

Minutes for 5th 37th NUSSU Council Meeting

Date: Saturday, 19th March 2016
Time: 1000hrs
Venue: LT26, Faculty of Science

Attendance:

Present:

Council Representatives (28):

Toh Xiao Wee	Arts & Social Sciences Club, President
Marissa Chang	Arts & Social Sciences Club, Honorary General Secretary
Sarah Chew	Arts & Social Sciences Club, Marketing Director
Wong Jun Jie	Bizad Club, President
Wei Yi Chen	Bizad Club, Vice President (External)
Richmond Lee	Bizad Club, Vice President (Student Life)
Thenaesh s/o N Elango	Computing Club, Vice President (HR and Development)
Andrew Koh Zheng Kang	Computing Club, Vice President (External Relations)
Ng Zi Kai	Computing Club, Vice President (Operations & Projects)
Lim Jia Min	Design & Environment Club, President
Choo Chia Jean	Design & Environment Club, Vice President (Internal)
Toh Wei Ni	Design & Environment Club, Vice President (External)
Tan Li Dan	Design & Environment Club, Honorary General Secretary
Hamza Naqvi	Engineering Club, President
Eu Xuan Lin	Engineering Club, General Secretary
Liu Guiliang	Law Club, President
Teo Siu Ming	Law Club, Vice President
Tan Kian Wei Alvin	Medical Club, Honorary General Secretary
Tan Li Ting	Science Club, President
Lim Cheng Lei	University Scholars Club, President
Chua Zhe Xuan Royston	University Scholars Club, Vice President (Community Life)
Ng Aik Loong	Community Service Club
Chia Ren Bin	Community Service Club
Lim Shiao Wei	Community Service Club
Cindy Handjaja	Cultural Activities Club
Camille Zhao Yi	Cultural Activities Club
Jia Haolin	Political Association, Vice President (Projects)
Cedric Lim	Sports Club

Exco Representatives (12):

Megha Verma	Science Club
Gordon Wong Wei Jie	Medical Club
Lai Wen Shen	Medical Club
Kenji Ong Shao Qiang	Law Club
Loo Weng Heng	Engineering Club
Javier Leong Lu Sheng	Computing Club
Clement Eu Chun Kian	Sports Club

Goh Him Ling	Sports Club
Claire Ann Lois Abraham	Cultural Activities Club
Alvin Poh Leong Ann	Community Service Club
Manali Mehta	Community Service Club
Low Yi Yun	Political Association

Observers (2):

Phua Han Siang	Engineering Club
Tan Kah Min	Community Service Club

Absents with Apologies (15):

Tan Yong Ming	Computing Club, President
Alexander Noronha	Engineering Club, Secretary of Student Affairs
Wong Wen Kai	Medical Club, President
Chua Sin Hui Melissa	Medical Club, Vice President
Ong Shi Jie Jocelyn	Cultural Activities Club
Glen Anthony Ooi	Cultural Activities Club
Shen Jiayi	Political Association
Loh Yi Chin	Political Association
Yeo Eng Way	Political Association
Chua Khai Shing	Arts and Social Sciences Club
Lim Sin Yang Edmond	Business Club
Toh Wen Jun	Business Club
Tan Wee Bian	Engineering Club
Goh Suen Rong	Cultural Activities Club
Ong Zi Hao	Political Association

Absents without Apologies (4):

Sandra Chen Ming Shu	Dental Club, President
Tan Zheng Jie	University Scholars Club
Hazel Tan Xin Wei	Design and Environment Club
Chia Sheng Hui	Arts and Social Sciences Club

Meeting Agenda:

- 1 NUSU EXCO Constitutional Positions' Updates
- 2 Non-faculty membership status
- 3 Constitutional Review Committee updates
- 4 President's Updates
- 5 AOBs

The 5th Council Meeting was called to order at 1021HRS by Mr Tan Kian Wei Alvin, Chairperson of the 37th NUSU Council.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
1.1	Loo Weng Heng - President's Updates	Information No Action Required
1.1.1	Please refer to slides.	
1.2	Manali Mehta - Vice President's Updates	
1.2.1	Please refer to slides.	
1.2.2	<p>Alvin Tan (Med): What were some of the pertinent issues that popped up during Students' Leaders Camp as well as the walkabout being conducted?</p> <p>Manali (CSC): The issues discussed during SLC were more internal. The collated results were focused on a particular role like marketing or logistics; it will be difficult to give a specific issue since there were a wide range of positions. For example, on a President or Vice President position, they face structure handover procedure. On a marketing level are sponsorship competition. We have 14 constitutional clubs and 9 committees and how are we going to get the same kind of sponsors. There were many internal issues but the main aim was to bring all the different positions together and encourage them to find the solutions themselves because they are in the best position to do so. For the walkabout, the issues were categorised into academic and non-academic. An example of non-academic issue can include infrastructures. Moreover, the feedback was quite repeated as expected like buses, LTs and so on. We try to collate frequently so that when we meet the officers, we can constantly remind them these issues need to be addressed. Besides gathering the feedback, students also mention that NUSSU is around to reach out to them on a more personal level.</p>	
1.2.3	<p>Richmond (Biz): How do you account for the follow-up procedure for those who are involved?</p> <p>Manali (CSC): For this we will work closely with the Communication Secretary. There are two parts to this: the first part is to collate the feedback and the second part is to show the students how we have address these issues. We want to show the students that we are speaking with the relevant officers to address these issues. However, certain feedback requires time and there is no immediate solution. Thus we do not want to give them any false hope. Nonetheless, we try to publicize it when we do achieve something.</p>	
1.3	Alvin Poh - General Secretary's Updates	
1.3.1	Please refer to slides.	

- 1.3.2 Han Siang (Engin): Would you consider publicising the minutes to the general public? You recommended the 38th exco to the restructuring, knowing that it will take about 3 to 4 months to realise what the problems are then passing it on to the 39th, would you consider restructuring it right now?
- Alvin (CSC): Indeed, the minutes was supposed to be publicised on our website. The issue is which copy we are supposed to upload onto our website: is it the unprocessed copy or the completed copy to be publicised. Right now, we have no proper system to reach to the final step - publicizing the completed copies which includes the headers and the slides for the public to see. I think it is something fairly important but clearly at this stage, I am not able to deliver. Having said that, it is something that I will definitely work upon during the summer holidays. When it comes to timely publicising it, it is a challenge and is definitely something myself and the next General Secretary can look upon.
- Moving to the second question about restructuring. It is almost impossible to do it right now. Each of our directors in the team have our own portfolio. I simply cannot take away their positions right now since they are already part of the team. I cannot do huge restructuring simply because of that as well. I cannot move it to another cell because they simply do not have the capacity to handle it. There are a lot of different proposals to explore, but the question is what the options my successor would want to choose.
- 1.3.2 Han Siang (Engin): Wouldn't it be another problem for the 38th EXCO when it comes to this point?
- Alvin (CSC): One of the things that we need to stress on for the 38th EXCO, before the General Secretary steps up and form their cell, is that I have to inform them that this current structure is not working, not only to the next General Secretary but to the President as well. Because besides the 7 Constitutional Positions, the rest of the 30 positions can be reshuffled and I think it should be reshuffled. We have worked on the basis of tradition and we don't actually review it. It should be on the basis of "if we need it, we have to".
- 1.3.3 Han Siang (Engin): The question to the floor would be: Do you think it is the 37th EXCOs's job to give the 38th EXCO a proper structure for them to accept or should the 37th EXCO let the 38th EXCO to decide on their own, knowing that they will not have the experience to handle this?
- Weng Heng (Engin): I think this really depends on the handover process because internally we really need a proper handover process to let the incoming batches to know what is happening in this term. And in fact the 7 of us had our own mid-term review as well. All the important points are highlighted in that document. Hopefully we can pass this on to the successors and I think we can advise them on which structure to take but at the end of the day it is still up to them. We cannot give them a structure because this has been happening in the past. We should advise them on different possibilities that they can take on and explore. I think this is the way to move forward when we handover to the next batch.

- 1.3.4 Zi Kai (Comp): Is it very hard to open up another Constitutional position?
Alvin (CSC): Objectively speaking, we could. Right now, if we need to make a decision on certain matters within the 7 of us, there would be a clear outcome. But if there is an 8th position, things will not be as straightforward. And if we introduce the 8th position, what are the implications we will face, if there is another position? Is it something that the Council wants or the EXCO can take? I foresee a lot of other challenges although it makes things easier and better but it still pose a problem. Will the 8th person be focusing on projects? Basically we need to restructure it as a whole. We will need to restructure the members if we were to introduce the 8th position. It is something for the Council to consider as well.
- 1.3.5 Weng Heng (Engin): The Director of Projects under the General Secretary was created only during then 32nd or 33rd NUSSU EXCO. Even before that, the General Secretary's role was to handle assets and record documents of the Union. At that time, the Director of Projects reported directly to the Vice-President or President. This was the structure back then. Instead of the 8th position, I think we can further review on how we can improve on the chain of command. I think we can work around with the chain of command. This issue was even explored last term with the last Constitutional Review Committee. They tried to explore it but having an 8th position would require a restructuring of the whole EXCO. It is not to say that it is disruptive to restructure the whole team but rather is there a need to have an 8th position.
- 1.3.6 Hamza (Engin): What I feel is that the Council and the EXCO has the obligation to do the structure review because even after a year we are unable to decide what the best is for the Council then we cannot expect the newcomers to be able to do that. If we don't do it, it will then end up in the same case. I think we should come up with a proposal and pass it down to them whether they wish to accept it or to implement the system.
- 1.3.7 Alvin Tan (Med): In line with Weng Heng's vision of shifting projects away from the EXCO, and the fact that the General Secretary has so many events under his portfolio, I think the EXCO needs to revisit the purpose of each events that the General Secretary is heading to determine whether they are meaningful and to re-evaluate these events that has been passed down. It is easy to say that you will do it during handover but the assumption is made that your selected successor gets the position, and also, people who run into office have a lot of other ideas, and what your intention for them may not be what they intend to do. If you have something that needs to be done, it has to be done right now.

1.4 Clement - Assistant Secretary's Updates

- 1.4.1 Please refer to slides.

1.4.2 Alvin Tan (Med): OSA recently rolled out the REBOKS system for online booking of facilities. Do you potentially see yourself collaborating with them?
Clement (Sports): We are now collaborating with NTU but I will take into consideration in working with OSA.

1.4.3 Ren Bin (CSC): What is the purpose of installing CCTVs in the storage bay?
Clement (Sports): Currently, it is being shared by the 9 committees and FOCC projects and there might be a chance that things can get lost. It is to ensure that the items in the bay are safe and secure.

1.5 **Him Ling - Financial Secretary's Updates**

1.5.1 Please refer to slides.

1.5.2 Cedric (Sports): My marketing secretary gave a feedback mentioning that NUSSU Bizcom wants to gather all the Constituent clubs and source for sponsors but at the same time each Constituent club is also sourcing for sponsorship. This seems to overlap each other's work. Then, what is your vision for NUSSU Bizcom?

Him Ling (Sports): I will not be gathering the sponsors from other Constituent Clubs but to distribute what we have to other Constituent clubs. Sometimes not every Constituent club will know all the companies and missed out on a few. If we have those resources, we are glad to share with other Constituent Clubs.

1.5.3 Guiliang (Law) and Xiao Wee (Arts) have left for toilet break at 1132HRS.

1.5.4 Cheng Lei (USC) arrived at 1135HRS.

1.6 **Claire - Communication Secretary's Updates**

1.6.1 Please refer to slides.

1.6.2 Han Siang (Engin): Are there any plans to assist the club in promoting FOPs to the incoming freshman since NUS will not be adopting the physical mailing system to reach freshman anymore?

Claire (CAC): We will collaborate with OCR to publicize our centralised portal link to the freshman through email. Freshman will be contacted by email and everything will be online. OCR is willing to share our centralised portal on their website and freshman can find all the information there. I will be contacting our Director of Projects to go through each Constituent Club and ask for more information about their FOPs.

1.6.3 Guiliang (Law) and Xiao Wee (Arts) have returned at 1138HRS.

1.7 Yi Yun - Student Welfare Secretary's Updates

- 1.7.1 Hamza (Engin): What is walkNUS about?
Yi Yun (PA): Basically, we are trying to encourage walking within short distance for example between CLB and YIH. Also, since Temasek hall's bus stop is not being used anymore, a trial was conducted where umbrella baskets were placed at their bus stop for students to collect the umbrellas during rainy weathers. It is still ongoing and there is no complain thus far. The second part to it is a new initiative that is still in its planning phase. It is actually to find shortcuts routes in NUS that people can walk and this information can be relayed to the freshmen. This is to save time and not take the Internal Shuttle Bus if not needed.
- 1.7.2 Aik Loong (CSC) proposed a 5 minutes break at 1156HRS.
- 1.7.3 Claire (CAC) has left the meeting at 1200HRS.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
<p>2</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p> <p>2.7</p> <p>2.8</p>	<p>Alvin Poh Leong Ann - Non-faculty Membership Status</p> <p>Alvin Tan (Med) resumes the meeting at 1203HRS.</p> <p>Jun Jie (Biz) arrived at 1205HRS with valid reason.</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC) presented the existing non-faculty membership status and its proposed changes. Please refer to slides.</p> <p>Thenaesh (Comp): What is the practical effect of making this change? What is the membership status now? Alvin (CSC): Right now, the 4 non-faculty clubs are not functioning according to the NUS Regulation because if it is optional, students should be able to choose to join and not by default members of the clubs. Therefore, to safeguard ourselves as well as the 4 non-faculty clubs, this change is very important. So that our future batches would not have any questions asked by the offices or the students on this issue.</p> <p>Thenaesh (Comp): To clarify, currently, despite membership being optional, there is no actual ways for students decide to join or not? Alvin (CSC): Yes, you are right. Currently there is no proper system in place for all the 4 non-faculty clubs.</p> <p>Zi Kai (Comp): By default, are all students members of the non-faculty clubs? And, by making it compulsory is relevant to them? Alvin (CSC): If we make the change, yes but based on the current regulation, no. Based on the discussion we had, the non-faculty clubs are catering to students' interest. So the 4 Presidents are keen on making it compulsory. And since they are already catering to all the students, we should provide students with the memberships and allow them to choose whether they wish to attend these events or not.</p> <p>Han Siang (Engin): Am I right to say that to the students it would not matter as much? But it matters to the clubs since they are obligated to cater to all students. Alvin (CSC): Currently, the clubs are already catering to all the students. So we are making it official and safeguarding ourselves by not breaching the NUS Regulation.</p> <p>Xiao Wee (Arts): So if students ask if can they opt out, we say no? Alvin (CSC): If we make it compulsory, then students will not be able to opt out because students will be automatically registered to these clubs in the system. But their participation are based on their interest.</p>	<p>Information No Action Required</p>

- 2.9 Zi Kai (Comp): How is the students not being members of non-faculty club affecting them?
Alvin (CSC): In the event that we work on sign up basis, all non-fac clubs will have to trace their members yearly because these will affect their election as well as the EXCO representatives election since only they can vote. If this does not go through, the 4 non fac will have a lot of backend work to trace their members.
- 2.10 Zi Kai (Comp): If I recall, when students are part of the Union, they can vote for the non-fac clubs as well?
Alvin (CSC): First of all, we are wrong because we have function on the assumption that every students are part of these clubs and therefore everyone is entitled to vote. However, if it's optional, only members of these clubs are allowed to vote.
- 2.11 Thenaesh (Comp): With regards to the subscription fees, does a portion of this fee get allocated to all the non-faculty clubs?
Alvin (CSC): Yes, a portion of the fees does go to the non-faculty clubs. However, this distribution of the subscription fees is voted upon every year on the 2nd Council meeting. Therefore, this distribution is then agreed upon by the council through that vote. So, the number of members of each club does not affect the distribution.
- 2.12 Hamza (Engin): Can I clarify, that if this change does not take place for the incoming election, will all students be able to vote?
This will be a tricky situation so in the event, if this change does not happen timely, the Council have to step in to vote on this matter whether we should continue on our current practise or make the necessary changes to our election process. From what I understand, Dean is also for making it compulsory and NTUSU also have their non-faculty clubs as compulsory. So based on what we have discussed including non-faculty clubs serving our students' interest, there should be no reason for it to be kept optional.
- 2.13 Royston (USC): Any rational for Regulation 9 in this case? So far from what you said seems like Regulation 9 makes no difference. So why is it there?
Alvin (CSC): Regulation 9 governs the student activities' and it includes other guidelines. This regulation was written by the NUS quite some time ago and over time, our practise has changed. So, this change is important to safeguard ourselves and our future batches such that our memberships and election process will not be scrutinized by the Offices or the students. But to make this change, OSA wants this motion to be supported by the Council first before this is raised to the Senior Management.
- 2.14 Royston (UC): But you have no idea, as to the real rational behind this regulation? I'm assuming someone has some idea before they wrote this, so it would be appropriate to know what they have thought of and whether that is still appropriate today before we cast our votes.
Weng Heng (Engin): We have no clear historical background on this

regulation and this has been in place even before the current Dean of Students. I would assume that students are not attached to the non-faculty clubs so students join on an opt-in basis. But besides practicality and safeguard the Union, I think, it is important to recognise that co-curricular activities are part of our student life and these 4 clubs create the platform to serve the different students' interest. Furthermore, there should be no restriction as to how a student can participate in their activities.

- 2.15 Cheng Lei (USC): Is there any other matter you wish to share with the Council? If not, I wish to provide the Council with some background, on our last C-cube meeting, the Presidents have met to discuss on this matter and have specifically spoke about the issues on Political Association (PA) membership to be compulsory because the club is registered under the Registry of Societies (ROS). Therefore, if PA is registered under ROS, students cannot be members automatically and must explicitly indicate their membership status. On the other hand, so what happens if students are uncomfortable to be associated with any form of political bodies, what are we going to do to resolve them from PA if this clause is being passed? So all these were discussed during the C-cube meeting.
- Weng Heng (Engin): I think, in the meeting, we have mentioned that PA is exempted from the Societies Act since the National University of Singapore (Corporatisation) Act is in placed. This have been confirmed with the Dean of Students yesterday. So, we could put the issues on ROS aside because the Ministry has exempted PA from Societies Act.
- 2.16 Cheng Lei (USC): May I clarify, have they exempted PA from the Societies Act or have they exempted PA as a society?
- Weng Heng (Engin): PA is still in a midst of deregistration as a society but ROS has exempted PA from the need to comply to Societies Act.
- 2.17 Cheng Lei (USC): Does this mean they still have the benefits of being a society? For example, as a society, they are able to make stands and claims on behalf of their members that are not inclined to NUS unless stated in their Constitution.
- Alvin (CSC): To clarify to all, Cheng Lei's point is regarding PA's ambiguous position as a Constituent Bodies of NUSSU and a registered society under ROS. However, currently, PA is already in the process of deregistering as a society and we have also confirmed with Dean that PA does not need to comply under the Societies Act. With that in mind, the benefits mentioned above should not affect the status of PA as a registered society since NUS empowered PA with that benefit under NUS Statue.
- 2.18 Cheng Lei (USC): To clarify, it is not the school to decide that they have rights to make political pronouncements but the fact that they are registered as a society gives them the rights. The school's stand should be apolitical so constituent bodies under the school should not make any political statements.

- 2.19 Han Siang (Engin): Based on what is mentioned, isn't PA in the process of deregistering?
Cheng Lei (USC): We are taking into assumption that we are voting on this motion such that we make it compulsory if PA is deregistered or are we making it compulsory even if PA fail deregistration.
- 2.20 Weng Heng (Engin): Firstly, we have PA is already in the process of deregistering. Secondly, Dean of Students and Office of Legal Affairs are already working with PA on this deregistration process.
- 2.21 Cheng Lei (USC): Point of clarification. We need to be clear that are we voting this motion to go through such that it will only take effect after PA has been successfully deregistered or this motion will go ahead even if PA's deregistration has not been completed successfully.
- 2.22 Han Siang (Engin): I would suggest that we vote for all the non-faculty clubs except PA and this will only come into effect for PA once they are deregistered.
- 2.23 Alvin Tan (Med): I need the EXCO to clarify, in terms of political pronouncement of PA, is there anything written in the NUS Regulation?
Alvin Poh (CSC): Yes, it is written in the NUS Statue 5 that they are allowed to make political pronouncements.
- 2.24 Alvin Tan (Med): With that in mind, the eventual goal is that PA will be deregistered and if they are not, they will still be able to make political pronouncement that one fact. Secondly, the rules that they are not allowed to have compulsory membership is waived off by ROS. So these are the two points that we need to bare in mind for PA.
- 2.25 Weng Heng: We are here to vote to support the motion and not to make amendments on the Regulations. So, even if this goes through with this assumption, the Senate will still have to deregister PA before they can this regulation.
- 2.26 Guiliang (Law) has left for toilet break at 1232HRS.
- 2.27 Cheng Lei (USC): Why do they have to deregister before they can change this Regulation?
Weng Heng (Engin): As have been mentioned, they currently in an ambiguous position and they need to deregister them before they could make it compulsory.
- 2.28 Cheng Lei (USC): But they are already waived off from the Societies Act so by changing this clause to compulsory does not contradict any regulations?
Weng Heng (Engin): I would say that the school will still deregister first so there would not be any ambiguity.

- 2.29 Cheng Lei (USC): However, this does not mean that the Board of Trustee need to deregister them in order to make this change in Regulation 9.
- 2.30 Alvin Poh (CSC): Based on the same line of thought, if the school does succesfully deregister PA but makes membership compulsory. Then, what is the issue?
Cheng Lei (USC): The Board of Trustee has the right to change the NUS Regulation 9 because it is governed by them. But what we are trying to discuss and vote for here is that the Union is supporting the change in Regulation 9 for the Board to consider. So we should be clear that are we allowing all non-faculty clubs to have compulsory membership even if PA has political pronouncement rights or are we saying that this applies to all Clubs with the exception of PA until PA has removed their status as a society because this makes a difference on the student bodies we are representing.
- 2.31 Alvin Poh (CSC): The key problem that we should be aware of is that even if PA is deregistered and membership has been made compulsory, PA will still be able to make political pronouncement because NUS did not remove their rights in the Statue to do so and hence, members could use that clause to support their argument.
- 2.32 Zi Kai (Comp): May I just summarised our discussion, I would assume that PA is registered as a society because they have to be independant in order to make political pronouncement simply because they cannot represent every students' political views and this right is a very sensitive issue. So by doing making this change, we are making all Singapore students as members of PA by default and hence, PA is able to represent all students which again is a sensitive issue. Therefore, I would propose that we support this motion for the other non--faculty clubs until the issues for PA has been resolved. On the other hand, I also understand that there are many student interest that are not represented by the non-faculty clubs such as NUS Hackers and NUS Greyhats and therefore, should there be a body that represent them?
Alvin Tan (Med): For your second question, we will have to put on hold since it is not directly relevant.
- 2.33 Hamza (Engin): May I quickly add to the first point that even if PA is deregistered as a society and yet, NUS has given them the power to make political pronouncement. In that case, before we could make any changes on Regulation 9, should the clause in the Statue be removed as well?
Alvin Poh (CSC): Yes, you are right. The key problem lies in that clause and should be removed. However, that clause is not in Regulation 9 so there is a possiblity that this change is made without changing the Statue and the problem that we have discussed still exist.

- 2.34 Thenaesh (Comp): At this point, we are discussing on whether we can or we cannot make it compulsory for NUS PA. Since ROS has granted exemption to PA, so regardless of whether we make it compulsory or not, it is irrelevant since it is allowed. On the other hand, whether it is desirable or not, since PA is already catering to all the students, it will just remain as status quo as we are just making it official.
- 2.35 Royston (USC): I disagree. Currently, we only treat every students as members for voting but in other cases, all the students are treated as members and if that's the case, we cannot automatically consider all Singapore students as member of PA.
- 2.36 Xiao Wee (Arts): If the problems of making it compulsory is because of PA's status and this issues can only be resolved by the NUS Offices. So, I would support the motion of having membership of non-faculty clubs compulsory except PA and after PA have deregistered then this motion will apply for them. Having said that, from a student's point of view, if he/she is by default a member of PA and he/she does not agree with the political statements made by PA, then why is he/she is a member of PA? And what if he/she wish to opt out? And that becomes a problem.
- 2.37 Weng Heng (Engin): So may I clarify, the main issue here is the political pronouncement that is stated in the NUS Statute?
Alvin Tan (Med): So basically, because of the fact that PA is able to make political pronouncement on behalf of the students, by changing this clause to compulsory for PA, we are not too sure if the students are comfortable with the fact that PA can make political statements on their behalf.
- 2.38 Hamza (Engin): So when you are a registered society, you make pronouncement on behalf of your members but if PA is no longer a society and yet, NUS has empowered them to make political pronouncement, does it mean that they are representing the club itself or the whole of NUS population?
Weng Heng (Engin): It will be their members.
- 2.39 Royston (USC): I think, the issue is not whether they are society or not but the fact that they can make political pronouncement so deregistration or not is not relevant.
- 2.40 Xiao Wee (Arts): Another suggestion would be to pass the clause as it is but also states that any political pronouncement made by PA should only represent their EXCO and not all members of their club.
- 2.41 Alvin Tan (Med): Another point I wish to add that Dean has already mentioned and Jiayi who is not here has requested for me to say is that PA has not made a political pronouncement for the past 5-10 years and so, when she asked Dean what is the definition of political pronouncement, Dean is unable to provide one as well because no such incident has happened.

Though we cannot assume that it will not happen, but it is very unlikely.

2.42 Alvin Tan (Med): So the proposal to vote will be split into two parts given the circumstance of the discussion, so we first vote whether or not to support the notion of the 3 other non-faculty clubs namely Cultural Activities Club, Community Service Club and Sports Club to have compulsory membership while the second vote involves whether Political Association will also have compulsory membership for Singapore citizens taking into consideration the discussion we had. Since the first voting motion is clear, could we then take the first vote first and this will be an open vote.

2.43 Alvin (Med) propose to vote on the motion to support the 3 non-faculty clubs namely Cultural Activities Club, Community Service Club and Sports Club to have compulsory membership for all students.

Vote Results:

Total Strength: 38

For: 37

Against: 1

Invalid: 0

2.44 Alvin Tan (Med): For the second part of the motion, it is for Political Association to have compulsory membership for all Singapore citizens. I will open the floor for discussion for another 10 minutes and will extend if necessary. For this second motion, all the political pronouncement will still be in effect and does not include any suggestions mentioned earlier.

2.45 Cindy (CAC): Maybe there should be another clause under PA on what being a member actually represent. On top of that, for those students who are not comfortable to be a member of PA, they should be able to opt-out.
Alvin Tan (Med): The inclusion of another clause for PA will be difficult since the decision still lies with the Board.

2.46 Cindy (CAC): Then is it possible to have a membership on an opt-out basis?
Alvin Tan (Med): The final details on PA membership will be set by Dean and PA. So we should not set specific conditions and determine their membership. But we could vote on the motion that any political pronouncement is made on behalf of the EXCO and not by the members.

2.47 Haolin (PA): Based on the meeting Jiayi had with OSA, we know that the meeting was to deregister PA as a society. We also felt that if the only privilege as a society is to make political pronouncement which we have not done so and all announcement that we make will still have go through OSA. Though it is an unwritten rule, the truth is that if we want to make any announcement, OSA will have to review it first. However, since it is unwritten, many people are probably not aware of it. Secondly, PA is operating on a very loose basis of what a member is. Currently, we only consider our members as EXCO members who have voting rights. On the other hand,

our election and AGM can only be voted by Singapore citizens. Other than that, all our events are open to everyone. So if we have a strict membership system, we will need to keep a database of these members which is rather difficult. Lastly, if the main issue is on political pronouncement, I have no issue to feedback this to Jiayi and have an AGM to state that any political pronouncement made does not represent the NUS student population. This can be done within ourselves.

- 2.48 Cheng Lei (USC): Can I propose for an amendment in motion such that membership for PA to be compulsory, so long as PA include in their Constitution that any political pronouncement made is by individual or Committee and not the student population.
- 2.49 Siu Ming (Law): I think, if we make issue such that only the Committee is liable for the political pronouncement made, then I do not see the rationale why all students are compulsory members of PA because the label Political Association itself comes with connotation as compared to Sports Club. Therefore, it implies that the members have some sort of belief as if everyone should be part of a Fellowship or religion. With that in mind, there should at least be an opt out option.
- 2.50 Weng Heng (Engin): I agree with Siu Ming's point and so, my suggestion would be to have compulsory membership with opt-out option only due to political pronouncements and not other reasons.
- 2.51 Cindy (CAC): I don't think political pronouncement is the only issue, some people may be affected by the labelling of the PA since politics can be a sensitive issue.
- 2.52 Weng Heng (Engin): I believe, that PA has been working as an apolitical association and they are here to raise political awareness instead of inclining to support certain political parties or agenda.
- 2.53 Cindy (CAC): However, this could be achieved without students being a member of PA since their events are open to the NUS student population. So the question is what does a member of PA represent.
- 2.54 Han Siang (Engin): Would it be possible NUS PA to allow more members to vote without being official members?
Cheng Lei (USC): Regulation 9 will deny non-members to vote.
- 2.55 Zi Kai (Comp): So I think the problem is that PA is making political pronouncement that represents the student population and there are proposal to the opt-out system. However, are the students aware they are part of this Club? And are they aware that they could choose to opt out from it? Secondly, so since PA has not made political pronouncement, so we should propose to remove this right to make political pronouncement. The third issue is if we were to pass this now on the condition that PA will

resolve their own issues,how can we ensure that it will be resolved?

2.56

Alvin Tan (Med): With the interest of time and taking into consideration the many issues highlighted for the membership of PA, I would like to propose to put off the voting for PA until the next Council meeting after more details have been finalised internally within PA and Dean.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
3	Alvin Poh Leong Ann - Constitutional Review Committee updates	Information No Action Required
3.1	Refer to slides.	
3.2	<p>Thenaesh (Comp): What exactly are you referring to by the outgoing President and any other Management Committee members?</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC): They are just your MC members in your Constituent club. CRC proposed this so as to allow the EXCO representatives to know your Clubs better.</p>	
3.3	Alvin Tan (Med): We are now presenting parts of what CRC have discussed to gather feedback and to change accordingly. Once the final changes have been made, then we will present again and vote on this. For now, it is open up for discussion.	
3.4	<p>Thenaesh (Comp): Is there an issue that the UEC has too much power, since everything connects up to the UEC?</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC): It seems like it but if you break it down, there are very few disputes to dispute about. First of all within your MC, if there is a dispute - say on how marking a certain 'X' should be valid too - within the MCEC, the decision can be made by the three of them. The dispute you are referring to, if relevant, is regarding the Constitution. In the event someone contravene the Constitution, the UEC would then step in. Other than that, UEC's role is fairly minimal.</p>	
3.5	<p>Thenaesh (Comp): In the event of a dispute on the Constitution, the UEC now has the right to resolve it?</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC): If you put it that way regarding election then yes, they have.</p>	
3.6	<p>Thenaesh (Comp): Shouldn't that be resolved for the Council?</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC): If it cannot be resolved within the UEC, it will definitely go up to the Council level which is why in the hierarchy, the Council falls under the highest body. If the case is too severe, the Council will step in. But to call for a Council meeting in the two weeks of election, I would say is nearly impossible.</p>	
3.7	Alvin Tan (Med): I think one of the issues is that it is impractical in terms of convening a Council meeting for one small dispute since we have to hit quorum for that. As such, the UEC will be elected by the Council. It is put in good faith that the UEC will resolve in a just and proper manner in terms of interpreting the Constitution. Unless there is a strong disagreement within the five of them, then we may possibly convene a Council meeting.	
3.8	Cheng Lei (USC): Point of clarification. Statements made by UEC in terms of clarification of the Constitution is non-binding in nature. If the disputer do not agree with the explanation that the UEC give, because it is	

non-binding, he or she can still raise it up to the Council.

- 3.9 Alvin Poh (CSC): It will be how it is today, non-binding, and it will be in a consultative manner. Also, all UEC statements will be made online.
- 3.10 Xiao Wee (Arts): Just a point of note to everyone. With regards to the second point, the current system allows anybody to sign on the nomination form.
- 3.11 Zi Kai (Comp): Can I clarify for point two: are we removing it or changing it?
Alvin Poh (CSC): We are including it and not removing it.
- 3.12 Zi Kai (Comp): But what is the rationale?
Alvin Poh (CSC): The whole rationale behind point two is for the EXCO representatives to get to know your club better.
- 3.13 Jun Jie (Biz): Some clubs don't know who their EXCO representatives are until they are elected. We are also reviewing this clause that it doesn't only limit to outgoing president and other MC members. However, we are moving away from letting everyone within your faculty to propose or second the nomination form. The whole intention is to let your MC know your EXCO representatives a bit more so that at least they can rightfully represent your club.
- 3.14 Han Siang (Engin): The second point will conflict with our internal election. For engineering club, they don't have to get their nomination form signed by the outgoing President. I understand the intentions behind it, but there is a bit of conflict, as the EXCO representatives need to go through the current outgoing members but candidates who wish to run for a faculty club position don't have to.
Alvin Tan (Med): As much as possible, we want the flexibility of each of the faculty club to conduct their election in their own way. The reason why we specifically enforce this on the EXCO representatives is because, although the EXCO representatives' main portfolio is not within your MC, the problems are more problematic solely on the EXCO side. In terms of internal election for your own MC election, we will leave it to your flexibility of each of the MC if they want to enforce this on them.
- 3.15 Cheng Lei (USC): Point of clarification. The difference between the nomination form of the MC election and EXCO representatives is that, for MC election, you are running as an individual going for that position within their own MC. However, if you are running for EXCO representatives, you are not running as an individual, for example as an engineering student, you are running on behalf of engineering club. It is a bit weird that engineering club MC does not have a way to make sure the candidate is actually running from their club because it can be any random person taking the name of the club and making any kind of campaign statements. That is the only difference between this two.

3.16	Alvin Tan (Med): If anyone has any comments or feedback, you can approach the CRC members.	
3.17	Yi Yun (PA) has left the meeting at 1318HRS.	
4	Loo Weng Heng - President's update	Information No Action Required
4.1	Refer to slides.	
5	AOBs	Information No Action Required
5.1	Sarah (Arts) has left the meeting at 1325HRS.	
5.2	Cheng Lei (USC): I wish to officially inform the naming convention of USC. In the past few instances, during Rag or through school's publications, you will realise that when they label faculty stuff, they will use the faculties' names in place of faculty clubs' name. USC is always the exception that uses the club's name instead of the faculty's name. We would like to stay aligned that whoever represent USC, we would like to use University Scholars Programme. Should we decide to use USC to represent our club, we would like to use University Scholars Club in full instead of USC. This is because OFM just came out with a new building called University Sports Centre and we don't want it to be confusing.	
5.3	Him Ling (Sports): This is about investment subscription. I would like to explain on how it actually works. At the OFS level, all the Constituent clubs and NUSSU EXCO are treated as having one account for the reserve. So, whenever we want to choose the subscription investment request, we will collate all the withdrawals or top up from all the Constituent clubs and collate and send the final figure to OFS. It is the final figure that they are interested in. In the event that the final figure is positive, which is to top up the reserve, we need to hit at least 50k per lot. The biggest should be a multiple of 50k like 50k, 100k, 150k etc. In the case if the overall figure is negative, which is withdrawal of investment, there is a bit of issue. The withdrawal of investment will take 3 months to take effect. For example, the next window will be in July. If you wish to withdraw from investment then you need to submit the form by the end of this month so that they can have 90 days to process the form. This is just a reminder to all of you that if you need to withdraw from your reserve for your FOP, then you might need to do it before the end of this month.	
5.4	Siu Ming (Law) has left the meeting at 1329HRS.	
5.5	Weng Heng (Engin): So this is with regards to the Union Constitution	

	<p>changes. In the last council meeting, some of you enquired about the cost of this major exercise because OSA engaged a lawyer. I just received an update that the cost of this exercise will be borne by the school because they really want to tidy up everything. This is very important for the Union.</p>	
5.6	<p>Alvin Poh (CSC): They want to do it holistically and this does not only apply to the NUSSU Constitution. At the same time, they want all the 14 Constituent clubs to do this together. Basically everyone comes together for a discussion and iron things out before passing on to the next batch. It will be a good time for all the Constituent clubs to look into their Constitution. It is probably earlier than your planned schedule. This exercise will happen concurrently with all 14 Constituent clubs.</p>	
5.7	<p>Weng Heng (Engin): Although it won't be completed by the end of this term or even this year, it is still a very important exercise. Before the new Constitution is completed, we will work under the current Constitution. Also, the school will bear the cost for all the 14 Constituent clubs.</p>	
5.8	<p>Aik Loong (CSC): If this exercise were to carry on to the next term, won't it mean that our upcoming MC will be running upon the old Constitution that we are currently having, which may not be aligned with the new one? Alvin Tan (Med): The final details on how the transition is going to happen will be discussed with the Dean, especially so with the election portion. They will ensure that we have a smooth transition into the new Constitution.</p>	

With no other outstanding matters to discuss, Mr Tan Kian Wei Alvin (Med) proposed to close the meeting at 1337HRS.

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