



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 35<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**Time:** 0904 hours

**Venue:** Cinnamon College Master's Lounge, University Town, National University of Singapore

### **Attendance:**

### **Present:**

### **Council Representatives:**

Ng Zhi Liang Dennis	Cultural Activities Club, President
Khoo Wei Xiang Jovene	Cultural Activities Club, Vice President (Special Projects)
Goh Ze Wei Zan	Cultural Activities Club, External Relations Director
Kristabelle Tan Chu Qian	Community Service Club, President
Quek Yan Jun Jocelyn	Community Service Club, Vice President
Cheo Jon Loong	Community Service Club, Vice President
Zhao Yang	Political Association, Vice President
Sim Kern Cheh	Political Association, Honorary Financial Secretary
Law Zhe Wen	University Scholars' Club, President
Varun Soni	University Scholars' Club, Vice President
Sean Ling Wei Tsi	Bizad Club, President
Foo Jia Xin	Arts Club, President
Janson Chan	Design and Environment Club, President
Shawn Ng Kit Yong	Design and Environment Club, Director of Special Projects
Dennis Lim Yong Cheng	Engineering Club, President
Mabel Sim Wenleng	Engineering Club, Student Affairs Secretary
Chen Wei Wei	Science Club, President
Sherman Yee Xian Yang	Science Club, Vice President
Muhammad Danial Hakim Bin Rosli	Law Club, President
Lee Wei Liang	Law Club, Vice President
Tan Yeong Tze Wilnard	Medical Society, President
Andrew Arjun Sayampanathan	Medical Society, Vice President
Nicholas Lim Songping	Dental Club, President
Toh Yi Hui	Sports Club, Vice President
Ai Xin	Sports Club, Marketing Secretary



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## Associate Bodies:

Jonathan Lauw	Kent Ridge Hall, President
Jonathan Chow	Temasek Hall, President
Kong Xie Shern	KE VII Hall, President
Dixon Tioh	Raffles Hall, President
Foo Chuan Yue	Sheares Hall, President
Ching Meng Hang	Eusoff Hall, President

## Exco Committee:

Soh Yi Da	President
Shermon Ong	Vice President
John Paul Chua	General Secretary
Lim Kok Seng	Assistant Secretary
Geoffrey Lee Zheng Hwang	Financial Secretary
Willie Wee	Deputy Vice President
Chang Siong Wei	Director of Projects
Chu Ting Feng	Director of Projects
Alvin Arvind Jaya Raj	Director of Projects
Andy Goh Jun Gang	Director of Logistics
Terence Wong Tai Lun	Director of Services
Eric Khong Mun Kit	Director of Relations
Dexter Shen Yanwen	Director of Marketing
Alvin Poh Leong Ann	Deputy Financial Secretary
Koh Zhi Xun	Deputy Welfare Secretary
Duke Tan	Deputy Welfare Secretary
Tan Zi Tong	Deputy Welfare Secretary
Teresa Widodo	Editor-in-Chief
Wu Yi	Creative Director

## Absent with Apologies:

Nicholas Lim Songping	Dental Club, President
Eden Seah Guo Hua	Sports Club, President
Elizabeth Nicole Cutter	Political Association, President
Ng Wei Quan, Desmond	Computing Club, President
Goh Li Min, Natalie	Computing Club, Vice President
Andrew Andy Chng Chee Weng	Computing Club, Vice President
Aw Yong Zhi Yong	Political Association, Vice President
Chan Siong Woon	Bizad Club, Vice President
Kew Dek Guan (Derrick)	Bizad Club, Vice President



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Sim Wen Qiang Rafael

Raghav Mathur

Lim Li Yan

Kang Wee Jing (Jacky)

Denise Ee

Lai Kean Chung

Kellie Chong

Emmeliene Ong

Tan Kian Wei Alvin

Ma Hua Qing

Design and Environment Club, Vice President

Engineering Club, Vice President

Medical Society, Vice President

Community Service Club, Deputy Volunteer Welfare Director

Communications Secretary

Dep Welfare Secretary

Dep Comms Secretary

Director of Social Media

Dep Fin Secretary

Director of IT

## Meeting Agenda:

**1. Voting on Council Online Polling**

**2. Voting on Venue for Rag and Flag**

**3. Discussion On Concept for Rag and Flag**

**4. AOB**



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The 4th Council Meeting was called to order at 0904 HRS by Mr Law Zhe Wen, Chairperson of the 35<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council, the motion was proposed by Mr. Sean Ling, seconded by Ms. Foo Jia Xin.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
<b>1</b>	<b>Voting on Council Online Polling</b>	
1.0.1	Yi Da proposed to grant speaking and voting rights for representatives from the Associate Bodies. Shermon seconded.	Information No Action Required
1.0.2	Total Voting Strength: 31 For: 31 Against: 0 Abstain: 0	
1.0.3	The Council voted unanimously to grant speaking and voting rights for representatives from the Associate Bodies.	
1.0.4	Yi Da proposed to grant speaking and voting rights for the co-opted Executive Committee members. Shermon seconded.	
1.0.5	Varun queried on the status of the co-opted Executive Committee members being Council members and why they did not have speaking and voting rights.	
1.0.6	Shermon replied that it was based on the current Constitution that is undergoing reforms.	
1.0.7	Total Voting Strength: 36 For: 24 Against: 4 Abstain: 8	
1.0.8	The Council voted to grant speaking and voting rights for the co-opted Executive Committee members.	
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Shermon – Presentation and Q &amp; A.</b>	
1.1.1	Shermon proposed a five-minute discussion. Yi Da seconded.	
1.1.2	Zhi Xun queried on the period where members can choose to object for polls posted on the online polling system. Shermon replied that the team needed to rework on its overall mechanism.	



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1.1.3	Andrew queried on when a motion on the online portal would be channelled to a proper meeting. Shermon replied that the online portal would be used based on discretion and decision by all Council members. If Council members felt that the matter should be raised to a physical Council meeting, then one would be called. More importantly, the online portal would aid in not restricting the subjects of discussion apart from the four restrictions proposed in Section 21A of the draft amended Meetings Regulations.	
1.1.4	Jia Xin queried on the requirements for a physical meeting. Shermon replied that it had to meet the requirements in section 20(3) of the Meetings Regulations.	
1.1.5	Danial queried on the reason for not imposing a quorum for online polling. Shermon replied that reminder emails could be sent to inform all related parties about the polls and should not have quorum for online polling.	
1.1.6	Kern Cheh queried on whether the outcomes of the polls would be open to the public, as well as who would be the maintenance team in charge of the entire polling system. Shermon replied that currently the team is still sourcing for a platform and polling results would be posted on the Union website. Maintenance would also be done on the same server. Hence, all votes would be made viewable by the public. However, safeguards such as password encryption would be put in place. A login log would also be monitored.	
1.2.1	Jia Xin proposed a five-minute extension for discussion. Varun seconded.	
1.2.2	Wei Wei raised a query on the mechanisms of posting an online poll. Shermon replied that the Council Chairperson (i.e. Zhe Wen) would moderate the online polls posted.	
1.2.3	Jia Xin proposed sending all polls to the Council Chairperson for moderation first so as to discern the importance of the online polls posted. Shermon replied that while it is important to have a moderating mechanism in place, the Executive Committee does not want to restrict the type of polls posted onto the system.	
1.2.4	Andrew proposed the motion where members who chose not to vote would be classified as "Abstain", while members who did not vote at all would be classified as "Did not vote". Andrew furthered proposed imposing a quorum for online polling. Shermon replied that while he agreed that imposing a higher quorum would help to encourage members to vote, not imposing a	



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	<p>quorum would be a test on the accountability of Council members to fulfil their representative duties.</p>	
1.2.5	<p>Kristabelle queried on the frequency of polls being posted onto the system. Shermon replied that currently no control mechanisms would be put in place Executive Committee is opened to checks. However, the Council have to bear in mind the consequences – the chilling effect of control mechanisms on discussions.</p>	
1.2.6	<p>Yi Da seconded Jia Xin's, Kristabelle's and Wei Wei's suggestion of having filtering mechanisms in place to prevent a floodgate of online polls. Ultimately, without these filtering mechanisms, inappropriate online polling topics might surface and affect the Council's reputation when viewed by the public. Therefore, it is important for the Council Chairperson to retain the agenda-setting power and to ensure meaningful deliberations via the online polls.</p>	
1.2.7	<p>Willie queried on the participation of neutral observers in the online polling system. Shermon replied that Council Chairperson would vet through and approve comments made by non-council members.</p>	
1.2.8	<p>Zhao Yang suggested the online polling system to be placed on a platform such as NUS eSurvey, where identities of commentators can be identified. Shermon replied that while it is a good platform to explore, there would be no full control of authentication process which might delay polls being processed in the system.</p>	
1.2.9	<p>Danial queried on the participation of Associate Bodies in the online polling system. Shermon replied that voting rights would have to be given to the respective related parties by the Council Chairman on the advice of the Executive Committee President at the start before the motion surfaces. He further replied that within the 14 days of polling, voters could change their votes freely.</p>	
1.3.1	<p>Zhe Wen summarised the discussion and proposed the following motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A quorum of 50% is required for the poll to be valid.</li><li>2. An "Abstain" Vote would only be valid when a voting member explicitly votes for it.</li><li>3. The Council Chairperson would regulate the agenda for the online polls and provide open explanations if motions proposed are to be rejected.</li><li>4. Utilisation of NUS eSurvey platform would be further explored.</li></ol>	



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	<p>5. Mechanism on granting of speaking and voting rights for Associate Bodies would be further scrutinized.</p>	
1.3.2	Zhe Wen proposed the motion of provisionally accepting Council Online Polling system by setting up a trial version and that Section 21A would not be in force until the system has been deemed functional.	
1.3.3	<p>Total Voting Strength: 42            For: 34            Against: 0            Abstain: 8</p>	
1.3.4	The Council had passed the motion of provisionally accepting the Council Online Polling system and that Section 21A of the Meeting Regulations would not be in force till the system is fully functional.	
1.4.1	Shermon proposed the motion of passing the amendments to the Meetings Regulations, in the form of the draft Meetings Regulations disseminated through electronic email to Council members beforehand. <i>(Note: This includes doing away with the need to second a proposed motion. In its place, the Chairman of the meeting will ask for any objections. If there is none, the motion is deemed passed.)</i>	
1.4.2	<p>Total Voting Strength: 42            For: 34            Against: 3            Abstain: 5</p>	
1.4.3	The Council had passed the motion of amending the Meetings Regulations in the form of the draft Meetings Regulations disseminated through electronic email to Council members beforehand.	
1.5	The meeting was adjourned for ten minutes and subsequently resumed at 1011 HRS.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Voting on Venue for Rag and Flag</b>	Information No Action Required
<b>2.0.1</b>	<b>Ting Feng, Siong Wei and Alvin Arvind – Presentation and Q &amp; A</b>	
2.0.2	Zhe Wen proposed a ten-minute discussion.	
2.0.3	Yi Da explained the purpose of postponing the holding Rag and Flag outside of NUS by one year so as to coincide with Singapore's 50 <sup>th</sup> Independence	



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	<p>celebrations. As NUS is one of the key stakeholders, Rag and Flag could then dovetail with the nationwide S50 Celebrations where resources can be better maximised.</p>	
2.0.4	<p>Varun queried on the postponement of holding Rag and Flag outside NUS being a once-off motion or entirely removing the need of extending Rag out to the public once every four years. Yi Da replied that this would be a once-off motion valid only for Rag and Flag 2014.</p>	
2.0.5	<p>Zhao Yang queried on the proposal for venues for Rag Day 2014. Alvin replied that the agenda was only to deliberate on whether to hold Rag Day in or out of campus, hence no specific venues had been proposed.</p>	
2.0.6	<p>Shermon proposed the motion to vote for organizing Rag Day 2014 in campus. Given that it was an alteration of previous motion, a two-third majority vote was required.</p>	
2.1	<p>Total Voting Strength: 46 For: 46</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Chu Ting Feng</li><li>2. Chang Siong Wei</li><li>3. Alvin Arvind</li><li>4. Lam Zhe Wen</li><li>5. Janson Chan</li><li>6. Shawn Ng</li><li>7. Mabel Sim</li><li>8. Dennis Lim</li><li>9. Sean Ling</li><li>10. Foo Jia Xin</li><li>11. Chen Wei Wei</li><li>12. Jonathan Lauw</li><li>13. Kong Xie Shern</li><li>14. Dixon Tioh</li><li>15. Foo Chuan Yue</li><li>16. Chin Meng Hang</li><li>17. Ai Xin</li><li>18. Toh Yi Hui</li><li>19. Sherman Yee</li><li>20. Varun Soni</li><li>21. Dennis Ng</li><li>22. Zan Goh</li><li>23. Jovene Khoo</li></ol>	





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	<p>24. Wilnard Tan 25. Nicholas Lim 26. Andrew Arjun 27. Lee Wei Liang 28. Muhammad Danial 29. Sim Kern Cheh 30. Zhao Yang 31. Tan Zi Tong 32. Cheo Jon Loong 33. Kristabelle Tan 34. Jocelyn Quek 35. Willie Wee 36. Geoffrey Lee 37. Wu Yi 38. Terence Wong 39. Alvin Poh 40. Andy Goh 41. Eric Khong 42. Soh Yi Da 43. Duke Tan 44. Dexter Shen 45. Shermon Ong 46. Lim Kok Seng</p> <p>Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>	
2.1.1	The Council had passed the motion of organising Rag Day 2014 in campus.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Discussion on Concept of Rag and Flag</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Conan – Presentation and Q &amp; A.</b>	
3.2	<p>Zhe Wen summarized the discussion as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Organizing Committee is to identify the matrix for measurement for the Participating Bodies (PBs) as the Council looks beyond the current opt-out system in search for alternative forms of fund raising.</li><li>2. Given that the spirit of altruism is the primary outcome the Council seeks to achieve from Flag, there is a need for the Organizing Committee to redefine KPIs for such intangible outcome.</li></ol>	



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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Given that the current framework allows PBs to opt-out, the Organizing Committee is tasked to co-develop a framework which allows other student groups to opt-in and participate in Flag.</li><li>4. Given it's a NUS event, it would be in the interest of NUSSU to continue to ensure that Flag would remain as a cohesive and big event even as the initiative evolves towards alternative forms of fund raising.</li><li>5. The Organizing Committee would have to identify ways to reduce the competitive element while devising the opt-out participation framework. In other words, the Organizing Committee would need to justify the need of competition within the current system.</li><li>6. The Organizing Committee is tasked to identify ways in redefining Rag Day to ensure its relevance.</li><li>7. The Organizing Committee is tasked to explore means of encouraging involvement of freshmen in Flag regardless of the constituent (faculty) club's choice of whether to opt-out for Flag Day 2014.</li></ol>	
3.3.1	Zhe Wen proposed the motion of retaining the current opt-out system for Flag while the above-mentioned issues would be deliberated by the Organizing Committee.	
3.3.2	Total Voting Strength: 44 For: 42 <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Chu Ting Feng</li><li>2. Chang Siong Wei</li><li>3. Alvin Arvind</li><li>4. Lam Zhe Wen</li><li>5. Janson Chan</li><li>6. Shawn Ng</li><li>7. Mabel Sim</li><li>8. Dennis Lim</li><li>9. Sean Ling</li><li>10. Foo Jia Xin</li><li>11. Chen Wei Wei</li><li>12. Jonathan Lauw</li><li>13. Kong Xie Shern</li><li>14. Dixon Tioh</li></ol>	



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	<p>15. Foo Chuan Yue 16. Chin Meng Hang 17. Ai Xin 18. Toh Yi Hui 19. Sherman Yee 20. Varun Soni 21. Dennis Ng 22. Zan Goh 23. Jovene Khoo 24. Nicholas Lim 25. Lee Wei Liang 26. Muhammad Danial 27. Sim Kern Cheh 28. Zhao Yang 29. Tan Zi Tong 30. Cheo Jon Loong 31. Kristabelle Tan 32. Jocelyn Quek 33. Willie Wee 34. Geoffrey Lee 35. Wu Yi 36. Alvin Poh 37. Eric Khong 38. Soh Yi Da 39. Duke Tan 40. Dexter Shen 41. Shermon Ong 42. Lim Kok Seng</p> <p>Against: 2 1. Wilnard Tan 2. Andrew Arjun</p> <p>Abstain: 0</p>	
3.3.3	The Council had passed the motion to retain the current opt-out system for Flag with the above-mentioned issues to be deliberated by the Organizing Committee.	
3.4.1	Shermon proposed the provisional passing of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting Minutes.	



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3.4.2	Total Voting Strength: 40 For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain: 5	
3.4.3	The Council had passed the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting Minutes subject to further amendments.	
<b>4</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
4.1	The Council has been reminded to submit agenda one week before the next Council Meeting to the Council Chairperson or General Secretary in order to table the topic successfully.	
4.2.1	Eric had reminded the Council that the second Union Tea session would be held on 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2014 with the venue to be confirmed on a later date.	
4.2.2	Shermon informed that the Election Legislation Consultation and Engagement Team (ELECT) would begin to look into various Constituent Clubs' Management Committee elections regulations, given that there were controversies over certain provisions such as Special Voting Rights.	
4.2.3	Varun queried on the previous motion where Council approved the additional budgeted expenses of \$90,000 for organizing Rag Day 2014 on the assumption it would be held outside of campus. Yi Da replied that the Executive Committee's Financial Secretary, Geoffrey Lee, would update the Council accordingly once the new budget is in place. Yi Da further clarified that the event finances of Rag and Flag 2014 and approval of NUSSU Executive Committee's budget are to be considered two separate issues where the former did not require voting by the Council.	



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With no other outstanding matters to discuss, Mr. Chu Ting Feng proposed to close the meeting at 1142 HRS.

Prepared By,

Lim Kok Seng  
Assistant Secretary  
35<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council

Vetted By,

Law Zhe Wen  
Council Chairperson  
35<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council

Soh Yi Da  
President  
35<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council