

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Executive Committee 2018/19

Minutes of 5th Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2018/19 held on Monday, 29 July, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present : The Hon. Bernard Chan (Chairperson)

Ms. Yvonne Chak	Mr. Charles Chan
Ms. Susan Chan	Mr. Francis Chau
Ms. Kitty Chau	Mr. Benny Cheung
Mr. Andy Ho	Mr. Lai Wing Hoi
Ms. Elizabeth Law	Ms. Irene Leung
Mr. Kennedy Liu	Dr. Annissa Lui
Ms. Becky Luk	Dr. CC Luk
Mr. Joseph Man	Ms. Bonnie So
Mr. Edmond Wong	Ms. Wong Sau Wa
Mr. Stephen Wong	Ms. Noel Yeung
Ms. Yvonne Yeung	Dr. Alice Yuk

In-Attendance : Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive
 Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director
 Dr. John Fung, Business Director
 Ms. Cynthia Lee, Director (Finance and Building Management)
 Ms. Cheung Lai Wah, Chief Officer (Membership Liaison and Service)
 Mr. Peter Kwok, Officer (Membership Liaison and Service)

Apologies : Mr. Larry Kwok Dr. Lam Ching Choi
 Mr. Ng Shui Lai Hon. Shiu Ka Chun
 Ms. Kathy Wong Ms. Amarantha Yip

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 27 May 2019 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

2. No matters arising were reported.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

3. Members noted the Chief Executive's progress report and Mr. Chua provided supplementary information on below issues.
 - Annual Submission 2019: Mr. Chua reported that the Annual Submission was finalized and sent to the Chief Executive in mid-July. A copy of the same had also been sent to Members for reference. A published version of the Submission would later be sent to all agency members and relevant policy stakeholders.
 - New Measures on Taxable Activities of Charitable Organisations under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (IRO): Mr. Chua highlighted that after much deliberation of the issue at Agency Heads meeting, Standing Committee on Sector Development and with legal advice being sought, a letter had been sent to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare elaborated to him relevant positions of NGOs under Section 88 of the IRO and their concerns of the impact on overall sustainability of NGOs in furtherance of their charitable purpose of objects.

- Non-compliant Agency Members with Membership Temporarily Suspended: Mr. Chua reported that the membership of 8 agency members had been temporarily suspended since the resolution made by ExCo in March 2019 owing to their failures in submitting annual reports and/or financial reports. As of the date of this report, all of them had complied and submitted the required reports. Hence, membership rights of these 8 agency members were resumed accordingly.
- Pilot Scheme on Gerontechnology Equipment And Rental Services (GEARS): Mr. Chua reported that the application for support from Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for the GEARS project was approved and a formal notification would be received in early August.

To note the Position of Funds

4. Reported by Ms. Elizabeth Law, Hon. Treasurer, Members noted the position of funds with no enquiries received.

To note and approve Application for Agency Membership

5. Members noted and approved the membership application of below agency:
 - The Green Earth Limited 綠惜地球有限公司

To note and approve Agency Application for Reduction of Membership Fee of 2019-20

6. Ms. Cheung Lai Wah, Chief Officer (Membership Liaison and Service) presented to Members regarding an agency's application for membership fee reduction, and after deliberation, the application was not approved.

To note and approve Name Change of Agency

7. Members noted and approved the name change of below agencies:
 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (HK) Limited 萬國宣道浸信會有限公司
 - International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited 佛香講堂有限公司

To note the Report on Investigation of the Complaint to a Member Agency (in confidential session)

8. The case was reported to ExCo for discussion and to give advice on follow up action and decision.

To note and approve the Recommendations on Applying the 2019-20 Civil Service Pay Adjustment to the Council

9. Members noted and approved the management's recommendation in applying the 2019-20 civil service pay adjustment to all eligible staff with retrospective effect from 1 April 2019, and payment to be effected as early as practicable, subject to endorsement made by the Finance Committee of Legislative Council.

To note and approve the Review of Enhancements of Provident Fund provided to HKCSS Staff

10. Members noted and endorsed the extension to eligible staff the employer's contribution of 10% of staff salary for another year until 2021-22, which according to Mr. Chua was financially viable for the Council.

To note and approve Delegation to the Chief Executive with Signing Authorization for Tenancy Agreement entered into by Council with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA)

11. Members noted and approved that the Chief Executive be authorized by the Executive Committee to sign the tenancy agreement with URA for the 10 units at Shun Sing Road and Staunton Street, Hong Kong.

To note and approve a Proposal to Introduce a Revised Company Structure for the Growing Businesses of ITRC, ILRC and SEBC

12. Members noted and approved the proposed arrangements of a revised company structure in accommodating the growing businesses of ITRC, ILRC and SEBC.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

13. To Report on Agency Membership Review with Suggestions to Change Membership Application Criteria

Ms. Cheung Lai Wah, Chief Officer (Membership Liaison and Service) briefed Members on proposed amendments to the membership eligibility criteria and membership management, compiled subsequent to discussions by members of the Task Force on Membership Admission Criteria and Standing Committee on Sector Development. It was highlighted that two core changes on membership would involve amendments to be made to section 7 and 15 of HKCSS Constitution (the Constitution). A membership review report and the paper of amendment details relevant to the Constitution were presented at the Meeting for ExCo's consideration and endorsement. It was highlighted that once endorsed, a formal notice of Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be held on 8 November 2019, would be issued to all agency members.

Members noted and views are summarized as follows:

- Regarding the scope of social service, an opinion was noted that environmental protection and sustainability should also be considered as relevant being activities of social service.
- A view was noted that the definition of providing direct social services being an agency's primary function should be more concretely clarified, such as, whether a proportion of social service should be defined for being a primary function of an agency, etc.
- On membership admission criteria, it was suggested that an appeal mechanism and a system of withdrawal should be established in order to ensure fair procedures would be appropriately followed.
- There was another suggestion that providing general principles in broader sense, rather than restricting the scope of membership admission criteria to particular acceptable terms or nature, would be more advisable in allowing for higher flexibility.

Mr. Chua noted Members' comments which would be carefully considered by responsible committee and further updates to be provided once available.

(The Chairperson left the Meeting and Mr. Kennedy Liu, Vice-Chairperson, took chair at this point.)

14. To Update and Seek Endorsement on Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of HKCSS

Pertaining to aforesaid discussion on agency membership review and proposed amendments to the membership admission criteria and membership management, other core amendments to the HKCSS Constitution were mainly proposed to align with the requests of Inland Revenue Department (IRD), in relation to the charity status of the Council. The details of proposed changes were presented to Members who were invited to give views and endorsement. Having responded to the concern related to remuneration to Members of ExCo which had been clarified, and noted that accredited official representatives under membership rights and obligations would remain unchanged, no further comments were raised. Members approved the proposed amendments made to the Constitution of HKCSS.

Mr. Chua thanked Members for the comments and would proceed to the preparation work of issuing formal notification to all agency members in relation to upcoming EGM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. NGO Governance Health Pilot Program – Mr. Chua briefed Members that the landscape report of the NGO Governance Health Survey was a deliverable of NGO Governance Health Pilot Program financed by the Lotteries Fund and to comply with the procedure as stipulated by the Lotteries Fund, Members of ExCo was requested to exercise discretion of exemption

regarding a procurement procedure, Members noted the explanation on the paper presented and approved the exemption.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16. The next meeting was scheduled for 23 September 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 201 of Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Adopted by : _____
(Chairperson)

Date : _____