

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Meeting of the Committee on Administration

Date: 13 June 2016
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, 26/F Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street,
Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong

Present: Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen (Convenor)
Mr. KWAN Wing-shing, Vincent
Mr. LO Wa-kei, Roy
Mr. WONG Ka-ming
Mr. TAN Tick-yee

Absent with apology: Mr. CHUNG Wai-lung, Rivalino
Mr. HUI Chung-shing, Herman
Mr. SHIU Ka-chun

In-attendance: Mr. LEUNG Sui-keung, Registrar
Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica, Assistant Registrar (Secretary)

Notes

1 Confirmation of the notice of meeting and the notes of last meeting

The notes of last meeting were endorsed without amendment. Members agreed to add “handling applications for registration of fresh social work graduates” in the notice of meeting.

2 Matters Arising

Matters arising from last meeting would be discussed at separate agenda items.

3 Perusal of progress report on promotion of the Board

3.1 The Registrar walked through the report and members had no further comment on the report.

3.2 The Registrar updated that at the talk for visitors from the Mainland on 1 June 2016, one guest asked about the Board’s views on Mr. Tsang

Kin-chiu's conviction case.

- 4 Exploration of the date and theme for the Annual Meeting with RSWs 2016
 - 4.1 The Registrar briefed that at the Annual Meeting, the Chairman and Convenors would report on the work of the Board and the respective Committees. The Honorary Treasurer would report on the financial status of the year. The Annual Meeting was also a platform for communication between the Board and RSWs. The Board would also invite speakers to deliver talks on topics which were of concern and interest to RSWs. The topic selected and the time of the event might affect the number of attendees.
 - 4.2 Members proposed the following topics:
 - (a) 社福界被染紅
 - (b) 社工與歧視 (e.g. sexual minority vs religious)
 - (c) 夾縫中的社會工作
 - (d) 後雨傘運動社工何去何從？
 - (e) 哲學反思：社工對服務使用者的理解
 - (f) 解構社會工作者註冊局
 - (g) 在地在線的社會工作(Blended social work)
 - (h) 整筆撥款對社工專業發展的影響
 - (i) 社工與貧窮：扶貧？限富？
 - (j) Liabilities of social workers
 - (k) Mental health of social workers
 - 4.3 The proposed topics would be further discussed and shortlisted by the Committee at the next meeting and then put forward for the Board for approval.
 - 4.4 Members also proposed to schedule the Annual Meeting on 11 November 2016 preferably in the evening.
- 5 Review of the FAQs on SWRB's website
 - 5.1 The Convenor walked through his proposed changes of FAQs. After discussion, members agreed to delete Question 6 and Question 7 and adopted the proposed changes in Question 1, 12, 17 and 20. For question 8, the Board office would provide further information after the meeting.

(Post meeting note: for Question 8, the current note 3 on the list of recognized qualifications in Australia on the Board's website reads "A social work degree awarded in overseas countries that is accredited by the accreditation bodies e.g.

Australian Association of Social Workers was, in principle, recognized by the Social Workers Registration Board for registration. The Board, however, would consider, on an individual basis, an application for registration filed by a holder of a social work degree that was led by a distance education or an off-shore programme, notwithstanding that the degree is accredited by the accreditation bodies".)

6 Perusal of the list of candidates for appointment of Disciplinary Committee Panel members for the term from 16 January 2017 to 15 January 2020

6.1 The Board office had sent the invitation to the current DC Panel members to continue their appointment for the next term in May 2016. Majority of the current DC Panel members had confirmed willingness to take up appointment for another term. The Board office would follow up with other members who had not replied to the Board.

6.2 An open nomination exercise had been conducted from 18 May 2016 to 10 June 2016. The list of candidates received through this nomination exercise was circulated to the Committee. The lists included RSWs with recognized degree and RSWs with recognized diploma. The Registrar walked through the background of all candidates. After screening and discussion, members recommended the following candidates to appoint as the DC Panel members:

RSWs with recognized degree

(anonymised)

RSWs with recognized diploma

(anonymised)

6.3 The Registrar updated that we did not receive any nominations from non-RSWs. At the same time, a few current members from non-RSWs had declined our invitation to continue the appointment for the next term. In this regard, the Committee members agreed to nominate suitable candidates from other professionals for example clinical psychologist, certified public accountant, lawyers or other medical practitioners. The nominations would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

6.4 After completing the selection process, the full lists would be recommended to the Board for final endorsement.

7 Exploration on enhancing the communications between SWRB and RSWs via electronic channel

- 7.1 Further to the discussion at the previous two meetings on how to enhance the communications between SWRB and RSWs via electronic channel, members agreed that the first step was to encourage more RSWs to receive letter of notification on renewal of registration, publications and correspondences by email.
- 7.2 A member shared that in other professional for example, certified public accountant, majority of members opted to receive information by email. A few years ago, the registration fee was reduced to encourage members to choose to receive information by email.
- 7.3 Members proposed to rebate registration fee of HK\$30 if RSWs selected to receive letter of notification on renewal of registration, publications and correspondences by email. The incentive scheme would be a one-off arrangement and for one year only.
- 7.4 Members had a rough estimation on the saving and cost on the proposed incentive scheme:
- (a) Saving in postage would be HK\$12 per RSW including postage of letters and newsletters. Total saving was about \$24,000 (\$12 x 20,000 RSWs)
 - (b) Operating cost would decrease if the notification of renewal would be sent by email instead of by post.
 - (c) Cost of rebate would be HK\$30 per RSW. Total cost would be \$600,000 (\$30 x 20,000 RSWs)
 - (d) Other additional cost included postage of letters of reminder to RSWs who had not yet renewed 28 days prior to the expiry of current registration and the related operation cost e.g. stationeries, manpower. Letters of reminder would be sent by registered post and the postage was \$17.2 per RSWs. At present, 30% of RSWs did not renew their registration 28 days prior to the expiry of registration. Members forecasted that the percentage might increase if the RSWs who had changed to receive notification of renewal by email did not receive or read the emails by one reason or another. In this regard, postage and the related operating cost of sending reminders by registered post would inevitably be increased.
 - (e) If the incentive scheme was implemented in the format of reduction in

registration fee, the Board was required to write to the Labour and Welfare Bureau to seek approval.

- (f) The Board office would work out the cost and benefit analysis for the Committee's consideration at the next meeting. The effectiveness of the scheme would be reviewed after implementation.

8 Any other business

Due to time constraint, the discussion on "handling applications for registration of fresh social work graduates" would be deferred to the next meeting.

9 Date of next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled on 22 August 2016 at 7:15 pm.

30 June 2016