

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 56th Meeting of the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration

Date: 20 March 2017
Time: 7:30 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. KWOK Ngai-kuen, Alvin
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Apology: Dr. CHU Chi-keung
Mr. IP Kim Ching
Ms. LAW Yee-ming
Ms. LUK Ka-mei
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar and
Ms. FAN Lai-ye, Veronica, Assistant Registrar

As Mr. SHIU was arriving late, Dr. Leung convened the meeting first.

Confirmation of the notes of the 55th meeting

1. The notes of the 55th meeting were confirmed without other amendment.

Matters arising from the 55th meeting

(Owing to conflict of interest, Dr. Alvin Kwok excused himself from this agenda item.)

Business information deleted

2. Business information deleted

(Mr. SHIU joined the meeting at this juncture and presided the meeting now on.)

3. Business information deleted
4. Business information deleted
5. Business information deleted

(Dr. Alvin Kwok returned to the meeting at this juncture.)

Business information deleted

6. Business information deleted

7. Business information deleted

Progress report on qualification recognition review and assessment exercises

8. Business information deleted

9. Business information deleted

Qualification Recognition Review

10. Business information deleted

(Dr. Caroline Yeung joined the meeting at this juncture.)

Business information deleted

11. Business information deleted

(Dr. Yeung left the meeting.)

12. Business information deleted

13. Business information deleted

Qualification Recognition Assessment

Business information deleted

14. Business information deleted

Progress report

15. Business information deleted

Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) Programme by Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE)

16. Business information deleted

Higher Diploma in Social Work Programme by HK Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin) (HKIVE)

17. Business information deleted

Higher Diploma in Social Work (Part-time) Programme by Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE)

18. Business information deleted

Social work qualification

Business information deleted

19. Business information deleted

20. Business information deleted

Business information deleted

21. Business information deleted

22. Business information deleted

Review of the Principles, Criteria and Standards

Consideration of the written submissions

23. The Committee noted that a total of seven written submissions were received by the consultation deadline i.e. 28 February 2017. The summary of views was circulated to the Committee before the meeting.

Focus groups organized for service users

24. Members brainstormed how to collect the views of service users in a wider spectrum. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the focus group would be organized on Saturday, 6 May 2017 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. There would be six sessions and the duration of each session would be 30 minutes. To facilitate the discussion, a few questions would be sent to the service users together with the invitation letter.

25. Mr. Shiu, Dr. Leung and Mr. Kwan would join the focus group while Mr. Lun would be on the back-up list. *(Post meeting notes: the draft letter together with the questions were cleared by the Committee and sent out on 28 March 2017.)*

VCPD Scheme

Review the criteria of being listed as VCPD activity organizer

26. Some members expressed concern on the criteria of being listed as VCPD activity organizer. Once approved, VCPD activity organizers could upload their activities to the Board's website even though some activities might fall outside the category of social work related activities. The matter was therefore put forward to the Committee for review.
27. It was noted that once the application was approved, the organizer would be kept on the list for a maximum of five years. The system has been launched since 2011 and some organizers have been listed for over five years and the Committee was invited to discuss how to set up the renewal mechanism.
28. Some members opined that it might bring a perception to the general public that the activities are endorsed by the Board despite the fact that the Board only provides an interactive platform for the RSWs and VCPD activity organizers.
29. It was clear that the Board's mandate was on the matters related to registration and disciplinary control unless or until the Social Workers Registration Ordinance would be amended. In this respect, the Board should seriously consider whether the VCPD Scheme should be kept or shelved. After discussion, the Committee agreed not to pursue the matter as there was no urgency.

VCPD applications from three organizers

30. It was noted that the application from the (anonymised) was circulated to the Committee before the meeting but four members approved while four members not approved. Members voted at the meeting and four members i.e. Mr. Shiu, Mr. Kwan, Mr. Lun and Dr. Leung voted to approve the application while Dr. Kwok not to approve. Members voted to approve the other two applications from (anonymised). The three applications would be put forward to the Board for consideration. *(Post meeting notes: the three applications were circulated to the Board for consideration on 22 March 2017. Members' attention was drawn to the provisions in the Education Ordinance that two applications, namely (anonymised), might fall unto the definition of "school", and if so, the organizations might require to observe the related ordinances. Further clarifications with the organizations were required.)*

Review of the Proposal on Obtaining Recognized Social Work Qualification

31. It was noted that according to the SWRO, Category 2 RSWs were required to propose to obtain a recognized degree or diploma in social work within a period which was reasonable in all the circumstances. A form was therefore designed for the said purpose. It was specified in the form that Category 2 RSWs were required to, within two years from the date of their first registration as a RSW, propose a study programme aiming to obtain a recognized social work degree or diploma, failing which the registration would not be renewed after the prescribed period of two years.
32. The Registrar briefed that under the SWRO, there was no prescription of the two-year period. According to the wordings of the form, the Board office could only follow up with any outstanding proposal after the expiry of two years, hence it was proposed to remove the

prescribed period of two years in the form.

33. In the ensuing discussion, there were different views on whether “two years” should be deleted or it should be shortened to say one year. After discussion, the Committee agreed to remove the prescribed period of two years to allow more flexibility to the Board office to closely follow up the outstanding matters.

Date of next meeting

34. Members agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled on 2 June 2017 at 7:15 pm.
35. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

31 March 2017