

## Minutes for 5th 36<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Time:** 1016HR

**Venue:** LT27

### **Attendance:**

### **Present:**

#### **Council Representatives:**

Zan Goh Zewei	Cultural Activities Club, President
Neoh-Khoo Wesley	Cultural Activities Club, Vice-President
Ang Qiu Luan	Cultural Activities Club, Vice-President
Samantha Lee Shea Min	Cultural Activities Club, External Relations Director
Tan Zhong Xian	Sports Club, Vice-President
Weilson Tan	Sports Club, General Secretary
Teo Pei Wen	Sports Club, Financial Secretary
Joshua Foong En Kai	Arts & Social Sciences Club, President
Jacqueline Goh Si Hui	Arts & Social Sciences Club, Vice-President
Derrick Kew Dek Guan	Bizad Club, President
Gay Ming Jian Davis	Computing Club, President
Goh Ser Ming	Computing Club, Vice-President
Nigel Woo Wen Shuo	Design & Environment Club, Vice President
Liu Ren Hao	Engineering Club, Vice-President
Seah Jerrell	Engineering Club, General Secretary
James Kwong Kam Yin	Law Club, President
Wong Wen Kai	Medical Club, Honorary General Secretary
Sim Hui Min	Science Club, President
Tan Li Ting	Science Club, Honorary Treasurer
Sim Jie Lin	Science Club, Alumni Relations Director
Goh Seng Chi	University Scholars Club, President

#### **Exco Representatives:**

Lim Kok Seng	Sports Club
Koh Zhi Xun	Political Association
Jeanette Flower Kwan	Arts & Social Sciences Club
Raynor Tan Jin Liang	Computing Club
Ong Soo Chin	Science Club
Terence Wong Jia Hui	Science Club
Loo Weng Heng	Engineering Club
Eric Khong Mun Kit	Community Service Club
Soh Gill	Law Club

#### **Observers:**

Nigel Sim	Law, Year 4
Joshua Choo	Engineering Year 2
Kellie Chong	SDE Year 3

Chia Li Qing	Computing Year 3
Ghim Joo	Science Year 3
Kok Liang	FASS Year 3
Si Qi	FASS Year 3
Gabriel Hon	Engineering Year 3
Lee Jian Ler	FASS Year 3
Ng Zheng Dong	Engineering Year 3

**Absent with Apologies:**

Tomoe Yoshida	Community Service Club, President
Ng Aik Loong	Community Service Club, General Secretary
Koh Hui Nee Jennifer	Community Service Club, Vice-President
Teo Min Shuen	Political Association, President
Dominic Cheong	Political Association, Vice-President
Sim Xing Zhong	Political Association, Vice-President
Loh Yi Chin	Political Association, Honorary General Secretary
Ivalyn Lye	Sports Club, President
Vera Ong Zishan	Arts & Social Sciences Club, Marketing Director
Han Zheng Min Bryan	Bizad Club, Vice-President
Belman Woo	Bizad Club, Vice-President
Victor Hazali	Computing Club, Vice-President
Gabriel Lee Keng Yan	Dental Club, President
Chng Hioc Kiat Dominic	Design & Environment Club, President
Chng Paul Vin	Design & Environment Club, Special Projects Director
Shawn Ng Kit Yong	Design & Environment Club, Assistant Special Projects Director
Hon Yih Loong	Engineering Club, President
Lee JingDa	Engineering Club, Honorary Financial Secretary
Mark Tay Han Pin	Law Club, Vice-President
Nicole Lee Yu Chen	Medical Club, President
Chee Yen Min Madeline	Medical Club, Vice-President
Kang Wee Jing	Community Service Club Exco Rep, Assistant Secretary
Tan Kian Wei Alvin	Medical Club Exco Rep, Communications Secretary
Tan Mabelyn	Bizad Club Exco Rep, Deputy Welfare Secretary

**Meeting Agenda:**

- 1. Passing of 4th Council Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Strategic Planning Committee Final Updates**
- 3. Appeal for RAG and FLAG Funding**
- 4. Constitutional Review Proposal**
- 5. Certificates of Appreciation**
- 6. AOBs**

The 4th Council Meeting was called to order at 1016 HRS by Mr Goh Seng Chiy, Chairperson of the 36<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council.

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Action By</b>
1	<b>Passing of 4th Council Meeting Minutes</b>	
1.1	Presentation of 4 <sup>th</sup> Council meeting minutes..	
1.2	Raynor (Computing) proposed to pass the meeting minutes.	
1.3	<b>Vote results:</b> <b>Total strength: 28</b> For: 28 Against: 0 Abstain: 0  Joshua arrived at 1027hr	
2	<b>Strategic Planning Committee Final Updates</b>	
2.1	Lim Kok Seng (Sports), presented on behalf of the Strategic planning committee. Refer to slides.	
2.2	Wesley (CAC) asked if there will be a retreat for the non-faculty clubs as well.	
2.3	Kok Seng (Sports) replied that the non-faculty club MCs are invited as well to join the faculty club retreat.	
2.4	Zan (CAC) asked if SLC is compulsory, can the organizer consider waiving off the camp fees.	
2.5	Kok Seng (Sports) replied that NUSSU Exco and OSA will work out to either lower the fee or to sponsor the cost completely.	
2.6	Zhi Xun (PA) asked for further clarification on the aforementioned signatory requirement for exco nomination candidate from outgoing con-club representation.	

2.7	Kok Seng (Sports) replied that exco nominees in the past will just have to get signatory from any member of the club. This new system would require them to get signatory from only the respective club's outgoing council representatives.	
2.8	Zhong Xian (Sports) felt that this signatory requirement gives too much power to the con club's council representatives.	
2.9	Kok Seng (Sports) explained the proposed changed would allow the future outgoing con-club representatives to get to know the candidate better.	
2.10	Zhong Xian (Sports) proposed to have a detailed draft of conditions for this signatory form implementation.	
2.11	Jacqueline (FASS) felt that the signatory requirement may be exclusive, and increases barrier of entry for students who are keen to take on leadership position. The exco nomination should be opened to all students to apply.	
2.12	Kok Seng (Sports) explained that this is to ensure that the candidates would be well-informed of what they are joining and to ensure their commitment.	
2.13	Seng Chiy (USC) proposed to vote on whether to implement this signatory system.	
2.14	<p><b>Voting Results.</b>  <b>Total strength: 29</b>  For: 13  Against: 13  Abstain: 4</p>	
2.15	Jeanette (FASS) felt that the purpose is to increase the interaction between exco representatives and club's MCs but this would not be the right way to do it.	
2.16	Raynor (Computing) suggested to have dialogue session between both parties instead of having the signatory system which may be a procedural blockage. The dialogue session would allow a first point of contact, and establishes connection between both parties.	
2.17	Zhong Xian (Sports) added that the signatory requirement makes the nomination process exclusive. He agrees that continuity is important, but we should not to put barrier of entry to people who are interested. What the incoming candidates should do is to look at organisational reports, to learn from the past and make changes to the future.	
2.18	Li Ting (Science) suggested to include the reason if the council representatives are unwilling to sign the form and this can be brought up to the elections committee for appeal.	

<p>2.19</p> <p>2.20</p> <p>2.21</p> <p>2.22</p>	<p>Jeanette (Arts) proposed for a 5 mins extension.</p> <p>Zhong Xian (Sports) explained that getting a signatory does not equate to the candidate knowing the roles and responsibilities of the exco representative's position. It should be the role of the election committee to provide that information to the candidate. This implementation meddles with democracy because an individual will be given too much power to decide if one is suited to be a candidate or not.</p> <p>Raynor (Computing) proposed to postpone this discussion to AOBs and proceed on with the other agenda items.</p> <p>Eric (CSC) proposed for a 5 mins break.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p><b>Appeal for RAG and FLAG Funding</b></p> <p>Weng Heng (Engineering) presented on behalf of the Rag and Flag committee. Refer to slides</p> <p>Derrick (Bizad) inquired for the consequences if the budget does not get passed.</p> <p>Weng Heng (Engineering) replied that the committee will have to relook into the budget and adjust according.</p> <p>Jerrell (Engineering) asked if a budget cut is required, which part would most likely be cut off.</p> <p>Weng Heng (Engineering) replied that we would cut a part of all sections. This budget was already cut down previously.</p> <p>Kok Seng (Sports) added that the previous budget was \$650,000. After reviewing and collaborating with NDP committee, we managed to save on infrastructure and cut down to the current \$520,000.</p> <p>Jacqueline (FASS) asked what the agreement between NDP and NUSSU is.</p> <p>Weng Heng (Engineering) explained that RnF is included into the golden jubilee weekend of SG50 celebration. The NDP committee will be providing NUSSU support with the stage and infrastructure, which cost about \$200,000. In return, NUSSU is committing to build a 3-tiered national birthday cake made of well-wishes cards from citizens.</p> <p>Zhong Xian (Sports) proposed a 10mins extension</p> <p>Jerrell (Engineering) asked if the ITQs are closed or are they still open.</p>	

3.10	Kok Seng (Sports) replied that they are placed on hold at the moment.	
3.11	Zhong Xian (Sports) asked for the purpose and KPIs of rag and flag	
3.12	Weng Heng (Engineering) explained that the theme is “To be with the people” thus this year we are bringing the event out of campus to include as many public members as possible. The working committee is targeting 25,000 pax as audiences, this number excludes performers. We have invited several performers such as Gentle bones, Sam willows, and some of the local beneficiaries. For flag, we are targeting to raise \$450,000.	
3.13	James (Law) asked if it is confirmed that there would be no additional financial support given from the provost office.	
3.14	Weng Heng (Engineering) replied yes, this is a confirmed respond after negotiating with the provost office.	
3.15	Davis (Computing) asked if there be any scaling up for the flag proportion of the event. He added that we should garner more effort to get more donation to compensate the fact that we are spending a lot more this year than on previous years.	
3.16	Weng Heng (Engineering) explained that the NUSSU exco side will be organizing a flag party, targeting NUS seniors to participate. In addition, there will be available platforms on the Rag day itself for public members to donate on the spot.	
3.17	Raynor proposed to proceed onto voting.	
3.18	Jeanette (FASS) explained that the NUSSU reserves are not only based on subscription fee, it includes other investments as well. She added that the amount withdrawn is still less than 10% of the total reserves amount with sizable buffer left after withdrawal.	
3.19	Zan (CAC) left at 1130hr	
3.20	Seng Chiy (USC) proposed to have a vote on giving voting rights to the hall presidents present at the meeting.	
3.21	<p><b>Voting Results:</b>  <b>Total Strength: 29</b>  For: 14  Against: 11  Abstain: 4</p> <p>The three hall presidents Nigel (Sheares), Ghim Joo (KE-VII) and Jian Ler (Eusoff) were granted voting rights.</p>	
	Raynor (Computing) proposed to vote on the withdrawal of \$127,000 from the reserves.	

3.22

**Voting Results:  
Total Strength: 32**

3.23

For: 18

Nigel Woo	Wong Wen Kai	Liu Ren Hao	Seah Jerrell
Derrick Kew	Koh Zhi Xun	Ong Soo Chin	Lim Kok Seng
Soh Gill	Jeanette Kwan	Loo Weng Heng	Eric Khong
Terence Wong	Nigel (Sheares)	Ghim Joo (KE-VII)	Jian Ler (Eusoff)
Samantha Lee	Jacqueline Goh		

Against: 9

Weilson Tan	Teo Pei Wen	Tan Zhong Xian	Sim Hui Min
Tan Li Ting	Davis Gay	Goh Ser Ming	Raynor Tan
Goh Seng Chiy			

Abstain: 5

Sim Jie Lin	Joshua Foong	Wesley Neoh-Khoo	Ang Qiu Luan
James Kwong			

3.24

The Council has approved the withdrawal of \$127,000 from the NUSSU reserves for Rag and Flag 2015.

Nigel (SDE) left at 1145hr

3.25

Raynor (Computing) proposed for a 5 mins recess

4

**Constitutional Review Proposal**

4.1

Jeanette (FASS) presented on behalf of the Constitutional Review committee. Refer to slides.

4.2

Zhi Xun (PA) brought out his concern that if there is no 2% of total population voted, there will have potentially a case of not enough exco representatives to run for constitutional positions.

4.3

Zhong Xian (Sports) explained that the 2% value was taken from last year's election figure to set as a baseline.

4.4

Weng Heng (Engineering) asked if the purpose of setting a 2% figure is for student relevance.

4.5

Seng Chiy (USC) replied yes, it is to provide a certain legitimacy to the exco representatives.

4.6	Zhi Xun (PA) added that with this 2% figure, there is a the risk of having few elected exco representatives which can have larger control of the exco especially when they can recruit other students to be non-elected members.	
4.7	Jerrell (Engineering) expressed his concern as well, he added that the engineering club itself couldn't get 2% vote for each MC members and that this number would be unfair for larger faculty. If this is already difficult for the MC members, it would be even more so for exco nominees.	
4.8	Derrick (Bizad) suggested to have a live-tracked system to inform candidates of their current "total vote" numbers so that they can campaign harder in the process. This would be different from the previous years when candidates only know the numbers after the election process.	
4.9	Zhong Xian (Sports) suggested that the union election committee should do more to publicise the election and to promote the candidates.	
4.10	Weng Heng (Engineering) shared that though the purpose of this is to increase student relevance. But adding this mandate will have an indication of political motivation as the candidates are just getting votes for the sake of getting voted in.	
4.11	Seng Chiy (USC) explained that the candidates would require a minimal amount as a base representation.	
4.12	Li Ting (Science) proposed for a 5min time extension	
4.13	Li Ting (Science) felt that the allowance of live update in vote count will defeat the purpose of encouraging the exco representatives to engage with the students because they will just want to meet and make do with the bear minimum.	
4.14	Zhong Xian (Sports) replied that this problem would be solve if there are other candidates running for the same position.	
4.15	Davis (Computing) added that there is an innate problem of student apathy which may vary among clubs. The exco representatives can campaign hard but there is a problem that is out of their control and affect candidates regardless of their calibre.	
4.16	Raynor (Computing) suggested that this KPI should be set for the MC election candidates as well since there is also about their relevance to the student body.	
4.17	Moving on to the Adjudication Committee (AC), Zhong xian (Sports) do not agree to scrap AC, but however suggest that the operational details of it has to be refined. He added that a body to settle disputes is necessary.	

4.18	Raynor (Computing) proposed for a 2 mins time extension	
4.19	Seng Chiy (USC) proposed for a vote on whether a dispute resolution committee is desired.	
4.20	<p><b>Voting result:</b>  <b>Total strength: 28</b>  For: 20  Against: 4  Abstain: 4</p>	
4.21	<p>Seng Chiy (USC) proposed to have a focus group meeting after council meeting to continue discuss on this matter.</p> <p>Raynor (Computing) left at 1231hr</p>	
4.22	Wen Kai (Medicine) suggested the mandate figure to be set based on the past few year's average of each club instead of the entire club as a whole. Setting this as the base, we can increase the numbers in subsequent years in increase relevance.	
4.23	Davis (Computing) supported Wen Kai's suggestion and added that this will help monitor on how we manage the change so that it does not risk having insufficient exco representatives for that year.	
4.24	Seng Chiy (USC) proposed to vote on the amendments to the dispute resolution as presented (refer to slides).	
4.25	<p><b>Voting Results:</b>  <b>Total Strength: 27</b>  For: 23  Against: 0  Abstain: 4</p>	
4.26	Seng Chiy (USC) proposed to vote on whether in principle, should the candidates have a minimum mandate to enter the exco. The exact numbers would be fixed on later by the council.	
4.27	<p><b>Voting Results:</b>  <b>Total Strength: 27</b>  For: 14  Against: 8  Abstain: 5</p>	
5	<b>Certificates of Appreciation</b>	
5.1	Seng Chiy (USC) mentioned that he would be making a certificate of appreciation for council representatives.	

6	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
6.1	Moving back to signatory requirement, Davis (Computing) proposed to have a compulsory meeting between candidates and out-going council representatives. If the council representatives do not want to sign on the form, it would not affect the procedure for exco application.	

Due to time constraint, Mr Goh Seng Chiy (USC) proposed to close the meeting at 1243 HRS, and to postpone discussions till subsequent meetings.

Prepared by,

Terence Wong Jia Hui  
General Secretary  
36<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council

Vetted by,  
Goh Seng Chiy  
Council Chairperson  
36<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council

Lim Kok Seng  
President  
36<sup>th</sup> NUSSU Council