

Notice of Council Meeting (Special) by circulation 22 August 2018 to Council

From: "Monica Yuen" <monica.yuen@hkie.org.hk>

To: [Council Members]

Subject: Council Meeting (Special) by Circulation

Dear

The Executive wished to apologise for this short notice.

The Institution had been collating responses from members since a Press Release was issued on 8 August with a view to consult the Council for actions needed before the next scheduled Council meeting. Members would find summaries of views as attached with the cut-off date on 17 August. To this the Executive wishes to thank the Secretariat in sorting out all responses within such a short duration.

Unfortunately the momentum of this saga was beyond our expectation and coupled with the message sent to the Council Members on 21 August by the President, IPP Ir Thomas CHAN in consultation with the Executive believed the urgency and nature of the matter call for the Institution to come up with timely and prompt decisions to keep members at large informed and to preserve the image that the engineering profession is both analytically trained and communally alerted.

IPP Thomas herewith wishes to call an emergency Council meeting by email distribution to move several motions, by adding one arisen from the narrative of the President's latest message.

Council Members are herewith requested to send in their votes before noon on Friday, 24 August 2018. Please send in your response to the HKIE email address only.

The HKIE Secretariat will prepare the voting results for Council reference.

Background

In his message, the President wishes to seek the wisdom of the Council in advising the best option for the Institution, in particular, whether he should resign from the presidency considering discord views among members. The Executive considered the matter is more than simply counting of numbers. Instead, it should leave this to the thoughts from each and every Council Member to demonstrate the Institution as a whole remains as a unity in dealing with criticism on the engineering profession.

The following information files are attached for Council Members' reference and consideration.

A. Statistic of messages received

All messages received were counted. The aim was to make it embracing so that no one can complain messages sent were ignored. In this connection, similar messages were counted and included in the total quantity even though they were sent by the same member.

B. Comments addressed to President Philco

The Institution has received views from members on whether the President should resign or continue to stay in office with both supportive and contrary opinions. The Council would be asked their views on this.

There are comments that the evidences were clear as drawn from news broadcast as well as counter arguments that no concrete evidences were yet established.

Many had demanded for explanation outright. Some requests came with a connotation that with a better disclosure of facts it might revert the comments calling for resignation. However, the Executive

suggested they should be presented to the Council for reference and a feel of the situation only. It is suggested the Council may also wish to consider these are pure personal view addressed to the President and for the President to address such only.

C. Comments addressed to the Institution

Pertinent and explicit requests addressed to the Institution are extracted. On those issues the Executive thought more imminent that timely and suitable attention are required are listed out for the Council to resolve.

Council meeting 22nd August 2018

Agenda

To pass the following motions. (Please put "x" in the boxes below to indicate your choices.)

Motion #1a

In view of the present circumstances and in considering the statistic of members' views and the background materials presented, should the Council believe it is best for the Institution to request the President should remain in office:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support (The President should remain in office) – see Motion #1b below |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Against (The President should resign from office) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstained |

Motion #1b

Motion #1b is moved under the condition if Motion #1a was resolved and passed with Support. Results of #1b that followed will be scratched if Motion #1a was not passed.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Without any condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The President should only attend to institutional matters including attending divisional functions, internal meetings and events & reception with overseas institutions but refrain attending external events. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other Comments – <i>please write in</i> |

Background

The Institution has received strong views that something has to be done to protect the reputation of the profession. The views included general remarks and some quite specific requests. The Council is recommended to consider the following two Motions.

Motion #2a

Should HKIE take actions to protect the engineering profession by responding to members, the public, media and other organisations on matters that may cause injurious to the reputation of the engineering professional arising from any matters of concerned?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Against |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstained |

Motion #2b

Motion #2b is moved under the condition if Motion #2a was resolved and passed. Results of #2b that followed will be scratched if Motion #2a was not passed.

- a. *To recruit a PR agent with a budget not more than HK\$300K.*
- b. *To continue engaging the Institution's legal advisor for legal advice.*

	Support
	Against
	Abstained

Motion #2c

Motion #2c is also moved under the condition if Motion #2a was resolved and passed. Results of #2c that followed will be scratched if Motion #2a was not passed.

Background

Specific requests from members that would have a great impact on the current practices commonly adopted in construction industries on submissions of design, alternation and as fitted drawings that there is a need to clarify the responsibility, liability and the concern of breaching both statutory and common law provisions.

Should HKIE seek clarifications on drawing submission, consent and approved procedures from relevant departments?

	Support
	Against
	Abstained

Motion #3

Should HKIE follow up on other peripheral matters to keep stock for timely and immediate response to media in future – in general engineering and related matters?

	Support
	Against
	Abstained

Motion #4

*Should HKIE follow up **to consider** other specific requests from views received for Council's further deliberation?*

Extracted comments from members' views

1. *Seek to involve HKIE in official investigation of the SCL saga*
2. *Legal support to members because criminal charges were instigated on matters that had been commonly practiced in the industry with general consent from the government departments.*

	Support
	Against
	Abstained

Note: These could be sensitive matters, the Motion only covers approval to consider.