

## **SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD**

### **Notes of the Fifty-first Meeting of the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration**

Date: 25 April 2016

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, 26/F Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong

Present: Mr. SHIU Ka-chun (Convener)

Mr. KWAN Wing-shing, Vincent

Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen

Ms. LUK Ka-mei

Mr. LUN Chi-wai

In-attendance: Mr. Thomas LEUNG Sui-keung, Registrar

Ms. Veronica FAN, Assistant Registrar (Secretary)

#### **Notes**

1. Member agreed to revise the wording in page 5 as “...(anonymised) abstained and retreated from the meeting for this agenda”.
2. Matters arising
  - 2.1 (Business information deleted)
3. (Business information deleted)
4. (Business information deleted)
5. (Business information deleted)
6. Arrangement on nomination exercise for appointment of co-opted members
  - 6.1 At the 136<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting on 7 March 2016, the Board endorsed the proposal to conduct an open nomination exercise to invite candidates for appointment as co-opted members to the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration. Four co-opted members comprising three RSWs members and one member from other profession would be appointed. A draft nomination form was prepared for members' discussion.

- 6.2 The Registrar briefed that as usual, the Board office would send an invitation letter together with a nomination form to all RSWs. At the same time, Board members would refer suitable candidates from other professions. After the nomination deadline, a list of nomination would be screened by the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration and recommended to the Board for approval. If approved, appointment letters would be sent to the selected candidates and the tenure of office would be from the date of appointment to the end of the Board's tenure i.e. 15 January 2019.
- 6.3 The Convenor indicated that he would refer a clinical psychologist to be the co-opted member of the Committee. This clinical psychologist had been providing services to the Social Work Department and he was familiar with the social work sector.
- 6.4 Members approved the nomination form and the same would be put forward to the Board for approval.
- 6.5 To speed up the process, the nomination forms and logistics arrangement would be circulated to the Board members for approval after this Committee meeting. The nomination period would be three weeks from the date of invitation letter. Hopefully, the nomination list of co-opted for the Committee would be screened at the next Committee meeting and put forward to the Board afterwards.
7. Arrangement on nomination for appointment of Assessment Panel Members for the term from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2020
- 7.1 The Registrar briefed that there were two batches of Assessment Panel Members. The appointment of the second batch would be expired on 31 December 2016. It was necessary to start the nomination exercise now. The list of Assessment Panel included local social work academics, overseas social work academics, social work professionals, representatives of employing agencies and other profession.
- 7.2 As usual, the Board office would send invitation to current members of the Assessment Panel. They would be invited to confirm whether they showed interest to take up the appointments for another term if the Board so offered. In parallel, an open nomination would be conducted among RSWs. Invitation letters and nomination forms would be sent to all RSWs, employing agencies, tertiary institutions and other professions.

- 7.3 Similar to the nomination procedures of co-opted member of the Committee, the Committee would screen the nomination list after the deadline and make recommendation to the Board for approval. The Committee and the Board had the full discretion in the appointment of the Assessment Panel members.
  - 7.4 Regarding the nomination of overseas academics in social work, members confirmed that overseas academics included social work academics from China and Taiwan. Like candidates from other countries e.g United States, United Kingdom, all nominations would be considered and screened by the Committee.
  - 7.5 The nomination forms and the requirements were considered and approved by the Committee.
  - 7.6 To save the mailing cost, members agreed to conduct the three nomination exercises, namely co-opted members for the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration, Assessment Team members as well as Disciplinary Committee members, in one-go. The nomination period was three weeks.
8. Consideration of the proposal on the review of honorarium of the Assessment Team
  - 8.1 At the meeting of the Committee on Administration on 18 April 2016, members examined the proposal of review of honorarium to Assessment Team for conducting qualification recognition assessment / review. Members of the Committee on Administration took the view that if the Board's financial position permitted, the rate of honorarium should be revised upward.
  - 8.2 After consideration of the proposal and views of the Committee on Administration, members agreed to revise the rate of honorarium from \$2,000 to \$3,000. The same would be put forward to the Board for endorsement.
9. Discussion on the review exercise of the Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of Registered Social Workers
  - 9.1 The last review on the Principles and Criteria started in 2012 and opinions of TIs and the employing agencies were collected during consultation period. The Principles and Criteria was announced on 15

October 2014 and put into effect on 1 September 2015 so that the TIs would have sufficient time to make adjustments and meet the new requirements as specified in the Principles and Criteria.

9.2 Members decided the followings:

- (a) The review exercise would involve three categories of stakeholders:
  - (i) tertiary institutions and Professional Consultants,
  - (ii) employing agencies, professional bodies in social work and labour union
  - (iii) RSWs
- (b) The review exercise would include two rounds of consultations with tentative timeline as follows:
  - (i) written submission, September 2016 to January 2017
  - (ii) consultation forum, April 2017 to June 2017
- (c) The above stakeholders would be invited to give comments on the same document in both rounds of consultations.
- (d) The consolidated opinions would be discussed and reviewed by the Committee from July 2016 to September 2017 and then put forward to the Board for endorsement in September 2017.
- (e) The Committee would arrange additional meetings to handle the matter.

10. (Business information deleted)

11. (Business information deleted)

12. Any other business

12.1 Application for being listed as CPD Activity Organizer

- (a) The Registrar briefed that the Board agreed the work of the Working Group on Professional Development would be taken over by the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration. One of the duties of the Working Group was to promote, monitor the implementation of and review the Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme (VCPD) for RSWs. The Working Group had to assess the application for CPD activity organizers and recommend to the Board for consideration.

- (b) An application for being the VCPD activity organizer was received from the (business information deleted).
- (c) The Registrar briefed members about the screening criteria and procedures for handling such application.
- (d) Members agreed to approve the application and put forward to the Board for endorsement.

12.2 (Business information deleted)

13. Date of next meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled on 16 June 2016 at 7:00pm.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

2 June 2016