

**One Hundred and Thirty-Ninth Meeting
of the Social Workers Registration Board
9 September, Friday, 2:30p.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

Confirmation of minutes of the one hundred and thirty-eighth meeting

1. The minutes of the one hundred and thirty-eight meeting were confirmed without amendment. The Chairperson, with the agreement of the members present, signed the minutes as constituting true records of the one hundred and thirty-eighth meeting held on 27 June 2016.

Matters arising from the one hundred and thirty-eight meeting

Views exchanged by Board Members on press coverage on the case of (anonymised)

2. (Business information deleted)

Reporting of conviction by (anonymised)

4. (Business information deleted)

Judicial Review on Complaint Case No. XXX

5. (Business information deleted)

Application for renewal of registration lodged by (anonymised) (Board Paper No.62/2016)

6. (Business information deleted)

**Report of the Special Panel on interview with (anonymised)
(Board Paper No. 69/2016)**

14. (Business information deleted)

**Second legal advice on case of (anonymised) (Board Paper
No.70/2016).**

16. (Business information deleted)

**Application for renewal of registration lodged by
(anonymised) (Board Paper No.71/2016)**

22. (Business information deleted)

**Application for registration lodged by (anonymised) (Board
Paper No.72/2016)**

27. (Business information deleted)

**Application for registration lodged by (anonymised)
(Board Paper No. 73/2016)**

30. (Business information deleted)

**Application for registration lodged by (anonymised)
(Board Paper No.74/2016)**

33. (Business information deleted)

**Application for registration lodged by (anonymised)
(Board Paper No.75/2016)**

36. (Business information deleted)

**Re-application for registration lodged by (anonymised)
(Board Paper No.76/2016)**

43. (Business information deleted)

**Application for renewal of registration lodged by
(anonymised) (Board Paper No.77/2016)**

53. (Business information deleted)

**(Business information deleted) on applications lodged by
fresh social work graduates with job offers but the
graduate list is not yet available (Board Paper No.78/2016)**

58. The Registrar referred to Board Paper No.78/2016 and briefed the Meeting on (business information deleted) processing of applications for registration lodged by fresh social work graduates with confirmed social work job offers before the graduate list was available under the Category 2 registration arrangements.

59. Following the directive given by the Board at the last meeting held on 27 June 2016, (business information deleted) was sought on the arrangements to process applications for registration lodged by fresh social work graduates with firm job offers before the graduate list was

available.

60-65. (Business information deleted)

66. The Registrar then briefed Board Members that in May 2016, (anonymised) gave instructions to the Registrar to ask the fresh social work graduates to obtain recruitment advertisements and job duties of the posts certified by the employing agency before they would consider the applications for registration. The Registrar followed the instructions and contacted the applicants as well as the employing agencies to obtain the documents requested by (anonymised). After obtaining the documents, the Registrar relayed clearly to (anonymised) that the employing agencies had very strong repercussion over the new arrangement to ask the employing agencies to provide certified recruitment advertisements and job duties. The Registrar also clearly reported to (anonymised) that the applicants would sue the Board if the Board refused to approve their applications. The applicants would also sue the Board for financial loss caused by the delay in approving their applications for registration due to the additional steps in providing recruitment advertisements and job duties to the Board. Despite the above information, (anonymised) did not approve the applications for registration lodged by fresh social work graduates with job offer before the graduate list was available.

67. (Business information deleted)

68. (Business information deleted)

69. (Business information deleted). However, he personally did not consider the existing procedures for processing Category 2 registration reasonable and therefore he had abstained from making decisions on these applications. He neither refused nor approved applications for registration under Category 2 arrangements.

70. (Anonymised) further expressed that the Registrar had conveyed to him the view that Board Members should one way or the other make decisions on the applications and should not abstain from making decisions. However, (anonymised) was not sure whether the Registrar's view was correct.

71. (Anonymised), in response to (anonymised) request, expressed the personal view that individual Board Members might exercise the right to vote including the right to abstain from making decision. So long as there were sufficient Board Members to approve the applications, there would be no problem. However, if the majority of Board Members chose to abstain from making decisions leading to the result that the applications could not be approved by the Board, then those Board Members abstaining from making decision would owe a fiduciary duty to other Board Members approving the applications if the Board was sued by the applicants.

72. To address the problem caused by some Board Members abstaining from making decisions, (anonymised) suggested that if there was not enough returns from Board Members to approve the applications, then the Board Office should send an email alerting all Board Members that there was not enough returns to approve the applications. If, upon

refusing of applications by the Board, the applicants sued the Board, then the Board should let the applicants know the names of the Board Members who had not approved their applications so that the applicants could know whom they should sue as each Board Member should be responsible for the decision made by him.

73. (Business information deleted)

74. (Anonymised) expressed that Board Members' decision (business information deleted) should be respected.

75. (Anonymised) expressed that the suggestion to issue reminders to Board Members might help keep a proper record that Board Members had been advised of the problem of not having sufficient returns from Board Members to approve the applications. While Board Members' individual choice (business information deleted) should be respected, those Board Members making such choice should also be responsible for the consequences arising from their choice.

76. (Anonymised) expressed that if individual Board Members had the privilege of (business information deleted), then the burden would be shifted to those Board Members who were (business information deleted). Such shifting of burden would be unfair. (Business information deleted)

77. (Anonymised) expressed that the suggestion of asking the Board Office to issue reminders to Board Members was a wasteful employment of resources of the Board Office. (Business information delete) but at the same time they should

work out measures to address the problem caused by their choice without shifting the burden to other Board Members and also creating unnecessary workload on the Board Office.

**Draft audited accounts for year ended 31 March 2016
(Board Paper No.79/2016)**

78. The Registrar referred to Board Paper No.79/2016 and invited the Meeting to consider the draft audited accounts of the Board for the year ended 31 March 2016. (Anonymised) had examined the draft audited accounts and the Committee on Administration recommended that the draft audited accounts should be accepted by the Board.

79. (Anonymised) expressed that the draft audited accounts was a true and fair report on the financial situation of the Board.

80. The Meeting endorsed the draft audited accounts of the Board for the financial year ended 31 March 2016.

**Proposed arrangements for Annual Meeting with RSWs in
2016 (Board Paper No.80/2016)**

81. The Registrar referred to Board Paper No.77/2016 and invited the Meeting to consider the three proposed main themes for the Annual Meeting with RSWs in 2016 put forward by the Committee on Administration. The three proposed main themes were :

Priority 1: Challenges faced by the social welfare sector under the new political environment (在新政治形勢下社福界面對的挑戰).

Priority 2: Influences on the development of the social work profession under the Lum Sum Grant Subvention System (整筆撥款對社工專業發展的影響)

Priority 3: Reform and development of the Social Workers Registration Board (社會工作者註冊局的改革與發展).

82. Board Members exchanged views on the three proposed themes.

83. Regarding the topic on “Reform and development of the Social Workers Registration Board”, the general view was that the topic might be controversial and it would not be advisable to choose this topic if the Board had not given its thought on this matter.

84. Regarding the topic on “Influences on the development of the social work profession under the Lum Sum Grant Subvention System”, the sector would bring up the matter on other arena and it might appear too remote if the Board chose this topic as the main theme for the Annual Meeting with RSWs.

85. Regarding the topic on “Challenges faced by the social welfare sector under the new political environment”, the

general view was that the topic could suit a wide range of occasions so long as RSWs were present. Also, the topic would give the speakers a wide spectrum of choices on issues to be covered in the talk.

86. After taking into account the above considerations, the Meeting agreed to adopt examining the “Challenges faced by the social welfare sector under the new political environment” for the Annual Meeting with RSWs to be held on Friday, 11 November 2016 at 6:30p.m. at the Lecture Room of the Board Office. However, with a view to focusing on issues which were of concern to RSWs, the Meeting modified the main theme to “Challenges faced by registered social workers under the new social environment. (在新社會形態下註冊社工面對的挑戰)”

87. The Meeting then proceeded to discuss on speakers to be invited for the Annual Meeting with RSWs.

88. (Anonymised) suggested that speakers from other sectors such as key opinion leaders in the mass media might be invited in order to attract audience at the Annual Meeting with RSWs.

89. The Meeting then brainstormed potential speakers that might be invited.

90. After discussion, the following list of potential speakers was worked out:

(Anonymised)

91. (Anonymised) would work on above list of potential speakers with the Board Office.

Draft publication of disciplinary orders in the Board' s Newsletter (Board Paper No.81/2016)

92. (Three Board Members (anonymised) left the Meeting at 5:35p.m.). (Business information deleted)

Appointment of DC Panel Members for the term from 16 January 2017 to 15 January 2020 (Board Paper No.82/2016)

100. The Registrar referred to Board Paper No. 82/2016 and invited the Meeting to consider the list of new candidates as set out in Appendices 1 to 3 of the Board Paper for appointment of Disciplinary Committee Panel Members ("DC Panel Members") for the term from 16 January 2016 to 15 January 2020 as well as the list of current DC Panel Members who had indicated willingness to take up appointment as DC Panel Members for another term as set out in Appendix 4 of the Board Paper. The two lists had been considered by the Committee on Administration and the proposed appointment of DC Panel Members was supported by the Committee.

101. The Meeting approved the appointment of new and existing DC Panel Members for the term from 16 January 2016 to 15 January 2020 as set out in the Board Paper.

Draft final reports on regular qualification recognition

**review on social work qualifications of (anonymised)
(Board Paper No. 83/2016)**

102. (Business information deleted)

**Appointment of Assessment Panel Members for the term
from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 (Board Paper
No. 84/2016)**

106. The Registrar referred to Board Paper No. 84/2016 and invited the Meeting to consider the list of candidates for appointment as Assessment Panel Members for the term from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

107. The lists of new candidates were set out in Appendices 1 to 5 of the Board Paper and the list of existing Assessment Panel Members who had indicated willingness to take up appointment for another term was attached at Appendix 6 of the Board Paper. The proposed appointment was considered and supported by the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration at its meeting held on 26 August 2016.

108. The Meeting approved the appointment of Assessment Panel Members for the term from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 as set out in Board Paper No. 84/2016.

**Proposed plan on review of Principles, Criteria and
Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work
for Registration of Registered Social Workers” (Board
Paper No. 85/2016)**

109. The Registrar referred to Board Paper No.85/2016 and briefed the Meeting on the proposed outline plan worked out by the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration to conduct review on “Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of Registered Social Workers” (“theeth Principles and Criteria”).

110. The main changes in the approach to conduct the review proposed in the outline plan was to enlarge the target groups to be consulted in the exercise. Two new target groups, namely, service users and social work students were added to the target groups of tertiary institutions, employing agencies, professional bodies, RSWs and professional consultants in the previous consultation exercises.

111. The review exercise would include two rounds of consultation with tentative timeline as set out below:

(a) Written submissions from September 2016 to January 2017;

(b) Consultation sessions from April 2017 to June 2017.

112. The Meeting endorsed the outline plan for conducting review on the Principles and Criteria as set out in Board Paper No.85/2016.

Draft interim report on qualification recognition assessment on (anonymised) (Board Paper No.87/2016)

113. (Business information deleted)

Reporting of one case of violation of Section 34 of the Ordinance to the Board (Board Paper No.86/2016)

118. (Business information deleted)

Any Other Business

Proposed lunch reception by Board Members for staff of the Board Office

121. (Business information deleted)

Date of Next Meeting

123. The 140th Board Meeting would be held on Monday, 7 November 2016 at 7:00p.m.

124. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20p.m.

Chairperson

29 September 2016