

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

(1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006)

Background

1. In November 1999, an ad hoc Steering Committee on Legal Education and Training was established to conduct a comprehensive review of legal education and training. Following that review, the Steering Committee made numerous recommendations, including the extension of the LLB programme from three to four years, and the fundamental restructuring of the PCLL programme. Further details of the work of the Steering Committee and its recommendations are set out in the Steering Committee's Report to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training (without enclosures) (**Annexure A**).

Establishment of the Standing Committee

2. One of the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Legal Education and Training was the establishment of a statutory body with sufficient status and powers to oversee the implementation of the reform of legal education and training and to monitor the future direction of legal education. That body would replace the Advisory Committee on Legal Education.
3. Pursuant to the recommendation, a new section 74A was added to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, Cap 159 ("Ordinance") providing for the establishment of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training and for its functions and membership (**Annexure B**).
4. The first members of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training were appointed in August 2005 for a term of two years.
5. In October 2005, further amendments to the composition of the Standing Committee were made to include two nominees from the Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK"). The two representatives from CUHK joined the Standing Committee in November 2005.
6. The membership of the Standing Committee during the Reporting Period is set out at **Annexure C**.

Reporting period

7. Under section 74A(8) of the Ordinance (Annexure B), the Standing Committee shall report annually to the Chief Executive and its annual report shall be tabled in the Legislative Council.

8. The Standing Committee has resolved that 1 September to 31 August be used as the annual reporting period for the purpose of section 74A(8) of the Ordinance. That period is considered appropriate, since it enables each report to cover an academic year.

Meetings

9. The Standing Committee met on 6 occasions during the reporting period from 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006 (“Reporting Period”).

Matters considered

English language proficiency

10. The comprehensive review of the legal education and training revealed widespread concern about the English language ability of some new entrants to the legal profession. This being so, both the Steering Committee and the Standing Committee decided to give priority to measures that would enhance the English language proficiency of those intending to practise law.
11. At its first meeting in September 2005, the Standing Committee set up a Sub-Committee on English Language Proficiency to carry on the work of a similar sub-committee of the Steering Committee.
12. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee are:
 - (a) to consider if a prescriptive / dispositive IELTS (International English Language Testing System) benchmark should be established for entry to the PCLL from 2006/07 onwards; and
 - (b) to consider whether there is any correlation between the IELTS results and the LLB and PCLL results.
13. A membership list of the Sub-Committee is at **Annexure D**.
14. The Sub-Committee held one meeting during the Reporting Period.
15. The Sub-Committee examined the relevant statistics from the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) and the City University of Hong Kong (“CityU”), namely, the IELTS results of the PCLL students at HKU and CityU for three years from 2003/04 to 2005/06 and the results of the PCLL graduates of 2004/05 with their IELTS scores at the time of admission to the PCLL.
16. The Standing Committee considered a report of the Sub-Committee and approved that:
 - (a) the following policies adopted for the 2004/05 and 2005/06 PCLL be continued for entry to the 2006/07 PCLL onwards:

- (i) the requirement for submission of an IELTS score by applicants seeking entry to the PCLL should be applied irrespective of an applicant's point of origin;
 - (ii) the IELTS results shall be valid for 2 years before the closing date of application for the PCLL;
- (b) a recommendation be made to the PCLL Academic Boards of both universities to endorse and adhere to the "no exemptions" policy in respect of submission of an IELTS score by applicants to the PCLL, and in respect of future admissions to the PCLL, any applicant who has not submitted an IELTS score by the deadline for submitting applications should not be admitted to the PCLL;
 - (c) a prescriptive / dispositive overall IELTS benchmark of 7 be established for entry to the 2006/07 PCLL onwards;
 - (d) the Sub-Committee examine the PCLL results of one further year (that is, 2005/06) with reference to the students' IELTS scores to consider whether a prescriptive / dispositive benchmark for each individual component of IELTS should be established for entry to the 2007/08 PCLL onwards.
17. Members of the Sub-Committee also attended a presentation by the Chief Executive of Cambridge ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) on a new test of legal English, International Legal English Certificate ("ILEC"), in April 2006. The test is not yet formally launched in Hong Kong and there is no local authorised examination centre. Members thus considered it too early to explore further the possibility of ILEC being a benchmark test of English language proficiency in legal education.

Pre-requisites for entry to PCLL

18. As from the 2008/09 academic year, the PCLL will be a skills-based legal practice course, which will involve much less training in substantive law than in the past.
19. In order that entrants to the PCLL can fully benefit from this skills-based course, it is necessary that they should already have acquired knowledge of identified areas of substantive law. The pre-requisites for entry to the PCLL as from 2008/09 will apply to all students, regardless of whether they have obtained a Hong Kong law degree or an overseas legal qualification.
20. At its first meeting in September 2005, the Standing Committee set up a Sub-Committee on Pre-requisites for Entry to PCLL to carry on the work of a similar sub-committee of the Steering Committee. Its task is to consider what the pre-requisite subjects for entry to the PCLL should be and what the requirements on non-local LLB graduates should be with respect to the maintenance of standards in those subjects that carry unique local elements.
21. A membership list of the Sub-Committee is at **Annexure E**.

22. The Sub-Committee held 7 meetings during the Reporting Period.
23. Following the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, the Standing Committee decided that the pre-requisites for entry to the PCLL as from 2008/09 should be the satisfactory completion of eleven core common law subjects and of three Hong Kong specific subjects.
24. Entrants to the PCLL who graduate with a local LLB degree in or after 2008 will have the benefit of a four-year LLB, which will enable them to satisfy the new entry requirements for the PCLL.
25. Entrants to the PCLL who do not have a local LLB degree may not have completed all the pre-requisite courses during their studies. This being so, the Sub-committee has been considering what practical arrangements can be put in place to enable such students to satisfy the entry requirements. The Standing Committee is aware that students are anxious to find out how they can satisfy the pre-requisites and is dealing with this issue as a matter of urgency.
26. In February 2006, the Chairman of the Standing Committee wrote to the heads of overseas law departments, informing them of the pre-requisites for entry to the PCLL as from 2008/09, and asking those heads to inform current and future law students of them (the letter without enclosures at **Annexure F**).

Third law school

27. The Standing Committee has been kept updated on the progress of the establishment of a law school by CUHK through its representatives on the Standing Committee.
28. The Standing Committee provides the various stakeholders a forum for an exchange of views on the planning of the law courses and the timing of the offer of those courses.
29. One of the issues that has been discussed at the Standing Committee was the timing of the introduction of the PCLL by CUHK. Members of the Standing Committee unanimously agreed that CUHK should commence its PCLL in 2008/09, instead of 2007/08 and that the change in the commencement year of the PCLL should not prejudice UGC's funding to CUHK. The views of the Standing Committee have been conveyed to the Chairman of the UGC who has confirmed that the UGC would take them into consideration when deciding the way forward.

Monitoring reforms in HKU and CityU

30. The Standing Committee also monitored the progress of the implementation of reforms in the LLB and PCLL programmes at HKU and CityU. One of the purposes of monitoring is to ensure that the benchmarks set by the Law Society and the Bar Association are fully met, whether by streaming or otherwise. The four-year LLB programmes began in 2004/05 academic year. Reforms to the

PCLL are ongoing, in preparation for the course in 2008/09 which will be skills-based. The Standing Committee had also decided that the statistics on the PCLL results be monitored and that the universities be invited to provide a correlation of the PCLL results and categories of PCLL entrants.

31. Both HKU and CityU submitted annual reports to the Standing Committee for review. The latest reports by HKU and CityU are attached (Annexure G).

Miscellaneous

32. Promotion of an understanding of constitutional issues

The Standing Committee discussed the necessity of promoting an understanding of the different approaches to constitutional questions in Hong Kong and the Mainland. Each of the universities explained the actions taken by it in relation to the teaching of the different approaches to the constitutional questions, which demonstrated that the subject matter had been given an appropriate degree of importance.

The Standing Committee encouraged the universities to continue with their good work in contributing to the promotion of an understanding of the issues.

33. PCLL teaching manpower

Staffing issues have serious impact on the quality of legal education. One of the matters that had been considered by the Standing Committee was the extent to which it should monitor staffing issues in the three universities.

The Standing Committee agreed that it should adopt a broad approach to staffing issues in the three universities with a focus on the overall resources of the three universities in general and that it should examine issues in details when the circumstances warrant a more detailed consideration.

34. PCLL applications

PCLL applicants are required to rank the programmes (PCLLs of HKU and CityU) in order of their preference on the PCLL application forms. It was noted that there have been cases where the applicants applied to both HKU and CityU, but stating conflicting preferences on different application forms (that is, HKU was ranked as the first choice on the HKU application form and yet at the same time, CityU was also ranked as the first choice on the CityU application form).

The Standing Committee was informed that such cases were rare. It nevertheless agreed that HKU and CityU should exchange lists of PCLL applicants on an informal basis with a view to tracing any attempt to provide inconsistent information on the PCLL application forms and that warnings be included in the application forms to highlight the consequences of providing inconsistent information.

Overall Position

35. During the Reporting Period, the Standing Committee was generally satisfied with the steps being taken to implement reforms on legal education and training. This is, however, an ongoing process and much further work remains to be done. Members of the Standing Committee consider that its meetings, and the meetings of its sub-committees, provide a useful forum in which members of the legal professional bodies, law teachers, and other interested parties can address issues of mutual concern in a constructive and collaborative manner.

Author: Heidi Chu
Secretary to the Standing Committee
on Legal Education and Training

Members of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

Mr Bob Allcock – Chairman

Mr Edward Chan SC

Professor Johannes Chan SC

Ms Pamela Chan

The Hon Mr Justice Patrick Chan

Mr Graham Cheng

Ms Lena Chi

Mr Wilson Chow

Professor Anton Cooray (ceased to be a member in August 2006)

Ms Bronwyn Davies

Mr Warren Ganesh (joined in August 2006)

Mr Lester Huang

Professor Elsa Kelly (joined in November 2005)

Mr Kenneth Kwok SC (joined in November 2005)

Ms Charmaine Lee (joined in January 2006)

Professor Peter Malanczuk

Professor Mike McConville (joined in November 2005)

The Hon Mr Justice Azizul Rahman Suffiad

Mr Wong Yan Lung SC (ceased to be a member in October 2005)

Mr Dieter Yih

Ms Irene Young (ceased to be a member in November 2005)

.97039 (#327815 v3)

Annexure A

Annexure A

Standing Committee on
Legal Education and Training
7 September 2005

REPORT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Report of the Steering Committee on the Review of Legal Education
and Training in Hong Kong

Establishment of the Steering Committee

1. A comprehensive review of legal education and training had been recommended to the Chief Executive by the Advisory Committee on Legal Education (now replaced by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training) in April 1998.
2. Following the approval of government funding for the recommended review, a Steering Committee was established in November 1999 under the chairmanship of the Solicitor General comprising representatives of the Law Society, the Bar Association, the University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, the Judiciary Administrator and the Government, as well as lay member representatives of the public to plan, organise and steer the conduct of the review, which it was decided would be conducted in two stages.
3. The Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee are at Annexure 1.
4. The current composition of the Steering Committee is set out at Annexure 2.

Matters reviewed by the Steering Committee

5. Since its establishment in November 1999, the Steering Committee has held a total of 37 meetings.
 - (a) **First stage of the review on legal education and training**

The first stage of the review commenced in early December 1999 with the appointment of two overseas consultants, Mr Christopher Roper and Professor Paul Redmond.

The Steering Committee monitored and facilitated the work of the consultants in the preparation of their report and recommendations.

After the release of the Report on Legal Education and Training: Preliminary Review in August 2001, the Steering Committee received and reviewed written submissions on the Report from stakeholders and others. Specific major issues covered by the Steering Committee include:

- (i) The availability of additional funding from the UGC to enable

necessary reforms to the LLB and the PCLL programmes to be implemented;

- (ii) The establishment of a standing umbrella body with sufficient status and powers to carry on the momentum of reform of legal education and training in a timely manner, to monitor the effectiveness of the reforms and to take alternative action, if necessary;
- (iii) The establishment of an academic board at each of the two universities;
- (iv) The extension of the LLB programme to 4 years commencing from 2004;
- (v) Measures to improve English and Chinese language standards of law students;
- (vi) The proposed reforms to the LLB and PCLL programmes by the University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong;
- (vii) The introduction of a part-time PCLL programme at HKU in 2005/6;
- (viii) The offer of a Juris Doctor Programme by CityU in 2004/5;
- (ix) The proposed establishment of a third law school by the Chinese University.

(b) Sub-Committee on English Language Proficiency

In March 2002, the Steering Committee set up a Sub-Committee on English Language Proficiency to investigate existing tests of English language proficiency and the possibility of creating a tailor-made test in Hong Kong for law students seeking entry to the PCLL. The composition of the Sub-Committee is attached at Annexure 3.

In July 2002, the Steering Committee endorsed the Sub-Committee's recommendation to adopt the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as a benchmark test for entry to the PCLL.

The Sub-Committee then examined the IELTS scores of applicants seeking entry to the PCLL in 2003/4 and 2004/5 respectively. The Steering Committee endorsed the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee which were implemented for entry to the PCLL in 2004/5 and 2005/6:

- (i) the requirement for submission of an International English Language Testing System ("IELTS") score by applicants seeking entry to the PCLL should be continued and applied irrespective of an applicant's point of origin;
- (ii) the "no exemptions" policy in respect of submission of an IELTS score

by applicants to the PCLL should be adhered to, and in respect of future admissions to the PCLL, any applicant who has not submitted an IELTS score by the deadline for submitting applications should not be admitted to the PCLL;

- (iii) a prescriptive/dispositive IELTS benchmark for entry to the PCLL should not be established; but rather, a recommended IELTS benchmark should be established;
- (iv) the recommended benchmark for the overall IELTS score for entry to the PCLL should be 7; and
- (v) it is not necessary to establish a recommended benchmark for each individual component of IELTS.

The Steering Committee also approved the Sub-Committee's recommendations that:

- (i) a prescriptive /dispositive overall IELTS benchmark of 7 be established for entry to the 2006/7 PCLL onwards;
- (ii) the Sub-Committee will examine one further year's IELTS scores (that is for entry to 2005/6 PCLL) and consider whether to further recommend a prescriptive/dispositive benchmark for each individual component of IELTS for entry to the 2006/7 PCLL.

Extracts of the relevant minutes and memorandum are attached at **Annexure 4**.

(c) Sub-Committee on Pre-requisites for Entry to PCLL

The Steering Committee also set up a Sub-Committee on Pre-requisites for Entry to PCLL in April 2004. The composition of the Sub-Committee is at **Annexure 5**. The Steering Committee resolved that the Sub-Committee take into account in its deliberations the following matters which had been agreed:

- (i) there should be a Conversion examination;
- (ii) there could be multiple providers, including overseas providers, for courses on the pre-requisite subjects for entry to the PCLL;
- (iii) a centralised body should be established to vet the courses that may be recognised for the purposes of the examination, or for exemption from the examination;
- (iv) there is a strong preference that the centralised body should be under the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training, the successor to the Steering Committee;

- (v) necessary powers will be delegated to the centralised body in accordance with the relevant regulations of the PCLL providers to enable it to carry out its task;
- (vi) in considering the content of each pre-requisite subject, the sub-committee should specify how the content is to be divided between the Conversion course and the PCLL course.

The Sub-Committee had prepared an interim report and identified the difficulty in formulating a common conversion syllabus. Guidance was sought from the Steering Committee as to the way forward. It was agreed that the two universities should each provide a conversion course that would ensure that overseas students had the pre-requisites for entry to the PCLL of that university. The Sub-Committee is working on the basis of such an approach. Since the conversion requirement will have an impact on the JD programme to be offered by the Chinese University, a representative from the Chinese University has been co-opted to the Sub-Committee.

(d) The third law school by Chinese University

The Steering Committee reviewed the proposal by Chinese University to set up a new School of Law. The relevant minute is at Annexure 6. In response to a request for further information about its proposal to set up a third law school, the Chinese University invited members of the Steering Committee to attend a briefing at its campus on 21 May 2004 and started an exchange of views.

The Steering Committee has also made a proposal to include representatives of the Chinese University on the Standing Committee on legal education and Training under section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance. The Ordinance has been amended accordingly (Annexure 7), but has not come into operation yet.

(e) Second stage of the review

In respect of the second stage of the review, the Steering Committee resolved in January 2002 that in view of the progress, it has no current plans for a second stage of review to be undertaken as originally planned. An extract of the minutes is attached at Annexure 8.

Outstanding tasks to be taken over by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

6. Outstanding tasks that have to be taken over by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training include the following:
 - (a) deal with matters arising from the last meeting of the Steering Committee including the proposed exemption from the requirement to study financial accounting on the PCLL and the reports on overseas lawyers qualification

examinations by the Law Society and the Bar Association;

- (b) monitor the reforms of LLB and PCLL at both universities;
 - (c) appoint representatives from the School of Law of the Chinese University to the Standing Committee;
 - (d) continue the work of the Steering Committee's Sub-Committee on English Language Proficiency to review the IELTS results for the year 2005/06;
 - (e) continue the work of the Steering Committee's Sub-Committee on Pre-requisites for Entry to the PCLL.
7. The Standing Committee may wish to consider how to take over the work of the Steering Committee and its priorities. The draft minutes of the last meeting of the Steering Committee held on 7 March 2005 are attached at Annexure 9 for members' information.

Author: Heidi Chu
Secretary to the Steering Committee
on the Review of Legal Education and Training

Steering Committee on the Review of Legal Education and Training

Mr Bob Allcock – Chairman	Mr Edward Chan SC
Professor Johannes Chan SC	Ms Pamela Chan
Mr Graham Cheng	Ms Heidi Chu
Ms Bronwyn Davies	Ms Myrette Fok
Mr Lester Huang	Mr Harry Mak
Professor Peter Malanczuk	Mr Patrick Moss
Professor Michael Wilkinson	Ms Vega Wong
Mr Wong Yan Lung SC	Ms Irene Young

Doc.81124

Annexure B

PART VIII

GENERAL

74A. Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

- (1) There is established by this section a Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training.
- (2) The functions of the committee are-
 - (a) to keep under review, evaluate and assess-
 - (i) the system and provision of legal education and training in Hong Kong;
 - (ii) without prejudice to the generality of subparagraph (i), the academic requirements and standards for admission to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws programme;
 - (b) to monitor the provision of vocational training of prospective legal practitioners in Hong Kong by organizations other than the Society or the Hong Kong Bar Association;
 - (c) to make recommendations on matters referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b); and
 - (d) to collect and disseminate information concerning the system of legal education and training in Hong Kong.
- (3) The committee shall consist of-
 - (a) 7 members appointed by the Chief Executive of whom-
 - (i) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Chief Justice;
 - (ii) 1 shall be a person nominated by the Secretary for Justice;
1 shall be a person nominated by the Secretary for Education and Manpower;
2 shall be persons nominated by the Society;
 - (v) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Hong Kong Bar Association;
2 shall be persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong;
2 shall be persons nominated by the President of the City University of Hong Kong;
2 shall be persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong;
2 shall be members of the public; and
1 shall be a person nominated by The Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions, a non-profit-making educational organization, from among its members which provide continuing legal education courses in Hong Kong; and
 - (b) a chairman appointed by the Chief Executive after consultation with the persons and organizations making nominations pursuant to paragraph (a)(i) to (vii) and (ix).

- (4) A member of the committee who is unable to attend a meeting of the committee, except for a member appointed pursuant to subsection (3)(a)(viii), may, subject to the consent of the chairman, send a substitute to attend the meeting in his place and the substitute shall be deemed to be a member of the committee for the purpose of that meeting.
- (5) A member of the committee including the chairman shall hold office for a term not exceeding 2 years.
- (6) A member of the committee including the chairman may at any time resign from the committee by giving notice in writing of his resignation to the Chief Executive.
- (7) The Secretary for Justice may publish notice of the appointment or termination of membership of a member (including the chairman) appointed pursuant to this section in the Gazette.
- (8) The committee shall report annually to the Chief Executive and its annual report shall be tabled in the Legislative Council.
- (9) The committee may determine its own procedure.

Annexure C

Annexure C

Membership of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

Mr Bob Allcock	Solicitor General, Department of Justice (Chairman)
Mr Edward Chan, SC	The Hong Kong Bar Association
Professor Johannes Chan SC	The University of Hong Kong
Ms Pamela Chan	Member of the public
The Hon Mr Justice Patrick Chan	The Judiciary
Mr Graham Cheng	Member of the public
Ms Lena Chi	Department of Justice
Mr Wilson Chow	The University of Hong Kong
Professor Anton Cooray	The City University of Hong Kong (ceased to be a member in August 2006)
Ms Bronwyn Davies	The Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions
Mr Warren Ganesh	The City University of Hong Kong (joined in August 2006)
Mr Lester Huang	The Law Society of Hong Kong
Professor Elsa Kelly	The Chinese University of Hong Kong (joined in November 2005)
Mr Kenneth Kwok SC	The Hong Kong Bar Association (joined in November 2005)
Ms Charmaine Lee	Education and Manpower Bureau (joined in January 2006)
Professor Peter Malanczuk	The City University of Hong Kong
Professor Mike McConville	The Chinese University of Hong Kong (joined in November 2005)
The Hon Mr Justice Azizul Rahman Suffiad	The Judiciary
Mr Wong Yan Lung SC	The Hong Kong Bar Association (ceased to be a member in October 2005)
Mr Dieter Yih	The Law Society of Hong Kong
Ms Irene Young	Education and Manpower Bureau (ceased to be a member in November 2005)
<u>Secretary</u>	
Ms Heidi Chu	The Law Society of Hong Kong

Annexure D

Membership of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training: English Language Proficiency

Mr Lester Huang (Chairman)	The Law Society of Hong Kong
Ms Bronwyn Davies	The Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions
Dr Lin Feng	The City University of Hong Kong (ceased to be a member in March 2006)
Mr Stephane Hui Bon Hoa	The University of Hong Kong
Mr Kenneth Kwok SC	The Hong Kong Bar Association
Ms Nancy Leung	The City University of Hong Kong (joined in March 2006)
<u>Secretary</u>	
Ms Heidi Chu	The Law Society of Hong Kong

Annexure E

Annexure E

Membership of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training: Pre-requisites for Entry to the PCLL

Mr Lester Huang (Chairman)	The Law Society of Hong Kong
Mr Edward Chan, SC	The Hong Kong Bar Association (joined in November 2005)
Professor Johannes Chan SC	The University of Hong Kong
Professor Anton Cooray	The City University of Hong Kong
Ms Bronwyn Davies	The Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions
Professor Elsa Kelly	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
The Hon Mr Justice Azizul Rahman Suffiad	The Judiciary
Mr Wong Yan Lung SC	The Hong Kong Bar Association (ceased to be a member in October 2005)
<u>Secretary</u>	
Ms Heidi Chu	The Law Society of Hong Kong

Annexure F

法律政策專員辦公室
律政司
法律政策科

香港金鐘道政府合署
圖文傳真：852-2501 0371
電話號碼：852-2867 2003
網址：www.dof.gov.hk



Annexure F
Office of the Solicitor-General
Department of Justice
Legal Policy Division

Queensway Government Offices
Hong Kong
Fax: 852-2501 0371
Tel.: 852-2867 2003
Web site: www.dof.gov.hk

本司檔號 Our Ref.: LP 5033/10/4 Pt. 7

20 February 2006

«SchoolFaculty»
«University»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»
«Address_3»

Dear Head of Department,

**Entry to the Legal Profession in Hong Kong :
pre-requisites for admission to the
Postgraduate Certificate in Laws ('PCLL')**

I write to inform you of changes that will take place, starting in the 2008-09 academic year, in respect of admission to Hong Kong's PCLL.

The PCLL

The PCLL is the professional training course for law graduates who wish to qualify as a solicitor or barrister in Hong Kong. A person holding the PCLL is eligible to become a trainee solicitor or to enter into pupillage here. Courses leading to the PCLL are currently offered by the University of Hong Kong and the City University of Hong Kong. The Chinese University will also be introducing a PCLL course.

Reforms in legal education

Following a comprehensive review of legal education and training in Hong Kong, substantial reforms are now taking place. In particular, as from the academic year 2004-05, the LLB at Hong Kong universities has been extended from three to four years. The PCLL is also being reformed by drastically reducing the amount of substantive law that is taught, and increasing the amount of practical training.

The academic year 2008-09 is significant, since that will be the first year in which local law graduates will have obtained a four-year LLB and, as a result, the first year in which the reforms to the PCLL will be fully implemented.

Implications for admission to the PCLL

In order to be prepared for, and eligible for admission to, PCLL courses in 2008-09 and subsequent years, all students will need to have satisfactorily completed courses in the following *core subjects* –

Contract
Tort
Constitutional Law
Criminal Law
Land Law
Equity
Civil Procedure
Criminal Procedure
Evidence
Business Associations
Commercial Law

The satisfactory completion of courses in these subjects in institutions other than Hong Kong universities will be regarded as fulfilling this requirement, provided that the syllabuses for those courses are substantially similar to those prescribed at Hong Kong universities. I attach (at annex 1) the prescribed syllabuses for the last five of the courses listed above. Please note, however, that the details of these may be varied from time to time.

If a student has passed only a part of a prescribed course (e.g. one out of three of the elements of Commercial Law), he or she may be required to pass the remaining part.

In addition to passing the above core courses, students who have not passed the following subjects at a university course in Hong Kong will need to have passed recognized examinations in them. These are known as the *top-up subjects*. They are –

Hong Kong Constitutional Law
Hong Kong Legal System
Hong Kong Land Law

Syllabuses for these subjects are at annex 2. Again, they may be subject to variation from time to time.

Aim, depth and duration of studies

The requirement in respect of *core subjects* is intended to ensure that all entrants to the PCLL have studied the prescribed subjects in the same depth; that the teaching of the courses is at the level of a rigorous university degree; and that each course has at least as many hours of teaching as the equivalent course at a university in Hong Kong.

In contrast, the requirement in respect of *top-up subjects* is intended to address specific deficits in Hong Kong legal knowledge and skills required for entry to the PCLL; and the depth and duration of study should be whatever is required to address those deficits.

Practical arrangements

It will be necessary for all graduates who do not have a Hong Kong law degree to take the top-up subjects. In addition, we expect that some students will need to take one or more core subjects. Work is still being carried out in respect of many practical arrangements. These include —

- (a) the mode and timing of delivery of courses for core and top-up subjects
- (b) the mode of assessment
- (c) exemption from taking the courses
- (d) the course providers.

I will notify you as soon as these issues are resolved.

Informing law students

I would be most grateful if you would take steps to inform current and future law students of these arrangements. Those students who come from Hong Kong are most likely to be affected, but it is also possible that other students will wish to take the PCLL in Hong Kong.

Courses being offered

Given the requirements set out above, you may wish to consider whether you wish to amend any of your existing courses, or provide new courses, so that students will be able to satisfy more of the requirements. This, of course, is a matter entirely for you.

Further information

Further information on PCLL courses can be found on the websites of the three Hong Kong universities that offer, or plan to offer, that course. The websites are –

University of Hong Kong

<http://www.hku.hk/pcll/>

City University of Hong Kong

<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/cityu/dpt-acad/slw.htm>

Chinese University of Hong Kong

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/law/pcll.html>

Yours sincerely,



(Bob Allcock)
Chairman of the Standing Committee
on Legal Education and Training

bcc : Ms Heidi Chu ←

#324014

Annexure G

LLB Status Report
The University of Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong

Department of Law

Head's Report to the Standing Committee On Legal Education and Training

September 2006

I enclose an update on the undergraduate law programme at the University of Hong Kong, reviewing both the past year, 2005-06, and also looking forward to the next, 2006-07.

In general terms, the undergraduate programme has managed to retain its traditional strengths while evolving to meet the pedagogical and resource challenges involved in implementing the remaining years of the new four year LLB curriculum.

Admission 2006-2007

This year we expect to admit approximately 105 regular LLB students, marginally fewer than last year, comprising 42 through the JUPAS system, 38 through our Faculty's non-JUPAS admission process (including 13 Early Round admissions), 19 through the Early Admission System for Form Six students (including 2 non-JUPAS EAS students), and 6 through mainland recruitment (down from 15 last year). Of the students entering the LLB through the non-JUPAS process, 5 already hold an undergraduate degree and will follow the "fast-track LLB" option (enabling them to obtain their LLB degree in only three years).

In addition, a further 135 students have been admitted to the three mixed degree programmes leading to an LLB after five years of study (BBA (Law) - 74; BSocSc(Govt & Laws) - 46; and BEng(CivE-Law) - 15). Following last year's pattern, the number of undergraduate law students admitted to the Department of Law as mixed degree students

(undertaking 5 years of study (3 + 2)) exceeds the number admitted as regular LLB students (requiring four years).

The relative quality of our admitted JUPAS students remains high, particularly in their Use of English results. In terms of average ALE scores, the regular LLB and the three mixed degree programmes continue to rank among the top 10 programmes in the university. The English achievements of our students remain at either A or B level. We have also been successful in attracting many top echelons of students achieving at least 6 As or above in their O-level exam through the Early Admission Scheme.

Exchange / Visiting Students

In addition to the admission of regular LLB students, we have seen an expansion over the last year in the number of foreign exchange and visiting students coming to HKU to study law in the Faculty of Law. Approximately 70 such students will be undertaking legal studies at HKU during the first semester of 2006-07, with a similar number expected for the second semester. This sudden expansion in in-coming students reflects the University of Hong Kong's ambition to enhance its international student body. These students, from many different regions (including the PRC, North America (both USA and Canada), United Kingdom (mostly England), Europe and Scandinavia, and Australasia), have presented the Faculty with a variety of administrative problems (eg. late course enrolment, early examinations, etc), but have generally been a welcome addition to the student body. They have provided an enlivening contribution to the intellectual environment in our law classes, and have also fostered greater opportunities for our own students to interact in English with their peers from elsewhere.

The New Curricula

Two significant points in introducing the new curricula have been reached this year.

(a) Expansion of student numbers across whole of first two foundational years

In 2006-07, mixed degree students will be entering their third year of studies, resulting in increased student numbers across all compulsory first and second year LLB courses. This will lead to further substantial increases in teaching resources dedicated to the compulsory LLB foundational year courses, since the number of tutorials required to meet

our commitment to small group teaching in the first two years has swelled in most courses from approximately 12-14 tutorials per course in 2003-04, to 19-21 tutorials per course for 2006-07. We anticipate that student numbers across our foundational year courses, and the teaching resources required to meet them, should now stabilize for the foreseeable future, unless the number of students admitted to either our LLB degree or the three mixed degree programmes were to increase substantially. This will enable us to concentrate on ensuring we are meeting the learning needs of our new students, and thereby enhance the effectiveness of the learning opportunities created by small group teaching.

(b) Introduction of Upper Years curriculum

Secondly, students who commenced the new four year LLB curriculum in 2004-05 are now entering their third year of study. As reported last year, this involves a move from the first two largely compulsory foundational years to the more open-ended 'Upper Years Curriculum', bringing with it greater student choice. As a result, as foreshadowed in last year's Report, we took the step during the past academic year of forward planning our teaching over the next two academic years (2006-07 and 2007-08) so that students entering their third year could in turn plan their overall course selection for the next two years more effectively and with some degree of certainty. This has enabled students entering the Upper Years of the LLB curriculum to plan how best to use their electives over the next two years to achieve their preferred curriculum, whether it includes PCLL admission requirements, courses within a law specialization, courses within a non-law minor, or simply non-law courses. This has also enhanced the ability of our students to plan and apply for exchange study, whether for a full year or single semester during the course of their third or fourth years.

This year we will also, for the first time, be offering core "PCLL courses" (Criminal Procedure, Land Law III (Conveyancing)) within the LLB teaching programme. This is one of the key legal education reforms adopted after the Review of Legal Education. For the next two years, the teaching of these courses (and also Civil Procedure) will be largely conducted by PLE teachers.

For the time being we also retain a small cohort of students admitted to our undergraduate programmes under the previous curriculum, and these students (mostly comprising those admitted to the mixed degree programmes) are now entering their fourth and final year leading to completion of their LLB degree.

Enhancing English and Legal Communication Skills

Over the past year, we have successfully introduced the final two components of our enhanced Legal Research and Writing programme, LRW IV and LRW V. Together with the original three components, we now offer a systematic progression of skills based courses, involving a mixture of teaching and exercises.

In addition, we have recruited an Assistant Director of LRW to help with the organization, teaching and marking of the five LRW courses. Given the growth in student numbers taking LRW I – V, and the additional increase that will occur as mixed degree students enter their third year and take LRW IV and V, we are still actively looking for a second Assistant Director.

The English Centre has continued to contribute to the enhancement of our students' English abilities through its compulsory second semester course 'Writing Solutions to Legal Problems'. English Centre staff will also be continuing to set and administer an English writing pre-test and post-test to all students in the LRW I course during the first semester of the 2006-2007 academic year, with a view to identifying students whose language skills place them 'at risk' (i.e. having language adaptation difficulties and require supplementary tuition), and offering them a 20-hour English for Legal Study intensive course run by the English Centre.

In addition, the English Centre has continued developing and promoting several online resources designed by it to promote greater law student autonomy in their efforts to improve their English.

Specializations and Minors

As mentioned above, students entering the Upper Years of their LLB studies (for LLB students, years 3 and 4; for mixed degree students, years 4 and 5) have the opportunity of using their electives either to take a structured set of law courses falling within a particular area of specialization, or taking courses with a view towards acquiring a minor designation in a non-law discipline. This year, we have been able to offer students a set of courses over the next two years which will lead to the "Commercial, corporate and financial law" specialization. We are also offering some courses in 2006-07 leading towards the "Chinese law" specialization and hope to be able to offer enough additional

courses in 2007-08 to enable students to obtain this specialization. For the time being, we do not expect to be able to offer enough courses to earn the third specialization in "International trade and economic law", but hope to be able to do so in the near future once additional academic staff with expertise in this area are recruited.

Minor in Legal Studies

In my previous report I recorded the introduction of a Minor in Legal Studies (available to undergraduate students in the Faculty of Social Sciences). There has been some interest in this Minor this year, but figures are not presently available. We see this particular programme as a significant development, since we expect it to provide a model for future development of introductory legal studies within HKU's expanded 3+3+4 four year degree model.

International Mooting and Other Competitions

We have continued to develop opportunities for our students to go abroad to participate in international mooting and other competitions. During 2005-2006, our successes included :

- Winning the prestigious 2006 Baxter Prize for the Best Applicant's Memorial at the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition;
- Selection for participation in the IP Moot at Oxford;
- Invitation to participate in the oral round of the 2006 Asia Cup Moot sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan;
- Third (out of 18) in the International Client Counselling Competition in Cardiff;
- Finalist in the Red Cross Mooting Competition;
- 2nd in the Asia Regional Round of the ELSA WTO Dispute Settlement Moot Court Competition in Taiwan.

Over 100 students tried out for teams during 2005-06, with 30 students eventually being selected.

For 2006-07, we expect the number of participating students to increase to around 34 spreading over 10 international competitions, including :

- a. Red Cross (Hong Kong – March 2007)
- b. Jessup (Washington – March 2007)

-
- c. Vis East (Hong Kong – March 2007)
 - d. Vis (Vienna – March-April 2007)
 - e. ICCA (Austr – April 2007)
 - f. Oxford IP (Oxford – April 2007)
 - g. WTO (Geneva – April 2007)
 - h. LAWASIA (Hong Kong – June 2007)
 - i. Asia Cup (Toyko – Aug 2007)
 - j. International Maritime Arbitration Moot (Melbourne – July 2007).

An innovative on-line portal, iMoot@hku, has been set up to help in the on-going administration of our extensive international mooting programme.

In addition, in June 2007, Hong Kong will be hosting the LAWASIA moot for the first time and HKU will be organizing it. We are hiring a new full-time Mooting Administrator who will help organize this competition and other matters related to the both external and internal mooting programmes.

IELTS

In anticipation of the PCLL admission requirements, more and more undergraduate students are taking the IELTS. This year it was reported that 4 students in Hong Kong achieving the full score of 9. 3 of them are our LLB students and the 4th one is a BBA (law) student. As noted above, the English standard of our 1st year admission stands at a very high level.

Staffing

In my previous Report I noted the challenges confronted by the Department in supplying the additional teaching resources required to meet the projected substantial increase in student numbers for foundational courses under the new undergraduate curriculum. Fortunately for the Faculty as a whole and the Department of Law in particular, the excellent overall performance of the existing academic staff in recent years in the eyes of the University management, along with increasing sources of external funding, and the provision by the University of additional resources to prepare for the implementation of the 3+3+4 curriculum review, has enabled the Faculty of Law to budget for new academic staff. As a result, over the past year we have been able to recruit several additional academic staff, and we are currently engaged in the additional recruitment of high quality

academic staff at both senior and junior levels. This will help us maintain the high standard of delivery of teaching within the undergraduate programme, while also enhancing our research and publications performance and our postgraduate teaching programmes.

In my previous Report I also noted the move towards the employment of academic staff known as Senior Teaching Assistants (STAs), dedicated to teaching (and not subject to research and publication requirements). One of the problems created by this was the narrowing of the research base within the Department. During the past academic year, we have been able to rectify this slightly by promoting one of our STA's to a full Assistant Professor, and relying for the current year on part-time tutors, rather than STAs, to fill gaps in our teaching programme.

In my previous Report I also noted the repercussions of the departure of several (senior) members of the Department's teaching staff, particularly in the area of human rights, one of the Faculty's traditional areas of excellence. I am pleased to report that the academic staff brought in to replace the departing staff have already done a great deal to re-invigorate our human rights programme, and re-establish its traditional strength.

Concluding Remarks

We are now well on the way to implementing the new four year LLB curriculum. As always, challenges remain, and the progress we have made could be severely compromised if student numbers were to suddenly increase again without a corresponding increase in academic and administrative resources. Our task this year will be both to consolidate our progress so far, and also monitor closely all those aspects of the new curriculum still to be introduced or fully implemented.

However, I believe we are now well on the way to meeting both external demands, and also our own desire, for creating an undergraduate law programme that can compete with the best programmes around the common law world.

Michael Jackson
Head
Department of Law
12 September 2006

PCLL Status Report
The University of Hong Kong

UPDATES ON THE PCLL
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
(Revised on 12 September 2006)

I am pleased to update the report on the PCLL at the University of Hong Kong which was presented to the Standing Committee last September.

1. Part-time PCLL

The part-time PCLL kicked off smoothly last September. We adhere to the three principles set out in the previous report – same curriculum and teaching method; same admission criteria and same exit standard as for the full time one. Feedback from both teachers and students has been very positive. One student failed to proceed to Year 2.

55 new students were successfully admitted to the part-time PCLL this year.

2. Streaming

For 2005/06, 48 full-time students opted to study in the Litigation Stream, who were divided into 4 tutorial groups. Taking into account feedback received from the previous crop of students, we had refined the teaching materials for the two streams.

Full-time students this year were asked to indicate their choice of the two stream but they will be allowed to switch before the second semester starts. 65 students indicated that they would opt for the Litigation Stream.

Streaming equally applies to Year 2 part-time students. 21 (out of 53) students are receiving training in the Litigation Stream this year.

3. Assessments

Although we would very much hope to reduce the total number of assessments / examinations, it appears extremely difficult to do so. What we have managed to achieve so far include: (a) to encourage mid-term and/or coursework assessments whereby students are assessed on a particular area of knowledge or skills as soon as that segment of the course finishes (percentage of marks that counts towards

the final mark of a course duly approved by the external examiners); and (b) to have almost all assessments / examinations open book.

4. 2006-07 Admissions

We have received over 900 applications, over 780 of which designated HKU first preference. The competition for places has been extremely keen. The threshold for admission has been raised to reflect the higher academic attainment achieved by the applicants as a whole. The admissions and IELTS statistics are set out in Annex I.

The number of applicants with 2:1 or above or equivalent standard (around 170 such applicants) in their law degree again far exceeds the number of Government-funded places (only 117 such places). Our Admissions Committee under the PCLL Academic Board met in early August. Regarding allocation of Government funded places, it was resolved that candidates attaining 1st honours (and equivalent – that is, of the standard of distinction) be given these places first; then that HKU LLB and joint degree holders attaining 2:1 be given priority to those places; and that the remainder be proportioned off to the best qualified candidates in other categories attaining the same class of honours or equivalent. Approximately 42 candidates have been left out of this allocation, who were offered self-funded places instead and, subject to a means test, may apply for the departmental bursaries scheme.

5. Staffing

In addition to our existing full-time staff establishment of 17, we plan to recruit 4 more full time teaching staff this calendar year. This expansion plan aims at coping with the demands posed on us not only by the two PCLLs but also by the introduction of a few PCLL pre-requisites in the four-year LLB. At the same time, we are strengthening our administrative and secretarial support to colleagues by both new recruits and re-deployment of existing supporting staff.

6. Staff training

Ms Sarah Nield, a former colleague of our Department, came and visited the Department for two weeks last November. During her visit, Sarah helped conduct a series of training seminars / workshops. We have been in contact with

another experienced LPC director and teacher in the UK to see if he may be available to visit us later this year or early next year.

7. Curriculum development for 2008 and beyond

A working group has been set up for this purpose. This will probably take another while before our working group can come up with a consultative document. I shall keep members informed of the progress.

Wilson Chow
Head
Department of Professional Legal Education
Faculty of Law
The University of Hong Kong

PCLL ADMISSIONS 2006-07

	No. of applicants	Intake		
		Government funded	self-funded	part-time
HKU Pre-2005/06	17	4	1	4
HKU 2005/06	121	37	38	0
BBA(law) + HKU 2005/06	20	9	3	1
BSocSc(G&L) + HKU 2005/06	18	12	3	0
City U	15	1	0	2
CPE (HKU SPACE)	120	10	18	19
London U LLB External	166	6	8	15
OTHERS:				
Overseas	241	32	69	12
CPE - UK	64	6	19	2
HKU as 2nd choice	134			
Total	916	117	159	55

Not included repeaters & students deferred from 2005/06 or before

12 September 2006

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW**

PCLL ADMISSIONS 2006-2007

<u>Student Profile</u>	<u>No. of students</u>	<u>Admitted (%)</u>
HKU:		
LLB 2005/06 & Pre-2005/06	84	(25.38)
BBA(law) + LLB 2005/06	13	(3.93)
BSocSc(G&L) + LLB 2005/06	15	(4.53)
City U	3	(0.91)
CPE (HKU SPACE)	47	(14.20)
CPE (U.K.)	27	(8.16)
London U External LLB	29	(8.76)
Overseas:		
Australia	22	(6.65)
Canada	3	(0.91)
U.K.	87	(26.28)
U.S.A.	1	(0.30)
Total	331	(100.00)

Not included repeaters & students deferred from 2005/06 or before

12 September 2006

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW**

PCLL ADMISSIONS 2006-2007 - IELTS Result

<u>Overall Band Score</u>	<u>Year 2006-07</u>	<u>(F/T + P/T)</u>	<u>%</u>
9.0	18	(17+1)	(5.44)
8.5	63	(55+8)	(19.03)
8.0	91	(84+7)	(27.49)
7.5	111	(89+22)	(33.53)
7.0	48	(33+15)	(14.50)
Total no. of students:	331		100.00

Not included repeaters & students deferred from 2005/06 or before

12 September 2006

LLB Status Report
The City University of Hong Kong

An Update to the Report on LLB Programme

This is an update to the Report on LLB Programme at City University submitted to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training at the end of 2005.

1. Different Programmes

In addition to the full-time UGC funded four-year LLB programme, which is in its third year, the School of Law also offers a self-financing combined-mode LLB programme, a double major programme, and a double degree programme.

The combined-mode LLB programme has been introduced in 2006-2007 academic year to replace the previous part-time LLB programme. Under the combined-mode LLB programme, a local student can attend full-time (12-18 credit units per semester) or part-time (no more than 11 credits per semester) study in different semesters without seeking approval from the University. Hence, they will have more flexibility in course selection.

The new programme "Double Degree in Construction/and Law" has been launched in 2006-2007 academic year. The students admitted into this programme will do their first degree in Construction with a Law Minor. After finishing their first degree, they will study law for another two years in order to get a law degree.

2. 2006-2007 Admission

The School of Law admitted 52 full-time LLB students in total, of whom 20 are JUPAS applicants, 25 are Non-JUPAS applicants, 6 Mainland students who have completed their foundation year at CityU, and 1 transferred from BBA in Human Resources Management. So there are 52 students in total in Cohort 2006. According to the statistics released by CityU, the School of Law has achieved the highest increase in the average admission score by 19% for its students recruited through JUPAS system. Out of the 25 Non-JUPAS students admitted, most are school leavers from local international schools and overseas high schools, and 3 are with a first degree.

For the combined-mode LLB programme, 63 students have been admitted. After a Summer semester, five students have withdrawn. There are now 58 students in this programme. Among them, 14 have master's degree, 20 have a first degree, 15 have a diploma in law, 6 hold a non-law related diploma, and 3 hold no other qualification.

For the Accountancy and Law double major programme, 20 students have been admitted this year.

For the double-degree programme in Construction and Law, 16 students have been admitted into the four streams of the programme.

3. Skills in the Four Year Full-time LLB

Under the 4-year LLB programme, it is advocated that skills elements would be integrated in courses. Professor Christopher Roper, an adjunct professor at the School of Law, has helped to prepare a report on "The Skills Element in LLB Programme". That report has been adopted by the LLB Programme Committee and also the Taskforce established by the Dean to review LLB, JD and PCLL programmes.

The intended learning outcomes of the LLB programme have been changed accordingly to incorporate the recommendations of that report. They are as follows:

- i. To analytically and critically describe the main substantive laws and the legal system of Hong Kong.
- ii. To describe in outline the law and legal system of the People's Republic of China and its relations with Hong Kong's constitutional and commercial future.
- iii. To apply the law to solve legal problems.
- iv. To critically evaluate the law in action and the dynamic interplay between law and other social phenomena.
- v. In doing all of i to iv, to use a range of legal skills, namely,
 - to read and interpret, with critical understanding, cases and statutes
 - to identify, sort and evaluate relevant facts
 - to research legal resources
 - to develop solutions to legal problems and persuasively argue for them
 - to use and cite relevant authorities appropriately
 - to write, draft documents and communicate orally, coherently, cogently and persuasively.
- vi. To apply a strong sense of ethics, and social and professional responsibility to their work.

All course leaders have been advised to incorporate the skills elements into their teaching and assessment process.

4. Curricula Design

Due to the introduction of the new PCLL programme, some courses under the LLB programme have been restructured. The one-year Civil and Criminal Procedure course has been split into two one-semester courses on Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure respectively. The Company Law course has also been split into two one-semester courses, Company Law I and Company Law II. The Property Law as well as Equity & Trust courses have also been restructured. The syllabus on the new Commercial Law course has been prepared. The Commercial Law course has been scheduled to be offered in Semester A of 2007-2008 Academic Year (the first semester of the fourth year).

5. Implementation of the Four Year Full-time LLB

For year-2 students, the School of Law offered two year-long compulsory law courses, i.e., Constitutional and Administrative Law, and Property Law, and three one semester courses, i.e. Applied Legal Theory, Legal System of the PRC, and Legal Chinese.

For the first semester of year-3 students, we are offering:

four compulsory courses (for those who want to do PCLL)

- Criminal Law;
- Criminal Procedure;
- Equity & Trust;
- Company Law I;

and

four electives:

- Public International Law;
- IP Law: Theory, Copyright and Design;
- Economic Law of China;
- Law and Gender.

The implementation of the four year full-time LLB programme has been smooth so far. The School of Law has carefully designed and implemented the new curricula for the first three years. It is in the process of designing the curricula for the fourth year.

5 September 2006
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong

PCLL Status Report
The City University of Hong Kong

PCLL at City University of Hong Kong: An Update for 2005-2006

1. Full-time and part-time modes

Our full-time programme is a one-year programme while the part-time programme is spread over two years. While the curriculum, course materials and exams are common to the two programmes, lectures and tutorials are held separately for students in the two programmes. This practice will continue in 2006-2007.

2. Class size

We continued to limit our tutorial group size to 10. This will be continued in 2006-2007.

3. Streaming

Ours is a unitary qualification. We have not so far introduced streaming, but are prepared to seriously consider the possibility of streaming. After reviewing our programme, the Bar Association agreed to recognise our PCLL qualification without any additional requirements. Our PCLL programme in 2006-2007 will continue to enjoy the same recognition.

4. Assessment Regime

In our report to the Academic Board we identified assessment as an area which needed to be addressed. We appointed Professor Christopher Roper, co-author of the Redmond-Roper Report, to advise us on assessment. His report which was prepared in March 2006 was copied to all members of our Academic Board as well as the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training. In implementing that report as well as accommodating suggestions made by our external academic advisors (external examiners) we have already taken steps to conduct continuous assessment through a mix of take home assignments and assessment under examination conditions.

5. 2006-2007 Admissions

We received 961 applications for 150 places (577 applications for the 100 full-time places and 384 applications for the 50 part-time places). Of these 534 applicants had given first preference to City University's PCLL programme. Applicants with 2:1 or above outnumbered available UGC places. In allocating UGC places we did not give any preference to our own graduates.

6. Staffing

Our teaching strategy has been to recruit part-time tutors from the local legal practice to support our core full-time teaching team. Our teaching team was strengthened by recruiting several experienced teachers. For 2006-2007 we have already added three full-timers. One more full-timer will join us later in the year.

7. External support

We have taken measures to enlist the support of outside experts to review our programme and to lend us support. Professors Christopher Roper, Peter Butt and David S Callies and Judge Victor Hall, Director of the Judicial Studies Board of England and Wales, were among our distinguished visitors who observed and evaluated our programme. Our teachers benefited much from discussions they had with these visitors.

8. Looking ahead to the future

The most important matter that needs to be addressed now is the restructuring of the PCLL programme in 2008, in view of the changed entry requirements. City University of Hong Kong has already begun reviewing the situation and will address this issue in the new academic year.

We have already introduced Civil and Criminal Procedure into our LLB/JD curriculum and a dedicated commercial law course will be introduced in 2006-2007. We have also revised our property course to take account of the recommendation that substantive parts of PCLL conveyancing be transferred to the LLB/JD stage. Our internal graduates would have satisfied all the core course requirements for entry into PCLL in 2008 and thereafter.