

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PANG YIU KAI

I, Pang Yiu Kai c/o 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong DO SAY as follows:-

1. I am the Treasurer of the Hong Kong Institute of Education ("the HKIEd"), and I have been a member of HKIEd's Council since around June 2002.
2. I make this statement in response to questions raised in the letter sent to me by Wilkinson & Grist, dated 30th March 2007. As Treasurer (and therefore one of the Council officers) of HKIEd, I have had the opportunity to review some of the statements submitted to the Commission of Inquiry. Insofar as I was personally involved in some of the incidents mentioned in these statements, I wish to inform the Commission of my recollection of those incidents.

The HKIEd Retreats

3. The HKIEd had two retreats (one held on 24th April 2004 and another on 5th June 2004) to discuss the way forward regarding the form and possibility of any deep collaboration with other institutions following the release of the Niland Report.
4. Both retreats were held on Saturday at the Beas River Country Club of the Hong Kong Jockey Club in Sheung Shui. Arrangements for the retreats (including the booking of the venue etc.) were made well in advance of the actual dates of the events. I understand Institute Management (which, of course, was led by Prof. Paul Morris ("Paul")) was very much involved in planning the programme for both retreats which were attended by over 40 participants on each occasion. As I said, the purpose of the retreats was to consider the future of HKIEd in terms of what it should do in relation to development strategies and institutional integration, and how it should pursue these matters.
5. Dr. Thomas Leung ("Thomas"), HKIEd's Chairman, was one of the presenters at the first retreat. I recall him using the expression "death by a thousand cuts" on the occasion to set the scene that if HKIEd were to maintain the status quo (i.e. do nothing), it would "die a death by a thousand cuts" in light of the demographics, the changes in the society, the government's stance on institutional integrations and the recommendations in the Niland Report. I believe the word "merger" was also used by Thomas in the context of the spectrum of possible alternatives during the course of this retreat. However, my recollection was that he did not say or imply that if HKIEd did not pursue a full merger, it would die "a death by a thousand cuts".
6. My perception of the mood of the first retreat was that the participants were generally receptive to pursuing changes. However, as there was insufficient time to deal with all the issues, a second retreat was organized. This took place on 5th June 2004.

7. I was the main discussion facilitator at the second retreat. The discussion groups had quite in-depth discussions on what the participants wanted for HKIED in terms of any future federation/affiliation arrangements with other tertiary institutions. The consensus reached by all participants at the second retreat was that HKIED should not fully merge with another institution. However, it should be open to discussion with potential partners on federation/affiliation/collaboration.

Paul's Relationship with Mrs. Fanny Law

8. I am aware from my interactions with and reports from Paul in his capacity as the President of HKIED that his relationship with Mrs. Fanny Law was poor. I remember this being the position as early as I took up the role as Treasurer of HKIED. As I recall, Paul frequently complained about government officials at the EMB.
9. However, Paul did not on any occasion report to me (or indeed to Council of HKIED) that Mrs. Fanny Law had requested him to sack staff members of HKIED. I do recall Paul mentioning on one occasion that Mrs. Fanny Law had encouraged a staff member to leave HKIED to join other tertiary institutions. However, Paul did not request me (or Council) that I/Council should take any intervention action.

Lunch at Hong Kong Club on 21st March 2006

10. On 21st March 2006, Thomas and I had lunch with Prof. Arthur Li and Mrs. Fanny Law at the Hong Kong Club, and the focus of our discussion was on the future of HKIED.
11. At this lunch, Thomas was essentially lobbying the EMB for more funding such that the HKIED could continue to play its significant role in teacher training and providing support to the government in upgrading the teacher education sector.
12. We also discussed issues on HKIED's possible collaboration with other tertiary institutions and our willingness to move the discussion forward. The issue of full merger was not discussed. Prof. Li encouraged the Institute to fully explore further deep collaboration opportunities with other tertiary institutions.

Drinks on 29th March 2006

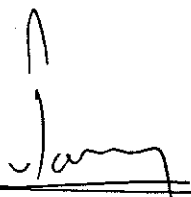
13. I also took part in the drinks at the Hong Kong Club at which Prof. Arthur Li, Thomas and Paul were present. As I recall, Prof. Li was very amicable in his approach to us as representatives of HKIED as he was encouraging progress in HKIED's collaboration with other institutions. I remember Paul discussing the Columbia model as a viable option.

Dinner between Representatives of HKIED and the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 10th May 2006

14. I was also involved in a dinner at Toscana of Ritz Carlton which was attended by Dr. Edgar Cheng, Prof. Lawrence Lau, Prof. Kenneth Young, Thomas and Paul.
15. The focus of our discussion was to explore a viable federal arrangement for HKIED and the Chinese University. In this discussion, one of the suggestions from representatives of the Chinese University was that there should be some form of amalgamation of functions of the two institutions (such as their respective senate/academic board, degree awarding function) under a federal arrangement. Representatives of the Chinese University did not, however, request for either a full merger with HKIED or absorption of HKIED's campus. My recollection of the discussion was that Paul was fairly inflexible in his negotiations with the Chinese University and was not prepared to consider such suggestion of the Chinese University. The parties were quite far apart on issues of governance under the federation arrangement, and no consensus was reached in the end.

Dinner with Paul and Thomas on 14th September 2006

16. On 14th September 2006, I had dinner with Paul and Thomas at the Derby Room of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The focus of our discussion was on the future of HKIED. We also took this opportunity to catch up with Paul since he had been away from HKIED on leave.
17. Basically, the occasion was used to take stock of the current situation at HKIED, and how HKIED could position itself in the future. I indicated to Paul that he should be more accommodating (in terms of give and take) in his future negotiations with the Chinese University on future federation arrangement. I think Thomas might have talked to Paul regarding his reappointment as the President. However, Paul was not threatened by Thomas (or indeed myself) that his reappointment was contingent on him initiating a merger between HKIED and the Chinese University. Issue of full merger was not discussed at this dinner.



Pang Yiu Kai
Dated: 3. 4. 2007