



# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE STUDENTS' UNION

NUSSU Secretariat, Yusof Ishak House, 31 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119078

Telephone: 6776 4856 (4 Lines) Fax: 6777 1874

Website: <http://nus.edu.sg/nussu>

## Minutes for 7th 34<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013

**Time:** 1030 hours

**Venue:** School of Business, LT 17

### Attendance

#### **Present:**

#### **Council Representatives:**

Chen Ziyou David	Council Chairperson
Tan Wei Yuan	Medical Club, Honorary General Secretary
Han Ke Xin	Arts Club, President
Ong Jia Qiang	Arts Club, Students' Welfare Secretary
Wynne Ng	Arts Club, FOP Chairperson
Neo Aiting	Community Service Club, President
Wong Yong Jie	Community Service Club, Vice President (Special Projects)
Eugene Chiong	Computing Club, President
Jeannel Mah	Computing Club, Vice President (Operations & Projects)
Anthoni Giam	Computing Club, Vice President (Human resource & Development)
Ng Zhi Liang Dennis	Cultural Activities Club, President
Bernard Chandra	Cultural Activities Club, Resource Director
Royston Leong	Cultural Activities Club, Vice President (Special Projects)
Lee Cheng Xiang	Design and Environment Club, Vice President
Samuel Huang Shihan	Design and Environment Club, Vice President
Muhammad Hafiy	Engineering Club, President
Elaine Yeo Yan Ying	Engineering Club, Secretary for Student Affairs
Kenny Low	Engineering Club, Vice-President
Zulhafni Zulkeflee	Law Club, President
Charles Ong Jit Teng	Law Club, Vice President
Lee Zi Yao	Medical Club, President
Ow Yau Loong	Medical Club, Vice-President
Joyce Fu ZiHui	Political Association, Vice President (Projects)
Tan Chin Yee	Science Club, President
Chen Wei Wei	Science Club, Honorary General Secretary
Derek Lim	Science Club, Sports Director
	University Scholars' Club, President



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Timothy Fang

University Scholars' Club, Honorary General Secretary

## Executive Committee:

Goh Ren Kai	President
Soh Yi Da	Vice President
Deng Huishan (Wilson)	General Secretary
Ang Wei Xiang	Assistant Secretary
Soh Yen Ting Cassandra	Financial Secretary
Yeo Jia Le Gladys	Communications Secretary
Ong Kah Han, Shermom	Deputy Vice-President
Carolyn Balakrishnan	Deputy Welfare Secretary
Stephen Aditya Sumarli	Deputy Welfare Secretary
Chua Jia Yao (Bailey)	Assistant Welfare Secretary (Tangible)
Foo Ming Hui Nicholas	Assistant Welfare Secretary (Food and Wellness)
Nella Chua Qi Yu	Deputy Communications Secretary
Denise Ee Shu Fen	Executive Director
Augustin Chiam	Editor in Chief
Amanda Soh Hui Zhen	Creative Director
Chan Wei Jiang	Director of Logistics
Michael Zhang Han	Director of Services
Tay Chun Kiat	Deputy Financial Secretary
Tan Jia Hao Joshua	Director of Enterprise

## Observers:

William Santosa Lim

Business Year 2

## Absent with Apologies:

## Council Representative:

Foo Shida	BIZAD Club, President
Cheung Ho Yeung	BIZAD Club, Vice President (Internal)
Ng Wei Jian	BIZAD Club, Vice President (Student Life)
Teo Yi'an	Community Service Club, Assistant Treasurer
Marco Li	Dental Club, President
Eric Wei	Dental Club, Vice-President
Denise Ng	Design and Environment Club, President



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Valerie Ng Huiyi  
Lee Wei Ming Eugene  
Koh Wyhow  
Kenny Low Zhi Wei  
Chua Franklin

Political Association, President  
Political Association, Vice President (Engagement)  
Sports Club, President  
Sports Club, Vice-President  
Sports Club, Financial Secretary

## Executive Committee:

Clovis Tan  
Chng Yong Sheng  
Yue Jun Yuan  
Verry Gunawan  
Muhammad Fahmi  
A Aravin Kumar  
Cheong Mun Hou Martin  
Low Shin Yi  
Tan Wei Ting Letitia Gayle  
Ho Wei Ing  
Conan Teo Yew Huat

Student Welfare Secretary  
Director of Projects  
Director of Projects  
Director of International Relations  
Director of Resources  
Assistant Welfare Secretary (Transport and Infrastructure)  
Assistant Welfare Secretary (Academic)  
Director of Internal Relations  
Creative Director  
Deputy Financial Secretary  
Director of Marketing

## Associate Bodies:

Zulhakim bin Aman  
Zhou Qixiang  
Tan Kian Liang, Jeremy  
Lim Gang Yi  
Tan Jing Jiat  
Muhammad Jamil  
Tan Kiat Yong Sebastian  
Tan Chin-I

College of Alice and Peter Tan's Students' Committee, President  
Shears Hall, President  
Tembusu College Students' Committee, President  
Eusoff Hall JCRC, President  
Kent Ridge Hall JCRC, President  
King Edward VII Hall JCRC, President  
Raffles Hall JCRC, President  
Temasek Hall JCRC, President



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## **Meeting Agenda:**

- 1. Passing of the 6th 34th NUSSU Council Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Round-up of 34th NUSSU Council**
- 3. Passing of the Amendments to Financial Regulations**
- 4. Updates to Executive Committee Election Reforms**
- 5. Passing of the Amendments to Elections Regulations**
- 6. Updates to Bursary Donations and NUSSU Students' Fund Initiatives**
- 7. Discussion of Finance Issues in NUS**
- 8. AOB**



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The 7th Council Meeting was called to order at 1030 HRS by Mr David Chen, Council Chairperson of the 34<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council.

Yi Da (PA) proposed to start the meeting, seconded by Ren Kai (Arts), the motion was passed without objections.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
1.	<b>Passing of 6<sup>th</sup> 34<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council Meeting Minutes</b>	
1.1	David (Med) asked for the passing of the 6 <sup>th</sup> 34 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes after amendments have been made	Information No Action Required
1.2	<b>Proposer:</b> Yi Da (PA) <b>Seconder:</b> Shermon (PA)	
1.3	With no objections, the minutes of the 6 <sup>th</sup> 34 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes was passed  Ren Kai (Arts) proposed to grant speaking rights to observers, seconded by Wei Yuan (Arts), the motion was passed without objections	
2.	<b>Round-up of 34<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council</b>	
2.1	Wilson (Arts) presented to the Council the past attendance performance of the 34 <sup>th</sup> Council and the following points were covered	Information No Action Required
2.2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Collation of past Council attendance</li><li>2. Optimal Council ratio (Council Rep to Exco Rep)</li><li>3. Individual Attendance</li></ol>	
2.3	Wilson (Arts) remind the Council that he will be documenting the attendance at the end of his term and asked for proper submission of the excuse letters	
2.4	Hafiz (Eng) joined the meeting at 1047hrs	



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3.	<b>Passing of the Amendments to Financial Regulations and Executive Committees Officers Regulations</b>	
3.1	Ren Kai (Arts) presented to the Council the changes to the financial regulations and amendments to the job scope of the student welfare secretary	Shermon (PA)
3.2	Please refer to the slides and regulations for more information	to amend the
3.3	Yi Da (PA) proposed to adopt the financial regulations, seconded by Cassandra (Sci)	elections
3.4	Total Voting strength: 37 For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain: 0	regulations
3.5	The proposed changes to the Financial Regulations were passed by the 34 <sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council	
3.6	Shermon (PA) proposed to remove point 9 (policy book) out of the Executive Committees Officers Regulation, Seconded by Ren Kai (Arts), the motion was passed without objections	
3.7	Cassandra (Sci) proposed to adopt the Executive Committees Officers Regulations, seconded by Yi Da (PA)	
3.8	Total Voting strength: 37 For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain: 0	
3.9	The proposed changes to the Executive Committees Officers Regulations were passed by the 34 <sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council	



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4.	<b>Updates to Executive Committee Elections Reforms</b>	
4.1	Ren Kai (Arts) updated the Council the response from the school administration about the elections reforms. The board of trustees' approval will be required before carrying out the reform but he highlighted that the reform will be pushed through unless the future council choose to reverse the decision.	Information No Action Required
4.2	The motion closed without any questions	

5.	<b>Passing of the Amendments to Elections Regulations</b>	
5.1	Shermon (Law) presented to the Council the updates to the executive committee elections regulations and the proposed changes to the legal text of the management committee elections regulations	Ren Kai (Arts) to follow up with NUS and update the Council
5.2	Please refer to the slides for more information	
5.3	Ren Kai (Arts) pointed out that there is flexibility for the management committee elections but he reminded the Council that 14 <sup>th</sup> of September is the Council Meeting. He pointed out that the election candidates should be reminded of this date early if their elections are held late.	
5.4	Yi Da (PA) proposed to adopt the new revised MC elections regulations, seconded by Ren Kai (Arts), the motion was passed without objections	
5.5	Total Voting Strength; 39 For: 38 Against: 1 Abstain: 0	
5.6	The 34 <sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council has decided to adopt the new set of MC elections regulations.	



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6.	<b>Updates to Bursary Donations and NUSSU Students' Fund Initiatives</b>	
6.1	Ren Kai (Arts) presented to the Council the upcoming initiatives of Students' Fund in targeting the needy students. His presentation mainly covered the purchase of Ez-link vouchers to target studnets' transport needs and the enhancement of the Students' Fund bursary from \$1000 to \$1250. The publicity of the bursary will be out by end of August and he highlighted that NUSSU's bursaries cannot be given on top of NUS's cap limit and serves only to cover students that have fallen through the cracks.	Information No Action Required
6.2	Timothy (USC) asked about the number of bursaries given out by NUSSU each year.	
6.3	Ren Kai (Arts) clarified that in the last financial year, only 19 bursaries are given out	
6.4	Timothy (USC) asked if NUSSU should give out the bursaries to more people	
6.5	Ren Kai (Arts) clarified that the NUSSU bursaries are complimentary to the NUS bursary. He pointed out that the NUS bursary is already very comprehensive and is already covering most of the undergraduates in NUS	





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6.	<b>Discussion of Finance Issues in NUS</b>	
6.1	<p>Kenny (Law) presented to the Council his opinions on the finance issues within NUSSU and between NUSSU and the school administration. He pointed out that due to the mismatch between the dates of NUSSU's elections and the schools' financial periods, NUSSU is always forced to carry blind budgeting for the incoming committees. He proposed to have more flexibility in the budgeting and not be too fixated with the numbers, which is the case right now.</p>	Information No Action Required
6.2	<p>Kenny (Law) also touched on the possibility of raising the petty cash holdings from 1k to 10k and to shorten the time required to draw out the clubs' own reserves</p>	
6.3	<p>Ren Kai (Arts) proposed for a 5 minutes discussion, seconded by Wilson (Arts), the motion was passed without objections</p>	
6.4	<p>Wilson (Arts) shared with the council about line item budgeting and block item budgeting. He pointed out that for line item budgeting, distinctively there is less abuse for money but he asked the council if the school is over doing accountability and killing the stake of individual clubs</p>	
6.5	<p>Timothy (USC) agrees that nothing much can be done about the NUS financial procedures because it is an industry practice. He felt that the checks and balances are important but the overemphasis on the possibility of office bearers stealing money is an overused scare tactic for more control. He felt that there should be more flexibility and sees the need to make changes to NUS regulation 9 to make way for the right changes</p>	
6.6	<p>Cassandra (Sci) felt that many a times the problem lies with OSA and not OFS because they are just administrators. She provided a point of information that budget can be sent in later after the new team steps up but the money cannot be spent before that. She also posed an answer to Kenny's sub clubs issue in that if the budget is allocated in that manner, if the money if not spent the clubs has forfeited the money and it is not theirs anymore</p>	



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6.7	Kenny (Law) pointed out that it is more tricky than that because the sub clubs collect their own finances while Law Club does not allocated any budget to them	
6.8	Cass (Sci) suggested that Law Club consider breaking up their finances with these sub clubs because it is extremely difficult to draw out the reserves from these club. She also agreed that holding only 1k as petty cash is too little but felt that 10k is too much. She felt that a middle ground be struck and a petition drafted to be submitted before the 34 <sup>th</sup> Council steps down	
6.9	Wilson (arts) proposed to extend the discussion by 5 minutes, seconded by Ren Kai (Arts), the motion was passed without objections	
6.10	Wilson (Arts) pointed out that the school is doing NUSSU a favour by doing the check and balance and he hope that one day such checks and balances can be done by another group of students instead of the school. Ultimately he feels that as student representatives, they are accountable to students	
6.11	Ren Kai (Arts) pointed out that trust comes in 2 ways. He asked the Council if the student representatives are portraying themselves in a way that can allow the administration to trust them with 3millions dollars. He pointed that some of the student leaders cannot even submit their excuse letters or commit themselves for duties of the club. He also cited several occasions when the Dean of OSA could give him examples of past Exco's ridiculous purchases and wavering decisions which put him in a difficult position to push for certain things	
6.12	Timothy (USC) believes in human progress and that it depends a lot on the group of people in office at that time	
6.13	Ren Kai (Arts) felt that the ball is 100% in the Union's court to do well now	
6.14	Yong Jie (Com) proposed to extend the discussion by 5 minutes, seconded by Jeannel (Com), the motion was passed without objections	
6.15	Yong Jie (Com) brought up the discussion about e-payment. He pointed out that it is not fair for volunteers to pay manually and also raised an example on the recent e-cyber games that they held, which required	



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6.16	Derek (USC) pointed out that it is not a technical problem because the issue is the need to be a corporate entity first	
6.17	Yong Jie (Com) pointed out that it is possible for NUS to open one more account that is not tied to their main account but they are not willing	
6.18	Ren Kai (Arts) is of the opinion that the issue discussed is quite operational and he personally thinks that it is a plausible endeavour. He asked for members that are interested in the idea to contact him and they can contact the Office of Finance together about the issue	
6.19	Ren Kai (Arts) gave his final address to the Council and he ending he pointed out that the role of Council is to represent the student at large and not to defend their own management committees	
6.20	On behalf of the NUSSU Exco, Ren Kai (Arts) proposed a motion of thanks to the council members for their active participation	
6.21	Ren Kai (Arts) proposed a motion of appreciation to David (Med) for being one of the best Council chairpersons of this time	
6.22	Derek (USC) expressed his thanks to the Council Chairperson and the NUSSU Exco for the active engagement within the Council	
6.23	David (Med) thanked the Council and reminded everyone that there is a limit in the number of things that can be done in a term. He reassured everyone that progress has been made and the Council is at a better place today.	



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With no other outstanding matters to discuss, Mr. Timothy Fang proposed to close the meeting at 1350H. Seconded by Mr. Kenny Low.

Prepared By,

Ang Wei Xiang  
Assistant Secretary  
34<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council

Vetted By,

David Chen Ziyou  
Council Chairperson  
34<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council

Goh Ren Kai  
President  
34<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council