

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

APPROVAL FOR CARITAS FRANCIS HSU COLLEGE TO AWARD DEGREE AND TO INCLUDE “HOK YUEN” IN ITS NEW CHINESE NAME

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 3 May 2011, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that approval should be granted to Caritas Francis Hsu College (the College) to use “明愛專上學院” as its new Chinese name and to award degree for the proposed Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) programme.

2. Following the approval of the Chief Executive-in-Council, the Permanent Secretary for Education has approved the change of the College’s Chinese name to “明愛專上學院” and English name to “Caritas Institute of Higher Education” under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance.

JUSTIFICATION

3. Caritas-Hong Kong is a charitable organisation offering medical, social work and community services, and education services in Hong Kong. Established by Caritas-Hong Kong in 1985, the College had been offering advanced level courses and diploma programmes. In 2001, the College was registered under the Ordinance for operating programmes at sub-degree level. The College is now operating one associate degree programme and five higher diploma programmes. It currently has around 780 full-time students. The College has also registered five non-local degree and one non-local master degree programmes.

4. With the experience gained from operating associate degree and higher diploma programmes, the College decided to operate self-financing degree programmes. In January 2011, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ)

completed an Institutional Review, commissioned by the College, to ascertain whether the College has a suitable academic environment for the conduct of degree programmes in general. The College was confirmed to meet HKCAAVQ's accreditation standards. In March 2011, the College further obtained HKCAAVQ's specific accreditation of the Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) programme. The College intends to introduce the programme from the 2011/12 academic year.

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 Hokö (大學) or "Hok Yuenö (學院). As the College would like to change its Chinese name from "明愛徐誠斌學院" to "明愛專上學院", approval of the Chief Executive in Council is required. It should be noted that the name "Hok Yuenö (學院) has been adopted by other degree-awarding institutions such as Chu Hai College of Higher Education (珠海學院), Hang Seng Management College (恒生管理學院), Tung Wah College (東華學院) and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (香港演藝學院). Furthermore, the Chief Executive in Council approved the College to use its current Chinese name "明愛徐誠斌學院" which also contains "Hok Yuenö (學院).

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. The College has obtained HKCAAVQ's accreditation of the Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) programme. The 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. As regards economic implication, the increase in degree-awarding institutions should be conducive to Hong Kong's transition into a knowledge-based economy and in particular the development of the education services sector, which is one of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantage. It has 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 3540 7471.

Education Bureau
27 May 2011