

**One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Meeting
of the Social Workers Registration Board
26 January 2016, Tuesday, 7:00p.m., Conference Room
26th Floor, Eastern Commercial Centre**

Minutes

Present

Mr. Lun Chi-wai	Chairperson
Dr. Leung Chuen-suen	Deputy Chairperson
Mr. Wong Ka-ming	Hon. Secretary
Mr. Lo Wa-kei, Roy	Hon. Treasurer
Ms. Chu Wai-sum, Betty	Member
Mr. Chung Wai-lung, Rivalino	Member
Mr. Hui Chung-shing, Herman	Member
Mr. Kwan Wing-shing, Vincent	Member
Mr. Lam Ka-tai	Member
Ms. Luk Ka-mei	Member
Mr. Ma Kam-wah, Timothy	Member
Mr. Shiu Ka-chun	Member
Mr. Tan Tick-yee	Member
Mr. Tsang Kin-chiu	Member
Ms. Wu Lai-ling	Member

In-attendance

Mr. Leung Sui-keung	Registrar (Secretary)
Ms. Fan Lai-yee, Veronica	Assistant Registrar

Welcome remarks by a Board Member of the Last Term

1. (anonymised), a Member of the Board of the last term, welcomed Board Members to the Meeting. He also expressed thanks to all Board Members for their assistance given to the Board Office so that the first meeting of the Board of the new term could be held shortly after commencement of the Board of the new term on 16 January 2016. He also briefed the Meeting on the two major statutory functions of the Board, namely, registration of registered social workers and disciplinary control of professional conduct of registered social workers.

Board Members introduced themselves to the Meeting

2. Board Members then introduced themselves to the Meeting.

Election of Office Bearers of the Board (Board Paper No. 10/2016)

3. Fifteen Board Members were present at the Meeting and the Registrar referred to Board Paper No. 10/2016 and briefed Board Members on the procedures on election of Office Bearers of the Board.

4. (anonymised) enquired the roles and functions of the post of Honorary Secretary. The Registrar replied that from the Board of the first term, the post of Honorary Secretary was established by the Board and the post holder would help oversee the overall functioning of the Board and

the daily operation of the Board Office.

5. (anonymised) supplemented that the practice of establishment of posts of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer was quite common in other organizations and the Board had adopted such practice.

6. After considering the above information, the Meeting agreed to adopt the procedures as set out in the board paper to elect Office Bearers of the Board. The Meeting authorized the Registrar to conduct the election of Chairperson of the Board.

Election of Chairperson of the Board

7. (business information deleted)

8. (business information deleted)

9. There were two candidates for the post of Chairperson and the Meeting proceeded to elect the Chairperson by secret ballots. (business information deleted)

10. Mr. Lun Chi-wai was duly elected as Chairperson of the Board for the term from 16 January 2016 to 15 January 2019.

11. Mr. Lun Chi-wai assumed the post of Chairperson of the Board and chaired the meeting immediately.

Election of Deputy Chairperson of the Board

12. (business information deleted)

13. (business information deleted)

14. There were two candidates for the post of Deputy Chairperson and the Meeting proceeded to elect the Deputy Chairperson by secret ballots. (business information deleted)

15. Dr. Leung Chuen-suen was duly elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Board for the term from 16 January 2016 to 15 January 2019.

Election of Honorary Treasurer of the Board

16. (business information deleted)

17. There was no other nomination from Board Members. Mr. Lo Wa-kei, Roy was duly elected as Honorary Treasurer of the Board for the term from 16 January 2016 to 15 January 2019.

Election of Honorary Secretary of the Board

18. (business information deleted)

19. (business information deleted)

20. There were two candidates for the post of Honorary Secretary and the Meeting proceeded to elect the Honorary

Secretary by secret ballots. (business information deleted)

21. Mr. Wong Ka-ming was duly elected as Honorary Secretary of the Board for the term from 16 January 2016 to 15 January 2019.

**Authorization of Bank Signatories
(Board Paper No.11/2016)**

22. The Registrar referred to Board Paper No. 11/2016 and briefed the Meeting that in the past, on top of authorizing the four Office Bearers of the Board as bank signatories (under Group A signatories), the Board would also authorize additional Board Members as bank signatories (under Group A signatories) to facilitate the Board Office to submit cheques to Board Members for signature. The Meeting agreed to follow similar practice.

23. The Meeting authorized the following bank signatories to operate the bank accounts at (business information deleted):

Group A signatories

(anonymised)

Group B signatories

(anonymised)

Any two signatories, one each from Group A and Group B, are authorized to operate the bank accounts opened by the Board

at the said four banks.

**Election of Convenors and Members to Committees and Working Groups
(Board Paper No. 12/2016)**

24. The Registrar walked Members through Board Paper No. 12/2016 and briefed the Meeting on the procedures adopted by the Board in the formation of Committees and Working Groups and election of Convenors of the respective Committees and Working Groups in the past years.

25. The Meeting then discussed on the following two options on election of Convenors to Committees and Working Groups:

(a) Option one: To elect Convenors to Committees and Working Groups at this Board Meeting.

(b) Option two: To elect Convenors to Committees at the first meeting of the respective Committee or Working Group.

26. Board Members then expressed views on the pros and cons of the two options. The Meeting decided to vote on the two options.

27. (business information deleted) Based on the voting result, the Meeting decided to elect Convenors to Committees and Working Groups at this Board Meeting.

(I) Formation of Committees

28. The Chairperson invited Board Members to show their choices to join Committees.

(A) Committee on Administration

29. The following eight Board Members join the Committee on Administration:

Mr. Chung Wai-lung, Rivalino
Mr. Hui Chung-shing, Herman
Mr. Kwan Wing-shing, Vincent
Dr. Leung Chuen-suen
Mr. Lo Wa-kei, Roy
Mr. Tan Tick-yee
Mr. Shiu Ka-chun
Mr. Wong Ka-ming

(B) Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration

30. The following five Board Members join the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration :

Mr. Kwan Wing-shing, Vincent
Dr. Leung Chuen-suen
Mr. Lun Chi-wai
Ms. Luk Ka-mei
Mr. Shiu Ka-chun

(C) Committee on Professional Conduct

31. The following eight Board Members join the Committee on Professional Conduct :

Mr. Hui Chung-shing, Herman

Dr. Leung Chuen-suen

Mr. Lun Chi-wai

Ms. Luk Ka-mei

Mr. Ma Kam-wah, Timothy

Ms. Shiu Ka-chun

Mr. Tsang Kin-chiu

Mr. Wong Ka-ming

(D) Working Group on Professional Development

32. The Registrar briefed the Meeting that unlike the other three Committees which were performing statutory functions of the Board under the Ordinance, the Working Group on Professional Development was a set-up under the Board mainly taking up the function on promotion of the Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme for RSWs (Voluntary CPD Scheme for RSWs) .

33. The Registrar further reported that in 2015 the Working Group on Professional Development conducted a consultation exercise on exploration of specialization of social work in Hong Kong. Different views from the social work sector were received, including the suggestion to seek legal advice to clarify whether the proposed specialization of social work in Hong Kong was within the mandate of the Board. The legal advice was that the proposal would lead to the use of the

title of “experienced and specialized social worker in a specific field” and such title was not found in the Social Workers Registration Ordinance. The proposal would likely be outside the mandate of the Board. However, the promotion of the Voluntary CPD Scheme for RSWs could be treated as part of the function to encourage and assist RSWs to comply with the Code of Practice for RSWs. Under Section 10 of the Ordinance, the Board had approved a Code of Practice for RSWs. Under the Code of Practice, it was stipulated that RSWs should update and upgrade their skills and knowledge in social work by pursuing CPD activities for the benefit of clients. Furthermore, there was no linkage between the condition for renewal of registration and the undertaking of CPD activities by RSWs. The legal advice was that the promotion of the Voluntary CPD for RSWs would likely fall within the mandate of the Board.

34. The Board of the last term had made the following decisions which the Board of the new term was free to adopt as reference in considering the matter:

- (a) The Board should not pursue specialization of social work which was outside the mandate of the Board.
- (b) The Board should continue to promote the Voluntary CPD Scheme for RSWs.
- (c) The Board of the new term could decide whether to keep the Working Group on Professional Development as a set-up under the Board.

35. After taking into account the above information,

the Meeting agreed that the Board should not pursue specialization in social work. The Meeting also agreed that promotion of the Voluntary CPD Scheme for RSWs should be continued.

36. The Meeting also shared views on whether the name of the Working Group on Professional Development would be misleading as the statutory functions of the Board only included registration and disciplinary control of professional activities of RSWs but not professional development of RSWs. (anonymised) expressed the view that the name of the Working Group might appear to be misleading. If it was decided that the Working Group should be retained as a set-up under the Board, it might be necessary to change its name.

37. (anonymised) expressed that more information might be required for further consideration on whether the Working Group on Professional Development should continue to be a set-up under the Board and if so, whether the name should be changed. He suggested that the matter should be brought up for discussion at the next Board Meeting.

38. After taking into account the above views, the Meeting agreed that the matter would be brought up for discussion at the next Board Meeting.

(II) Election of Convenors of Committees

39. The Chairperson invited Board Members to proceed to election of Convenors to Committees.

(A) Convenor of Committee on Administration

40. (business information deleted) Dr. Leung Chuen-suen was elected as Convenor of Committee on Administration.

(B) Convenor of Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration

41. (business information deleted) Mr. Shiu Ka-chun was elected as Convenor of Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration.

(C) Convenor of Committee on Professional Conduct

42. (business information deleted)

43. There were two candidates for the post of Convenor of Committee on Professional Conduct. (business information deleted) Mr. Tsang Kin-chiu was elected as Convenor of Committee on Professional Conduct. (business information deleted)

Appointment of Members to the Panel of Two Board Members to screen complaint cases (Board Paper No.13/2016)

44. (business information deleted)

45. (business information deleted)

46. (business information deleted)

47. The Meeting appointed the following five Board Members as Members of the Panel of Two Board Members to screen complaint cases against RSWs under Section 25(3) of the Social Workers Registration Ordinance:

Ms. Chu Wai-sum, Betty

Mr. Hui Chung-shing, Herman

Dr. Leung Chuen-suen

Mr. Lun Chi-wai

Mr. Ma Kam-wah, Timothy

Any Other Business

48. (anonymised) invited the Meeting to consider the suggestion on using Chinese as the language for meeting documents.

49. In response to the above suggestion, (anonymised) expressed that it might be more conducive to further discussion on this suggestion if the Committee on Administration could be invited to study the matter and put up its recommendation to the Board instead of carrying out deliberation at this Meeting. (anonymised) also expressed that the matter should be discussed at the Committee on Administration first.

Committee on
Administration

50. The Meeting agreed to adopt the above suggestion. The Meeting also expressed that the Board Office

should provide information on implications on operational matters if the language for meeting documents was shifted from English to Chinese so that the Committee on Administration could have comprehensive information to consider the matter. (business information deleted)

Committee on
Administration

51. The Registrar invited the Meeting to consider the option of inviting the legal adviser to brief Board Members at a Board Meeting on the law and procedures in connection with the functions and operations of the Board. The Meeting invited the Committee on Administration to consider this suggestion.

Date of Next Meeting

52. The Meeting confirmed that the 136th Board Meeting would be held on Monday, 7 March 2016 at 7:00p.m.

53. The Board also scheduled the dates of the 137th Board Meeting to 140th Board Meeting as set out below:

- (a) 137th Board Meeting: Monday, 9 May 2016 at 7:00p.m.;
- (b) 138th Board Meeting: Monday, 27 June 2016 at 7:00p.m.;
- (c) 139th Board Meeting: Monday, 5 September 2016 at 7:00p.m.;
- (d) 140th Board Meeting: Monday, 7 November 2016 at 7:00p.m.

54. The Board also agreed that at the end of the

136th Board Meeting, it would re-confirm whether the 137th Board Meeting would be held on 9 May 2016 as scheduled, and the same process of re-confirmation of date of the subsequent Board Meeting would be done at each Board Meeting.

55. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10p.m.

Chairperson

28 January 2016