

Minutes of the 141st Meeting of the Social Workers Registration Board

Date: 7 February 2017 (Tuesday)
Time: 7:13pm
Venue: Conference Room, 26/F, Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong
Present: Mr. CHUNG Wai-lung, Rivalino
Mr. HUI Chung-shing, Herman
Mr. KWAN Wing-shing, Vincent
Mr. KOK Che-leung (representative of the Director of Social Welfare)
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Mr. LO Wa-kei, Roy
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Ms. LUK Ka-mei
Mr. MA Kam-wah, Timothy
Mr. SHIU Ka-chun
Mr. TAN Tick-yee
Mr. TSANG Kin-chiu
Mr. WONG Ka-ming
Ms. WU Lai-ling
Apology: Ms. CHU Wai-sum, Betty
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po and Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica

Mr. LUN, Chairperson of the Board, presided the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of the 140th Meeting

1. The meeting noted that there was a typo on the penultimate line of paragraph 17, where it should be “applicant” instead of “applicable”. After correction of the typo, the minutes of the 140th meeting of the Board were confirmed, and signed by the Chairperson as the true records of the said meeting.

Matters arising from the 140th Meeting

Judicial review on Complaint Case no. XXX

2. (business information deleted)

Special Panel on interview with (anonymized)

3. (business information deleted)

Social Work Day 2017

4. The meeting took note of the report from (anonymized) that, the form of the event would be similar to previous years, with the long run to be held on 26 February 2017 and the seminar on 21 March 2017. On the publicity, a snapshot contest was organized.

Re-applications for registration

(anonymized)

5. (business information deleted)

6. (business information deleted)

7. (business information deleted)

8. (business information deleted)

Report from the Disciplinary Committee (Board Paper No. 005/2017)

9. (business information deleted)

(business information deleted)

10. (business information deleted)

11. (business information deleted).

12. (business information deleted)

13. (business information deleted)

14. (business information deleted)

(business information deleted)

Re-application for registration

(anonymized) (Board Paper No. 003/2017)

15. The meeting resumed back to the agenda item on re-application for registration under Matters Arising from previous meeting.

16. (business information deleted)

17. (business information deleted)

18. (business information deleted)

Deliberation of the matter concerning articles for publication at the Newsletter under Board

19. (Anonymized) briefed the meeting of the matter as set out in Board Paper no. 100/2016, the recap of the background and the brief research of the past practices as outlined in the Board Paper no. 004/2017. (anonymized) supplemented and recapped the issues in hands. (anonymized) further shared his experience in the editorial rights and obligations in amending contributory articles that consent from authors should be sought for any proposed amendments, and in any case the publishers' liability is undeniable if there are claims of libel.

20. Whilst noting the obsolescence of some phrases, clauses or reference in one of the articles, (anonymized) suggested that it should be the Committee on Administration but not the Board to play the editorial role. He suggested and the meeting agreed to refer the matter back to the Committee on Administration to sort out the editorial work first, before the Board would be engaged itself on issues at the policy level.

Reports from the Committees

Committee on Administration

Appointment of auditors

21. (Anonymized) referred to the Board Paper no. 006/2017 and summarized that the Committee would recommend to the Board for the re-appointment of Messrs. Clement C W Chan & Co as auditors for the coming financial year ended 31 March 2017. The meeting unanimously endorsed the recommendation.

Cash flow management guideline

22. The meeting noted the recommendation from the Committee of adopting the Guidelines for Cash Flow Management as set out in the Board Paper no. 007/2017. (Anonymized) highlighted the Guidelines would allow the Board to proactively manage the liquid assets, by keeping the minimum required cash of HK\$1.2 million in current account to meet the recurrent expenditure and placing at different bankers the surplus in time deposits with different maturity dates for providing necessary liquidity whilst earning a higher interest income. (Anonymized) also reported that the Committee would at a later stage explore into other prudent alternatives besides time deposits so as to build a portfolio for reasonable investment income. The meeting endorsed unanimously the recommendation of adopting the said Guidelines.

Refund of renewal fee proposal

23. (Anonymized) told the meeting that the previous proposal of fee rebate to RSWs for encouraging their use of e-communication with the Board had to be shelved in view of the uncertainty in the position of the Labour & Welfare Bureau to it. He reported to the meeting that the proposal put forth in the Board Paper no. 008/2017 was a separate one but carrying a similar token of a partial refund of renewal fee to RSWs at HK\$20, aiming to encourage RSWs applying for registration renewal earlier and within the renewal window, i.e. the period not earlier than 3 months and not later than 28 days prior to the expiry of the current registration. By doing so, the Board could save up to over HK\$111,713 of the postage cost for registered mails for serving the de-registration notice to about 30% of RSWs who used to apply for renewal beyond the said renewal window. The meeting noted that there would be a financial implication in terms of a lower income from renewal fee up to HK\$300,000 per annum.
24. In the ensuing discussion, (anonymized) excused himself from deliberation and the meeting in general was supportive to the initiative, as this would be a measure to save cost with benefits reverted to the RSWs. The meeting agreed to endorse the proposal, subject to no adverse comments or directions from the Labour & Welfare Bureau, the Board would consider the implementation details at the next meeting.

Depreciation policy (Board Paper No. 016/2017)

25. (Anonymized) drew the attention of the meeting to Board Paper no. 016/2017 for the review of depreciation policy. The key point of it was that based upon the advice of the (anonymized), the policy need not be reviewed annually unless when necessary or when there are substantial changes in the non-current asset portfolio. The Committee recommended to the Board to amend the policy as such. The meeting endorsed the recommendation unanimously.

Committee on Professional Conduct

Review of Code of Practice

26. (Anonymized) reported that the Task Force on Review of Code of Practice with 3 Board Members and 2 co-opted Members would be meeting on 15 February.

Co-opted Members of the Committee

27. Mr. WONG told the meeting that Dr. DAI Lok-kwan had accepted the invitation (business information deleted).

Statistics of Complaints

28. (Business information deleted) (Anonymized) expressed his appreciation to the Board Office for taking all possible steps to speed up the process.
29. (Anonymized) also told the meeting that the Board Office would be working continually on compiling appropriate statistical reports on complaints, so that the Committee as well as the Board could duly monitor the work progress in this regard. (Anonymized) took this opportunity to urge the Members to respond to an earlier request for suggestion on classifications of complaint cases by work settings.
30. (Anonymized) recapped the earlier endorsement by circulation for introducing the roster system for appointment of 2 Board Members. He pointed out that the new mechanism had effectively sorted out a procedural issue that the Board is obliged to address.

31. (Business information deleted)

Qualification Assessment and Registration

Appointment of Assessment Teams (Board Paper No. 009/2017)

32. (Anonymized) drew the meeting's attention to Board Paper no. 009/2017 for the appointment of 4 Assessment Teams for programmes of the respective tertiary institutions. The meeting endorsed unanimously the appointment as set out in the said paper.

Review of the Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of RSWs

33. The meeting took note of the Chinese translation of the document, as reproduced as Board Paper no. 017.2017, for the purpose of consultation with service users in this round of consultation.

34. (Anonymized) further reported that he together with a number of other Board Members and staff of the Board Office had attended a forum of the schools of social work on the review. Whilst five written submissions had been received, in response to the request at the forum, the consultation period had been extended to 28 February 2017.

Applications for being listed as VCPD Activity Organizers

35. (Business information deleted) In the ensuing discussion, (anonymized) queried whether the listing should be as currently on institutional basis or on individual training programmes. (anonymized) echoed the observations and asked if the system should be reviewed. (Anonymized) pointed out that any listing assessment on the basis of training programme would be very costly, and (anonymized) reminded the meeting of other higher priorities on the plate already. (Anonymized) thanked for the suggestion and asked (anonymized) to take these back to the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration for consideration in due course.

36. (Business information deleted)

Final report on qualification recognition assessment of Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Social Work (BSSS) by the HKCT Institute of Higher Education

37. (Business information deleted)

38. (Business information deleted)

39. (Business information deleted).

40. (Business information deleted)

Appointment of Disciplinary Committees (Board Paper No. 010/2017)

41. (Business information deleted).

42. (Business information deleted)

43. (Business information deleted)

(Business information deleted)

Applications for registration

(Anonymized)

44. (Business information deleted)

(Anonymized)

45. (Business information deleted)

(Business information deleted)

(Anonymized) (Board Paper No. 013/2017) (renewal)

46. (Business information deleted).

47. (Business information deleted)

48. (Business information deleted)

49. (Business information deleted)

50. (Business information deleted)

(Business information deleted)

Notice of Conviction or Charge

(Anonymized)

51. (Business information deleted)

Resolution on change to authorized signatures for the MPF Scheme and the safe box in the Bank of East Asia (Board Paper No. 020/2017)

52. The meeting considered the two matters as set out Board Paper no. 020/2017.

53. It was resolved unanimously by the Board at its meeting that (anonymized) is to be the authorized signatory for the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme of the Social Workers Registration Board under the Manulife (International) Limited with immediate effect, and the name of (anonymized) be removed from the list of authorized signatory. Upon these changes taken effect, the following two persons are authorized persons of the said scheme:-

(a) (anonymized)

(b) (anonymized)

54. It was also resolved unanimously by the Board at its meeting that (anonymized) is to be authorized as a signatory for the Social Workers Registration Board's safe box at Shau Kei Wan Branch of East Asia Bank Limited with immediate effect, and the name of (anonymized) be removed from the list of authorized signatory for the said safe box. Upon these changes taken effect, the following three persons are authorized to access and open the said safe box:-

(a) (anonymized),

(b) (anonymized)

(c) (anonymized),

and that the authorization of any one of the three signatories can access and open the safe box remains unchanged.

Request from a complainant

55. (business information deleted)

Any other business

56. (business information deleted)

Date of next meeting (19 April 2017 at 9:30am)

57. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at 9:30am in the morning of 19 April 2017.

58. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45pm.

Chairperson