

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

APPROVAL FOR CENTENNIAL COLLEGE TO AWARD DEGREE AND TO INCLUDE “HOK YUEN” IN ITS CHINESE NAME

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 10 January 2012, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that approval should be granted to Centennial College to use “明德學院” as its Chinese name and to award degree for the proposed Bachelor of Professional Accounting (Honours) programme, subject to the registration of the College under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap.320).

2. Following the approval of the Chief Executive-in-Council, the Permanent Secretary for Education has approved the registration of Centennial College (明德學院) under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance.

JUSTIFICATION

Accreditation of Programmes

3. The School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong (HKU SPACE) is established to provide learning opportunities for personal, professional and career advancement for people from all walks of life. HKU SPACE offers associate degree, higher diploma, non-local bachelor's degree and postgraduate diploma among other part-time programmes in continuing education. In 2000, it established the HKU SPACE Community College to offer associate degree and higher diploma programmes. In collaboration with Po Leung Kuk, it further established HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Community College in 2005 to offer more associate degree and higher diploma programmes. With the experience gained from operating the above colleges and its expertise in operating self-financing continuing and professional education, The University of Hong Kong decided to establish an independent

self-financing post-secondary college, namely Centennial College, to operate full-time accredited self-financing degree programmes.

4. In November 2011, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) completed an Institution Review, commissioned by Centennial College, to ascertain whether the College has a suitable academic environment for the conduct of degree level programmes in general. Centennial College was confirmed to meet HKCAAVQ's accreditation standards. Separately, in October 2011, Centennial College obtained HKCAAVQ's accreditation of the Bachelor of Professional Accounting (Honours) programme. The College intends to introduce the programme from the 2012/13 academic year.

Chinese Name

5. Section 8(1) of the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance provides that every college shall be registered under such name in both English and Chinese as may be approved by the Permanent Secretary for Education, who shall not without the prior sanction of the Chief Executive in Council approve any name containing the word "University", or the Chinese words "Tai Hok" (大學) or "Hok Yuen" (學院). As Centennial College would like to use the Chinese name "明德學院", approval of the Chief Executive in Council is required. It should be noted that the name "Hok Yuen" (學院) has been adopted by other degree-awarding institutions such as Caritas Institute of Higher Education (明愛專上學院), Chu Hai College of Higher Education (珠海學院), Hang Seng Management College (恆生管理學院), Tung Wah College (東華學院) and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (香港演藝學院).

Award of Degrees

6. Section 10(a) of the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance provides that a College may, with the prior approval of the Chief Executive in Council, award degrees. Centennial College obtained HKCAAVQ's accreditation of the Bachelor of Professional Accounting (Honours) programme. Centennial College will deliver the programme in accordance with the requirements set by HKCAAVQ in the accreditation exercise.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

7. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It has no significant economic implication, and no financial and civil service, productivity, sustainability or environmental implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8. Public consultation is unnecessary as the proposal involves no policy change.

PUBLICITY

9. A spokesman will be available for answering public enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

10. In case of enquiries, please contact Miss Linda SO, Principal Assistant Secretary for Education, at 3509 8502.

Education Bureau
15 February 2012