

Part 6 Conclusions

As agreed by the UGC, even though “Governing Bodies” of Hong Kong Universities could be said to mean more than the council alone, this report is focused on the role of the council. It has not, though, attempted to delve into the detail of all of the various activities which university councils undertake and how they carry them out. Rather, it had focused on a relatively small number of high-level issues, drawing upon international best practice. The recommendations are made in order to bring Hong Kong further into line with international best practice and are achievable and deliverable over a short time span.

Clearly each will need to be considered in relation to the particular context of Hong Kong higher education. The details of implementation will require careful consideration by all of the stakeholders involved. However, progress in the direction indicated in this report will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the governance of the universities in Hong Kong and, most especially, go a long way to sustaining public confidence in their operations.

But good governance is a journey, and with this in mind, the following is recommended:

Recommendation 6

The UGC should undertake a review of university governance on a regular basis, ideally every five years.

This is not a university sector in crisis. On the contrary there are many achievements of the UGC-funded institutions of which the citizens of Hong Kong can be proud. However, in the fast changing and increasingly competitive world of higher education, all institutions need to be agile and innovative in order to adapt to the ever changing circumstances which supported them. Good governance is an essential part of their long-term sustainability and development in today’s world.