

Minutes for the 5th Council Meeting of the 33rd NUSSU Council

Date: 4th August 2012

Venue: Engineering LT1

Time: 1130 HRS

Ref: NUSSU/33/HAS/CM/005

Attendance

Present:

Tan Peng Chong	Council Chairperson
Lee Si Yuan Andrew	Design and Environment Club, President
Chew Chin Hong	Design and Environment Club, Vice President
Anthoni Giam	Cultural Activities Club, President
Ang Zhi Yeong	Cultural Activities Club, Publicity and Publications Director
Genevieve Ng Jing Wen	Community Service Club, President
Phang Shi Tien	Community Service Club, Vice President (Internal Affairs)
Soh Yi Da	Community Service Club, Vice President (Special Projects)
Oh Sin May Rebecca	Political Association, President
Ng Huiyi Valerie	Political Association, Vice President (Projects)
Soh Xiang Jun	Political Association, Vice President (Policy)
Chia Chin Ooi Calvin	Sports Club, President
Tan Yi Sheng	Science Club, President
Joyce Fu	Science Club
Deng Huishan (Wilson)	Science Club
Ng Xiang Long	Arts Club, President
Vienna Chua	BIZAD Club, President
Gwee Shuo Xian	BIZAD Club, Vice President (Student Life)
Koh Jun Hao	BIZAD Club, Vice President (BBA)
Tan Chun Yue	Engineering Club, President
Andric Loh	Engineering Club, Vice President
Yang Yao Choong Richard	Engineering Club, Honorary General Secretary
Maria Tania Hapsari Harsono	Computing Club, Vice President (External)
Yap Hon Sheng, Kevin	University Scholars' Club, President
Kong Ying Jie Kenneth	University Scholars' Club, Vice President
Chan Yi Zhang	Law Club, President
	Law Club, Vice President
Exco:	
Ang Yu Qian	President
Wilson Lau Wei Liang	Vice President
Lee Wei Liang	Honorary General Secretary
Tan Wei Jian	Honorary Assistant Secretary
Tan Heng Wee	Publications Secretary
Ng Rong Xin	Students' Welfare Secretary
Kuah Xiang Long	Director of Projects (Con Clubs)
Shermon Ong Kah Han	Executive Director
Ngo Yun Fun	Director of Services



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Siah Tiong Shie
Clovis Tan Choon Kiat
Mabel Koh Li Ting
Angelina Tan Weili
Stephen Sumarli
David Chen

Deputy Financial Secretary
Director of Internal Relations / Director of Alumni Relations
Deputy Welfare Secretary
Assistant Welfare Secretary
Assistant Welfare Secretary
Assistant Welfare Secretary

Late:

Ong Wen Chong

Medical Club, President

Observers:

Liza Liu May Ying
Zelig Dhi Lee

Deputy Financial Secretary
Assistant Welfare Secretary
**Late arrival*

Absent with Apologies:

Law Zhi Wei
Tay Kai-Xian

Medical Club, Vice President
Dental Club, President

Agenda

- 1) Campus Accommodation Closure
- 2) Proposal to MOF / DPM
- 3) Academic Updates
- 4) Welfare Survey updates
- 5) NUSSU Funding Briefing Conclusion
- 6) Constitution Review
- 7) Election Campaign and Standing Orders
- 8) AOB

The 2nd Council Meeting was called to order at 1127 HRS by Mr TAN Peng Chong, Chairperson of the 33rd NUSSU Council.

Observers have been given speaking rights, Proposed by Peng Chong and Seconded by Shermon

S/N	Agenda	Action By
1.	Passing of the 4th NUSSU Council Meeting Minutes	No action Required
1.1	Point 1.2. Shermon (Law) proposed to change “seat” to “sit”	
1.2	With no further amendments, Peng Chong (SDE) proposed to pass the meeting minutes, seconded by Yu Qian (SDE)	
2.	Campus Accommodation update	
2.1	Yu Qian (SDE) presented on the closure of the Campus Accommodation issue. It is aimed to bring a closure to the issue that has happened throughout the months.	
2.2	Key points have been covered in the presentation slides. Please refer to accompanying slides	
3.	Proposal to MOF & DPM	No action required
3.1	Proposal raised to Ministry of Finance and DPM Tharman to provide for an additional fund for less well-off students to tap on for more than basic needs, i.e. Student Exchange Programmes (SEPs), Residential Colleges (RCs), summer schools etc	
3.2	Key points have been covered in the presentation slides. Please refer to accompanying slides	
3.3	No specific statistics have not yet been released by the school administration on the per-capita income (PCI) of students going on	

3.4	<p>SEPs and other activities</p> <p>To be further worked on by the incoming 34th NUSSU EXCO and Council</p>	
4.	<p>Academic Updates</p> <p>4.1 Teaching academy Forum</p> <p>4.1.1 The aim of the forum is to enhance the teaching standards of the lecturers within NUS.</p> <p>4.1.2 Intention by the school administration is for lecturers to balance between teaching and research. There is a need for the lecturers to have better teaching practices</p> <p>4.1.3 Key points have been covered in the presentation slides. Please refer to the attached slides for further information</p> <p>4.1.4 Wei Jian (WJ), Sports, highlighted that the new feedback system will be implemented in a gradual manner with phases and not a major shift in an instant especially the changes that are more technical</p> <p>4.2 CORS Review Committee</p> <p>4.2.1 The aim of the review committee is for a comprehensive review of CORS and gather feedback from the students and it is an ad hoc committee that will last for a year</p> <p>4.2.2 Key points have been covered in the presentation slides. Please refer to the accompanying slides for further information</p> <p>4.2.3 WJ (Sports): Zero refund policy means that only successful bids will not be refunded. Any unsuccessful bids will still be refunded</p> <p>4.2.4 Shermon (Law): Law School will be disadvantaged in bidding, due to having only 200G points per year.</p> <p>4.2.5 Joseph (observer): Suggestion has been raised to tweak to have P and G points be in proportion to each other, but no way to standardize across the board for a fixed ration</p> <p>4.2.6 Siah (Engin): Ratio is based on the courses based on the program and general requirements and it is felt to be fair</p>	

4.2.7	Shermon (Law): Suggests for CORS to be accessible throughout the year, makes module planning very difficult. To be clarified.	
4.2.8	Tanya (USC): To reconsider the standardization of CORS points across the board, as USC students face a unique problem in bidding for their USC modules. Also do not see the differentiation between the faculties	
4.2.9	Wilson (FASS): Unsure of the usefulness of standardization of the CORS points	To be followed up by Rong Xin
4.3	Meeting with Prof. Bernard Tan	
4.3.1	Aim of the meeting was to wrap up previous agendas and to raise some new issues to Prof Bernard Tan	
4.3.2	Key points and replies by Prof Tan have been covered in the presentation slides. Please refer to the accompanying slides for further information.	
4.3.3	Xianglong (Biz): Request to publicise the new IVLE link.	
4.3.4	Siah (Engin): Some modules have no information in IVLE even if there is a link there	
4.3.5	David (Med): It has been ongoing for smaller faculties over the feedback, even for non-modular faculties. Idea for a student to be in the Faculty Curriculum Review Committee (FCRC) is for smoother implementation on the faculty level and to empower the club MCs to tackle faculty academic issues	
4.4	Welfare survey updates	
4.4.1	Key results for the survey are shown during the presentation. Please refer to the accompanying slides for further information.	
4.4.2	Further details on the ISB services will be released on 13 th August 2012	
4.4.3	Current buses will be used but existing routes will not be affected	
4.4.4	New initiatives will always be on trial before being fully implemented	
4.4.5	External companies have also been hired to gather statistical data before the implementation happens	

	Chun yue, Ming Jiang, Wei Liang left during recess from 1228 to 1240	
5	Constitution Review	Shermon
5.1	Shermon, Executive Director, presents on the updated Constitution. Please refer to the accompanying slides for further information	
5.1	Peng Chong (SDE) proposed to pass the contentious issues via simple majority voting with Calvin (Sci) seconding. There are no objections.	
5.1.1	Joseph (Observer) enquired about the existence of 'Party' Whip and Shermon (Law) clarified that there is no whip and the Council allows its representatives to vote based on their conscience.	
5.1.2	Michael (SoC) asked about the incident when the Council wished to remove the Exco previously. Shermon (Law) clarified that the incident happened during the 10 th NUSSU Council over a miscommunication.	
5.1.3	Wilson (FASS) checked that all 3 requirements must be met for a constitutional amendment to be passed. Shermon (Law) answered that it is correct.	
5.1.4	Chairperson proposed to review the current NUSSU Constitution. Xianglong (Biz) seconded. No objections raised	
5.1.5	Chairperson proposed to adopt the proposed NUSSU Constitution with no less than two-thirds approval. Xiang Long (CAC) seconded. No objections raised.	
5.1.6	Yu Qian (SDE) requested Shermon (Law) to clarify the difference between the proposed Associate Bodies scheme and the current framework. Shermon (Law) clarified that under the current system the representatives from halls and RCs are co-opted at the discretion of the Council, in which the new scheme will institutionalise such representation on the Council.	
5.1.7	Yu Qian (SDE) raised the point that the increasing number of student groups in relation to accommodation should have a voice and avenue to raise their concerns. Michael (SoC) seconded.	

5.1.8	Chairperson requested that Shermon (Law) explain briefly the motions prior to passing them.	
5.1.9	Chairperson asked if there is an obligation for the constituent clubs to change the titles of the positions as well. Shermon (Law) clarified that it is encouraged but not obligatory.	
5.1.10	Chairperson proposed to pass the motion to rename the role of Publications Secretary to Communications Secretary. Shermon (Law) seconded. No objections raised	
5.1.11	Chairperson proposed to pass motion 5 (refer to accompanying slides). Chin Hong (CAC) seconded. No objections raised	
5.1.12	Chairperson proposed to pass motion 6 (refer to accompanying slides). Heng Wee (CSC) seconded. No objections raised.	
5.1.13	Chairperson proposed to pass motion 7 (refer to accompanying slides). Vienna (Biz) seconded. No objections.	Chairperson
5.1.14	On the issue of lowering of quorum for general meetings for efficiency, Siah (Engin) raised the concern that the numbers are rather arbitrary. The numbers were chosen from 1978 which no documents are able to be traced to the rationale. Aloysius raised the issue of having a lowering of the quorum in light of higher thresholds for Referendums. Shermon (Law) clarified that both may seem contradictory. However, the lowered quorum is to maintain the efficiency of the legislative procedures. Wilson (FASS) raised the point that the quorum for constituent club may be higher than the Union's ones and checked if their own quorum should be lowered accordingly. Shermon (Law) clarified that Constituent Clubs can maintain their current levels but are encouraged to follow the Union's guidelines.	Chairperson
5.1.15	Yu Qian (SDE) request to pass this motion via a simple majority voting to pass motion 8 (i.e. lowering of quorum levels). Shermon (Law) seconded. No objections raised.	
5.1.16	Chairperson proposed for a 5 minute recess to consolidate opinions in preparation for the voting of motion 8. Siah (Engin) seconded. No	

	<p>objections raised</p> <p>David (Med) left at the break</p> <p>Number of eligible votes: 38 Number of against votes: 15 Number of for votes: 23 Motion 8 passed by simple majority.</p> <p>5.1.17 Yi Zhang (Law) questioned the reason for not codifying the prevention of conflict of interest for the Adjudication Committee. Shermon (Law) clarified that it is so fundamental that it is not needed to expressly codify such a principle. However, it is open to future Councils to codify the principle if necessary.</p> <p>5.1.18 Zelig (USC) questioned if a non-Council member may sit on the Adjudication Committee. Shermon (Law) clarified that it is possible.</p> <p>5.1.19 Stephen (PA) asked the question of who chooses the members of the Adjudication Committee. Shermon (Law) clarified that the Council will decide the make-up of the Adjudication Committee.</p> <p>5.1.20 Yu Qian (SDE) clarified that the Adjudication Panel can be decided internally by the Adjudication Committee.</p> <p>5.1.21 Andrew (SDE) suggested that proposed motion 9a (draft Clause 5.2 requiring the Law Club President, or his assignee, to be on the Adjudication Committee), be removed.</p> <p>5.1.22 Siah (Engin) and Xiang Long (CAC) questioned that need for the number of representatives from Law should be defined and limited to one.</p> <p>5.1.23 Chairperson proposed for the voting for this motion to be split up.</p> <p>Voting for the existence of Adjudication Committee Number of Against votes: 0 Number of For votes: 38</p> <p>Voting for the Adjudication Committee to have the power to hear disputes between any Constituent Club and its members</p>	
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	<p>Number of Against votes: 0 Number of For votes: 38</p> <p>Voting for having a undefined make-up of the Adjudication Committee Number of For votes: 27 Number of Against votes: 10 Number of abstain votes: 1</p> <p>Flexible Adjudication Committee make-up passed by simple majority. Shermon will be tasked to reword the clause accordingly.</p> <p>5.1.24 Xiang Long (CAC) questioned if the decision of the Panel is final and the Constituent Club should be expected to follow. Shermon (Law) clarified that this Panel, when hearing a dispute, is essentially hearing an “appeal” on a current decision by the Constituent Club. Hence, the final conclusion is binding.</p> <p>5.1.25 Shermon (Law) clarifies that the individual Constituent Club’s Constitutions may reject the hearing of disputes by the Adjudication Committee.</p> <p>5.1.26 John (SDE) asked if the Adjudication Committee is necessary since an appeal can be rejected. Shermon (Law) clarified that in the interest of time and cost, the Panel may reject to hear appeals and thus the Adjudication Committee is required.</p> <p>5.1.27 Mabel (Biz) asked who will raise the issues to the Adjudication Committee. Shermon clarified that the parties involved may raise the issue to the Adjudication Committee.</p> <p>5.1.28 Chairperson proposed for motion 10 (refer to accompanying slides) to be passed by 2/3 majority. Number of For votes: 38 Number of Against votes: 0</p> <p>5.1.29 Motion to amend the Constitution passed.</p> <p>5.1.30 Proposed amendment to section 9b, NUS Regulation 9.</p>	
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<p>5.1.31</p> <p>5.1.32</p> <p>5.1.33</p> <p>5.1.34</p> <p>5.1.35</p> <p>5.1.36</p>	<p>Chairperson proposed for 5 minutes' recess to deliberate the issue. Siah (Engin) seconded</p> <p>Valerie (PA) and Rebecca (PA) left. Kevin (USC) left. Medicine Rep came.</p> <p>Aloysius (Law) raised the issue that "shall be no more than two" means that the constituent body may choose to send 0 representatives which will mean that a club may not have representation in the Exco. Shermon (Law) clarified that this clause is to allow for flexibility. Yu Qian (SDE) clarified that it is difficult to meet a minimum number of representatives to be send.</p> <p>Heng Wee (CSC) enquired if there is any implication for Constituent Clubs to not adhere to the NUS Regulations. Shermon (Law) clarified that thus far there has been no sanctions by the NUS administration. However, NUSSU should still strive to adhere to the regulations despite the lack of enforcement.</p> <p>Siah (Engin) raised the opinion that the assumption that the representation is not required as the Council has the representation required may be inappropriate.</p> <p>Michael (SoC) spoke that enabling more people on board is good and that the issues being raised are not too faculty-based. Wilson (FASS) highlighted that the vote itself can address the discussion. Heng Wee (CSC) highlighted that representation may not need to be simply by quantity but rather quality. Heng Wee (CSC) added that a clause should be included to address the accountability issue if clauses are not adhered to. Shermon (Law) reiterated that this could be done on a student (NUSSU) level instead of at the school (NUS) level.</p> <p>Chairperson proposed for the recommendation of this amendment to be passed to be raised to the school administration.</p> <p>Number of For votes: 35 Number of Against votes: 0</p> <p>Chairperson proposed for the recommendation to be raised as worded.</p>	
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	<p>Number of For votes: 31 Number of Against votes: 4</p>	
5.2	NUSSU Elections Mechanism	
5.2.1	Wilson (CSC) presented on the 34 th Council elections. For more information, please refer to attached slides.	
5.2.2	Xianglong (Biz) highlighted that in the event of more nominees than expected MC strength, the current MC of BizAd club may have a vote of confidence. Wilson (Engin) will bring this offline.	
5.2.3	Wilson (FASS) highlighted that FASS may not be able to meet the vote of confidence clause as the external and internal voting is combined.	
5.2.4	Yu Qian (SDE) clarified that the legitimacy, accountability and transparency are the focus of the NUSSU elections. Election orders should not be restrictive and discriminatory. Election procedures and information should be clear and concise. The entire electorate should be given an opportunity to vote.	
5.2.5	Xianglong (Biz) raised a question of releasing results of elections. Heng Wee (CSC) will be addressing it later.	
5.2.6	Exact statistics of elections need not be published. Only the results of the individual taking the portfolios need to be raised.	
5.2.7	Genevieve (CSC) checked if the clauses are recommendations or in place by force. Some points are not feasible due to time constraints. Xiang Jun (Sports) clarified that the current status for Sports Club elections are that the eligible members must be a member from the previous year. Yi Sheng (Sci) left.	
5.2.8	Xiang Jun (Sports) highlighted that interviews are part of the selection procedures and recommend that it should be also possible to reject nominees. Xianglong (Biz) clarified that nominees are allowed to continue to run. Arts and Science mentioned that	

	they do reject candidates at the interview stage.	
5.2.9	Zhi Yeong (CSC) highlighted that the Exco Reps currently do not go through the same elections procedures as the MC due to differing functionality. She suggested that the Exco Reps can still be required to go through interviews.	
5.2.10	Chairperson proposed for a 5 minute recess. Siah (Engin) seconded. No objections. Kenneth and Yi Zhang (Law) left. Tania (USC) left.	
5.3	NUSSU Elections Publicity Proposal	
5.3.1	Heng Wee (CSC) presented on the NUSSU Elections Publicity Proposal. For more information, please refer to accompanying materials.	
5.3.2	Joseph (Observer), suggested adopting two approaches for publicity – one for the freshmen, one for the seniors. Heng Wee (CSC) clarified that the variety of strategies adopted are addressing that issue.	
5.3.3	Wilson (CSC) suggest for a Point of Contact to collect the necessary information that Heng Wee (CSC) require. Heng Wee (CSC) will send an email soon but in consideration of the busy period that the faculty clubs are going through (Rag and Flag, O Week).	
5.4	Passing of 34th NUSSU Council Elections Standing Orders	
5.4.1	Yu Qian (SDE) clarify that the vote of confidence should be mandatory for the constitutional posts.	
5.4.2	Chairperson requested that the titles within the Standing Orders be changed to reflect the constitutional amendment. Shermon (Law) has taken note and will address the issue subsequently.	
5.4.3	Siah (Engin) raised the issue that in the event that a non-contested candidate did not pass the two-third confidence vote, the subsequent procedures are not defined.	
5.4.4	Wilson (FASS) clarified that the Arts nominee are allowed for just one repeat nomination.	

<p>5.4.5</p> <p>5.4.6</p> <p>5.4.7</p>	<p>Calvin (Sci) clarified that the Science nominee are not allowed to run for the same position.</p> <p>Wilson (CSC) proposed that a clause be added to allow for the nominee to be nominated to run for the same position again. Subsequently, should the nominee not pass on the second attempt, the position will be left vacant and elections can be done at subsequent Council meetings. Shermon (Law) Seconded.</p> <p>Shermon (Law) and Chairperson proposed for the 34th NUSSU Elections Standing Orders be passed without Article IV as it is not in line with the 1st Schedule of the Meeting Regulations under the new Constitution. Xianglong (Biz) seconded. No objections raised.</p>	
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Union Dialogue on 17th August 2012. All to be seated by 1845.</p> <p>OCR is working with NUSSU for a Youtube channel. Do send videos to Heng Wee. NUSSU is also working with OCR for a LipDub video this coming semester. Spread the word, and all interested members to are contact Heng Wee (CSC).</p> <p>Chairperson closed the 5th 33rd NUSSU Council Meeting at 1600HRS.</p>	

Prepared By,

Tan Wei Jian

Honorary Assistant Secretary

33rd NUSSU Council



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Vetted By,

Tan Peng Chong

Council Chairperson

33rd NUSSU Council

Ang Yu Qian

President

33rd NUSSU Council