰。我認為此刻最需要的是鞏固信心，使教育體系維持穩定。我們十分重視探索意念和開拓知識，也尊重表達不同意見的自由，蓋因此皆是高等教育的必要元素，對年輕一代以至整個社會的發展都至關重要。同時，教學與學生學習亦是大學的根本使命。重要的是，大學及學術界不偏離使命，繼續以我們年輕一代的教與學為重。教資會資助大學一向表現卓越。教資會在政府與大學之間起着緩衝作用，憑藉一眾傑出敬業的國際和本地委員之助，將一如既往繼續向政府提供獨立意見，並協助大學精益求精，向前邁進。

我要感謝委員及教資會秘書處團隊過去一年全心奉獻的支持，孜孜不倦的努力。在政府繼續支持下，教資會與各大學定能一同應付當前挑戰，把握機遇為教資會界別共創更燦爛堅實的未來。我期望與各持分者緊密合作，使香港高等教育界更臻至善。



主席
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