



34th NUSSU Council Meeting #5
25 MAY 2013, 1000H

Agenda

1. Passing of the 4th 34th NUSSU Council Meeting Minutes
2. NUSSU Council Funding
3. Passing of Elections Regulation
4. Council Preference on the Student Representation of YALE-NUS College
5. Donation of \$500,000 to NUS Bursary
6. Constituency of Non-faculty Clubs in the Union
7. Issue of Ideal Class Size
8. Discussion to Exco Election Procedures
9. AOB



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PASSING OF 4TH COUNCIL MINUTES



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NUSSU COUNCIL FUNDING

NUSSU Council Funding

The NUSSU Funding is an initiative of the NUSSU Council. The Funding is managed by the NUSSU Finance Standing Committee appointed by the Council.

- Open to all students who have ideas or initiatives to start projects that could bring about benefits, no matter tangible or intangible, to the general student population in NUS or farther
- Indication of support from the NUSSU Council
- Encouragement for other NUS students to be involved in student-led activities
- A more vibrant campus life could be created, promoting events *for students, by students.*

NUSSU Council Funding

Utown Inter-Collegiate Debate Shield 2013	\$900.00
CAC+US 2013	\$500.00
14th Start-up@Singapore	-
Stardust	\$300.00
KEVII Chinese Drama	-
Under the Tree	\$450.00
Xin Qing Rong Jin	\$500.00
Intercollegiate Games 2013	\$700.00
KR Dance Concert	-
Temasek Hall Productions	-
Street Furniture	\$400.00
NUS Chinese Dance Concert	\$300.00
Dance Uncensored	\$300.00



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AMENDMENTS TO ELECTIONS
REGULATION



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STUDENT REPRESENTATION OF
YALE-NUS COLLEGE

Yale – NUS College (YNC) Involvement in the Union

Background (Tentative)

- Undergraduates from YNC will be considered as NUS students and treated as part of NUS community
- YNC would like their students to see themselves as part of the bigger NUS community
- There will be high chance of interaction between YNC students and other NUS students through resources sharing (eg. Spaces in Utown)

There is a need for the council take a position before YNC propose their preference

Yale – NUS College (YNC) Involvement in the Union

Possible Options for Us (Tentative)

- Consider YNC as an Associate Body
- Consider YNC as a Constituent Body
- Consider YNC as a separate entity from NUSSU

We will discuss and vote on a position



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DONATION TO NUS BURSARY

Withdrawal of NUSSU Exco Reserves for Donation to NUS Bursary

Background

- NUS Bursary is funded by NUS endowment funds and donations
- From AY2012/2013, total quantum of bursaries for the neediest Singaporean students increased from S\$4,750 (CDC/CCC + NUS Bursaries) to more than S\$8,000/year
- Larger bursary increase in bursary quanta for students in Medicine and Dentistry
- Needy students in other academic programs will be provided with proportionately higher financial support
- Bursary will be named after NUSSU

(<http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/financialaid/bursaries/financial-bs-names.html>)

Withdrawal of NUSSU Exco Reserves for Donation to NUS Bursary

Funding the donation

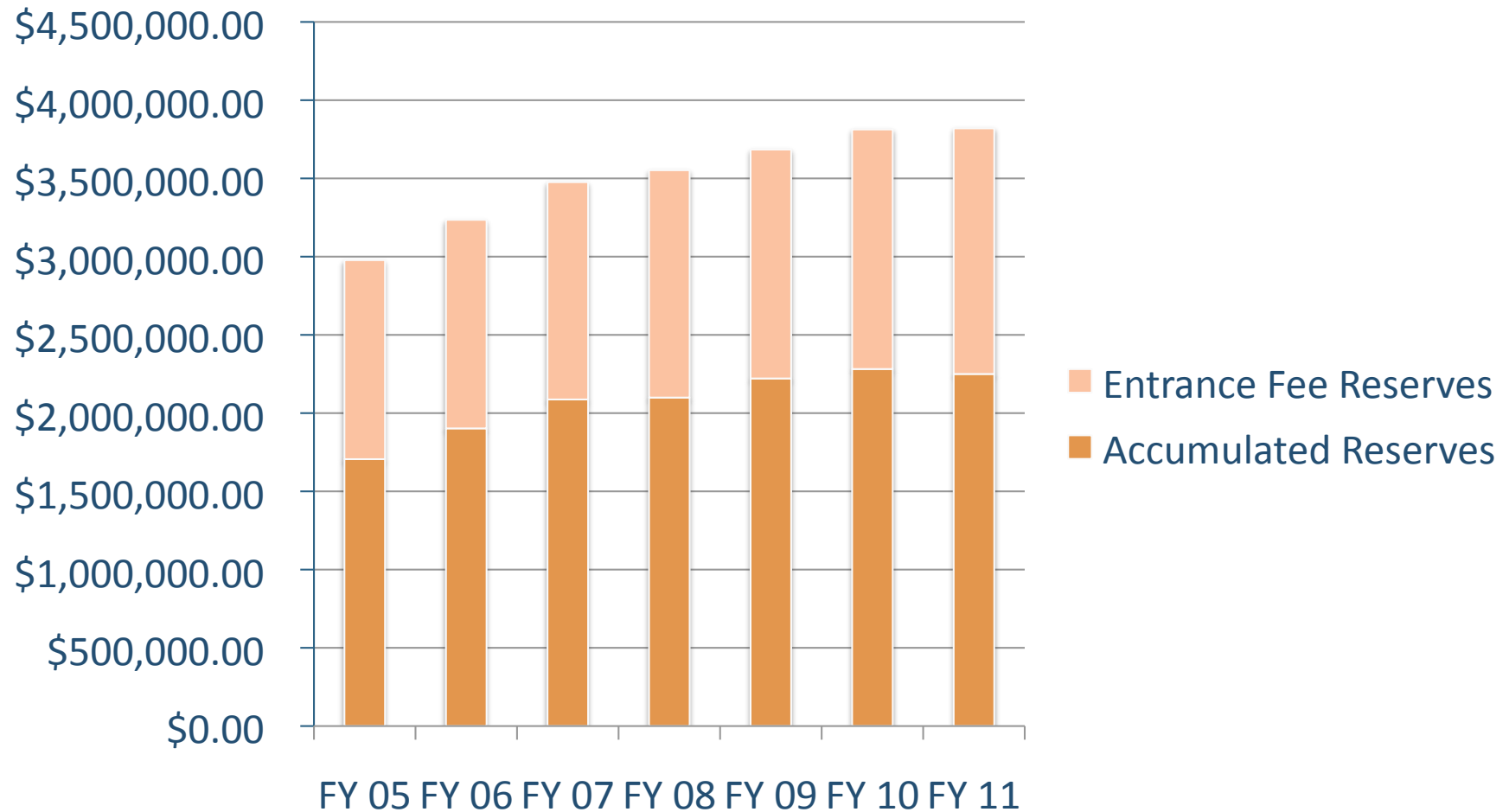
- Donation will be funded by NUSSU Exco Reserves
- Reserves are growing annually at an average rate of 4.2%
- Proposing to draw out \$500,000

Why donate?

- To help NUS fund financial aid for our needy students
- Existing NUSSU Students' Fund Bursary serves as complimentary to NUS Bursary
- A form of wealth transfer through NUS

DONATION TO NUS BURSARY

Exco Reserves



Withdrawal of NUSSU Exco Reserves for Donation to NUS Bursary

Approval

- The Exco would like to seek for the Council's support in withdrawing this amount of money.



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CONSTITUENCY OF NON-FACULTY CLUBS

Historical Context

- 1975: Introduction of new Union Constitution.
 - University of Singapore (Amendment) Act
 - De-centralized power
 - Indirect electoral system
 - No more USSU General Elections
- 1980: Formation of NUS
- 2004: NUS Corporatisation Act – parliamentary oversight removed

Situational Overview

Historical

- Constituencies: Halls and NHCs
- Constituency-level direct elections to Council
 - Council elects top 7 posts

Current

- 14 Constituent Clubs
 - 10 Faculty Clubs
 - 4 Non-Faculty Clubs
- Halls/RCs → Associate Bodies
 - The only historical legacy still present pre-1975

Why we should care?

1. Council reform
 - And thereby Union reform
 - Council “supremacy”

2. Representation in the Council
 - Double representation, etc.

3. Student Interests
 - What representation should ‘Interest Groups’ have?
 - What groups should be constituencies?

What we can do about it

- Consolidation
 - Non-faculty clubs to be under the purview of Exco
 - Rationale:
 - Eliminating duplication in the Council
 - Reducing bureaucracy

Ultimately...

- Many attempted reforms since 1989
 - Disillusionment etc etc
- 1980 NUSSU and 2013 NUSSU
- A critical lens with which to think about the Union in its form today



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TOWARDS SMALLER CLASS SIZE

Background

Rationale

- Looking beyond faculty-to-student ratio which mask actual class sizes

How we match up?

- American public colleges have an average class size of 12 to 15 students for undergrad
- NUS average around 20 to 25 even for higher level modules.

Costs and Benefits

Benefits

- Greater attention paid to individual students
- Staff have more time to provide feedback to students

Costs

- University headcount costs will rise
- Question of who to bear the increase in headcount cost?

Recommendation

1. Request NUS Management to provide a breakdown of class sizes across faculties
2. Progressively shift towards an overall class size of max 15 students for higher level modules over 3 years



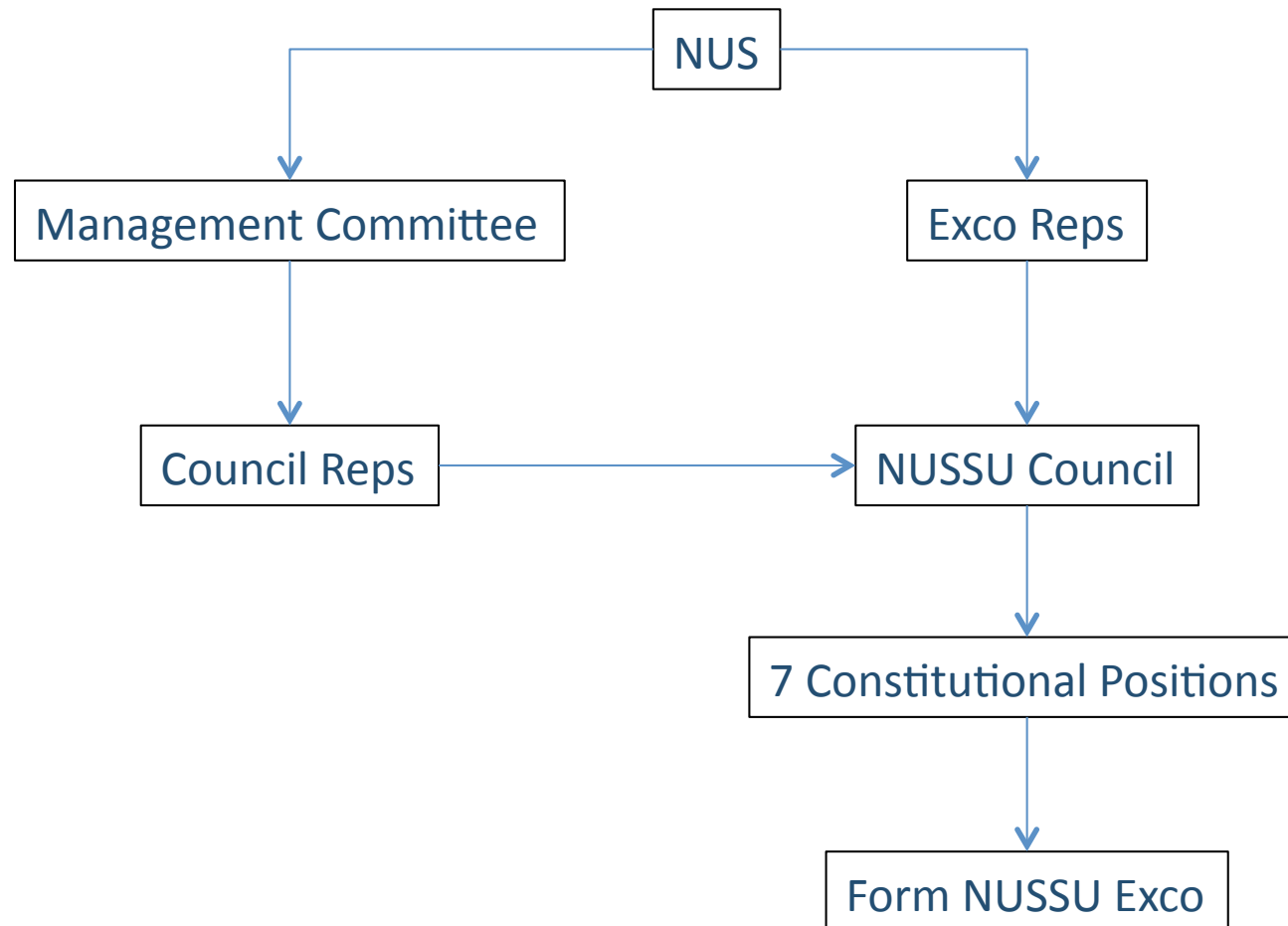
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DISCUSSION OF NUSSU ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

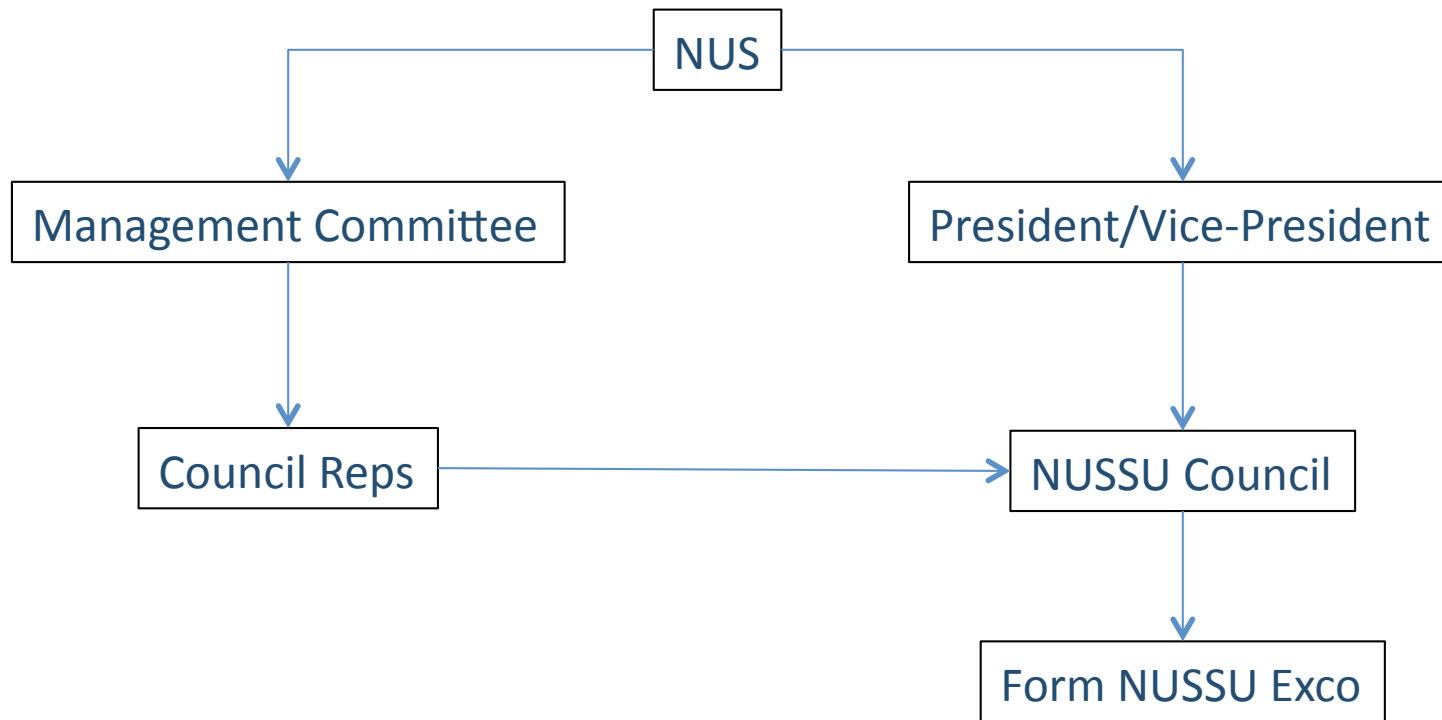
Rationale

- Issue of double representation
- The nature of representation vs. operations
- Legitimacy of the Council?
- Past examples – readiness of the Council?

Existing Structure



Proposed Structure



Procedures

Timeline

- Previously NUSSU Elections (First Council Meeting) on Week 5
- Suggested:
 - Week 1-2 Nominations
 - Week 2-4 Campaigning
 - Week 5 Open Elections
 - Week 5/6 First Council Meeting
- Flexibility of one week backforth

Procedures

Polling

- Elections Commission will be established to facilitate voting
- Polling station placed in every faculty
- Votes tallied and allotted to candidate based on Council representation
 - Similar to American Electoral College
 - Ensure that students have a direct impact, yet not popularity contest

Alternative Scenarios

Team-based Elections

- P and VP only
 - P and VP candidates run as a team, possibly against another team
 - Contest vote or Confidence vote
- 7 Constitutional Posts
 - Similarly run as a team

Alternative Scenarios

Individual-based Elections

- P and VP only
 - Each candidate will declare their intended positions
 - Matched with contest, if any
 - Votes tallied and accounted will be for individuals
- 7 Constitutional Posts
 - Similarly run as individuals, votes accounted for each

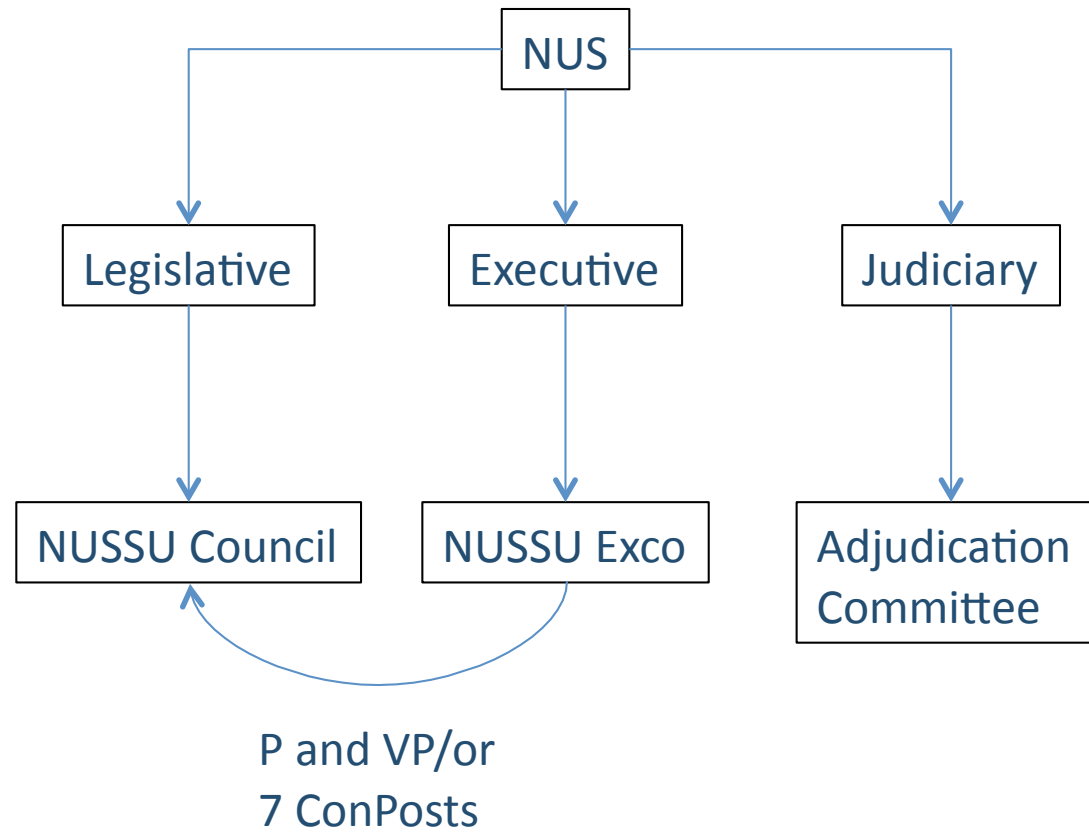
NUSSU Exco

- The elected members will proceed to form his/her members (necessary manpower staffing)
- Namelist to be submitted and endorsed in the First Council Meeting/Exco Meeting
 - AGM appointment
 - Increased legitimacy

NUSSU Exco

- How to ensure interested candidates are received?
 - Interview process similar to NUSSU Committees and Co-option
 - Recruitment efforts
 - Difference is that NUSSU Exco is endorsed and appointed by President, approved by Council; NUSSU Committees is not

“Student Governance Structure”?



DISCUSSION ON NUSSU ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

Pros and Cons

Limitations (Cons)	Benefits (Pros)
Possible group-think	More representative
Short-time span in office	Empowerment of the Council into action
Requires endorsement from school administration to fully legitimize (NUS Regulation 9)	Distinction between two agencies - Decreases overlapping duties
Increase chances of abuse?	Increased responsiveness
Lack of balance? - Exco as a balance - Students as a balance - Clubs in Council as mutual balance?	Greater stake for all parties involved in their respective areas



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AOB



NUSSU

National University of Singapore
Students' Union

www.nussu.org.sg