

Minutes for 6th 37th NUSSU Council Meeting

Date: Saturday, 16th April 2016
Time: 1000hrs
Venue: LT27, 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
Wong Jun Jie	Bizad Club, President
Richmond Lee	Bizad Club, Vice President (Student Life)
Tan Yong Ming	Computing Club, President
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
Eu Xuan Lin	Engineering Club, General Secretary
Alexander Noronha	Engineering Club, Secretary of Student Affairs
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
Camille Zhao Yi	Cultural Activities Club
Glen Anthony Ooi	Cultural Activities Club
Shen Jiayi	Political Association
Jia Haolin	Political Association
Loh Yi Chin	Political Association
Yeo Eng Way	Political Association
Cedric Lim	Sports Club

Exco Representatives (12):

Chua Khai Shing	Arts and Social Sciences Club
Lim Sin Yang Edmond	Business Club
Kenji Ong Shao Qiang	Law Club
Loo Weng Heng	Engineering Club
Javier Leong Lu Sheng	Computing Club
Tan Zheng Jie	University Scholars Club
Clement Eu Chun Kian	Sports Club

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

Observers (3):

Adele Ang	Science Club
Brandon Ng	Science Club
Tan Kah Min	Community Service Club

Absents with Apologies (11):

Hamza Naqvi	Engineering Club, President
Liu Guiliang	Law Club, President
Wong Wen Kai	Medical Club, President
Chua Sin Hui Melissa	Medical Club, Vice President
Cindy Handjaja	Cultural Activities Club
Ong Shi Jie Jocelyn	Cultural Activities Club
Gordon Wong Wei Jie	Medical Club
Toh Wen Jun	Business Club
Tan Wee Bian	Engineering Club
Goh Him Ling	Sports Club
Ong Zi Hao	Political Association

Absents without Apologies (8):

Sarah Chew	Arts & Social Sciences Club, Marketing Director
Wei Yi Chen	Bizad Club, Vice President (External)
Sandra Chen Ming Shu	Dental Club, President
Teo Siu Ming	Law Club, Vice President
Megha Verma	Science Club
Hazel Tan Xin Wei	Design and Environment Club
Lai Wen Shen	Medical Club
Chia Sheng Hui	Arts and Social Sciences Club

Meeting Agenda:

- 1 NUSSU Constitutional Amendments
- 2 Executive Committee Elections Regulations Amendments
- 3 Election of the Union Election Committee (UEC)
- 4 Rag and Flag Queries
- 5 AOB

The 6th Council Meeting was called to order at 1015HRS byt Mr Tan Kian Wei Alvin, Chairperson of the 37th NUSSU Council.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
<p>1</p> <p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p> <p>1.3</p> <p>1.4</p> <p>1.5</p>	<p>NUSSU Constitution Amendments</p> <p>Please refer to slides. LT27, Faculty of Science</p> <p>Cedric (Sports) arrived at 1021HRS.</p> <p>Aik Loong (CSC): Which constitutional position are we looking at to empower to liaise with the Associate Bodies (AB) and will these roles and responsibilities be included in the Constitution? Alvin (CSC): Regarding the constitutional position, this has not been discussed in detail and it is only fair to first discuss this matter among the 7 of us. Then, this will be decided by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) and will be shared with the Council for approval. Lastly, yes, it will be included in the roles and responsibilities of the constitutional position.</p> <p>Vote Results: Total Strength: 36 For: 33 Against: 0 Abstain: 3</p> <p>The Council has passed the proposed amendments for the NUSSU Constitution.</p>	<p>Information No Action Required</p>
<p>2</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p>	<p>Executive Committee Elections Regulations Amendments</p> <p>Please refer to slides.</p> <p>Cheng Lei (USC): For 11(5) and 13(1) in the Regulations, shouldn't this be passed through the Adjudication Committee (AC) voting? Hence, if this doesn't pass through, the Constitution cannot stand and it is redundant at this moment because we have voted to dissolve AC but these two points still requires the AC which will not exist. Alvin (CSC): The problem lies in that these power of the AC are listed in the Regulations and not the Constitution and we cannot vote on these two documents together. Therefore, it was not raised previously and it is voted upon now to remove all clauses with AC.</p> <p>Cheng Lei (USC): May I challenge, what if this voting doesn't pass today and what will happen to this Constitution? Weng Heng (Engin): The Constitution is still valid but these two clauses are invalid under this Regulation.</p> <p>Cheng Lei (USC): Correct, therefore if these two clauses are invalid, there are no UEC and technically there will be no election. The amendments for this</p>	<p>Information No Action Required</p>

portion should have been brought in during the AC voting so that they could take into consideration the impact of removing AC on the election process. It shouldn't be segregated when voting.

Alvin (CSC): In any case, what Cheng Lei mentioned has a point. Basically, we have removed the AC just now and if this voting does not pass through the UEC cannot be formed then we will have to vote upon a countermeasure to conduct the election for the next term. Nevertheless, if this voting is passed, the Regulations will function as proposed and the UEC will be formed by the Council. It is a valid issue given that we are constrained by the voting procedures.

2.5 Alex (Engin): If we are concerned about the effect of removing the AC, we have to note that we have voted previously to transfer the power of the AC to the Council and hence, the UEC will be elected by the Council.

Cheng Lei (USC): Though it was mentioned that the power of the AC will be transferred to the Council as specified, we cannot assume that all powers of the AC are transferred to the Council. Therefore, if these amendments are not passed, we cannot proceed with the election of UEC.

2.6 Thenaesh (Comp): Since the Council now has the power to interpret the Constitution, can the Council choose how to interpret these clauses?

Alvin (Med): Technically, yes but it wouldn't make sense to someone who reads the minutes. Essentially, the point is that the power of the AC to elect UEC was not stated in the Constitution but in the Regulations which results in this voting arrangements. If the voting for the amendments for the Regulations fails, we will have to call for a short break and will have to vote on who will decide the formation of the UEC.

2.7 Cheng Lei (USC): On a side note, for the rest of the Constitution, I would suggest to check for any remains of AC in other Regulations to ensure that the Constitution is properly tidy up.

2.8 **Vote Results:**

Total Strength: 37

For: 26

Against: 3

Abstain: 8

2.9 The Council has passed the proposed amendments for the Executive Committee Elections Regulations.

2.10 Yong Ming (Comp): Just to clarify, the election has a maximum of 21 days, the nomination period should have a maximum of 13 days and not 14.

2.11 Edmond (Biz) proposed to have a 10 minutes toilet break at 1046HRS.

2.12 Javier (Comp) arrived at 1050HRS.

<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>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p> <p>3.13</p> <p>3.14</p> <p>3.15</p>	<p>Election of Union Election Committee (UEC)</p> <p>Alvin Tan (Med) resumes the meeting at 1055HRS.</p> <p>Alvin (Med) went through the roles and responsibilities of the Union Election Committee (UEC).</p> <p>Alvin (Med) proposed no presentation but a 5 minutes Q&A for each nominee for this election.</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): Does the exclusion applies to the graduating students? Alvin (Med): Graduating students can still be part of the UEC.</p> <p>Opening of nominations proposed by Alvin (Med).</p> <p>Nominee: Low Yi Yun (PA) Proposer: Loo Weng Heng (Engin)</p> <p>Nominee: Javier Leong (Comp) Proposer: Ng Zi Kai (Comp)</p> <p>Closing of nomination proposed by Jiayi (PA).</p> <p>Low Yi Yun (PA) is called for the Q&A session.</p> <p>Alex (Engin): Do you consider yourself fair in any judgement? And, do you have any preconceive notion of anyone who will be running next year? Yi Yun (PA): I think, it is still early to know who is running. For them, they still have the summer break to decide. In any case, even if I know the candidates, I will be fair and follow the Regulations.</p> <p>Xiao Wee (Arts): What is the biggest problem you have seen from the election last year? Yi Yun (PA): Last year, the information and decision from the UEC on social media such as Facebook were rather informal. So, I would suggest to have these information posted on a more formal platform such as our website.</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): What is your personal motivation to run for this position? Yi Yun (PA): To be honest, there isn't anyone running for it. Secondly, I think it will be a good experience for me given that I have seen what the UEC has done last year and the possible improvements to be made.</p> <p>Closing of Q&A session proposed by Alex (Engin).</p> <p>Javier Leong (Comp) is called for the Q&A session.</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): What do you think you are qualified to be part of the UEC?</p>	<p>Information No Action Required</p>
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Javier (Comp): Given that I have taken part in the election last year and I have taken away a lot of experience from that election. Hence, I believe, I can apply my experience learnt for the next election to ensure that it will run smoothly since there are things that could have been done better such as the vote counting process.

3.16 Jiayi (PA): So, what are your concrete suggestions and improvements?
Javier (Comp): One thing that could have been done better is to have a cooling off period. So that, no one is able to pull votes during election.

3.17 Closing of Q&A session proposed by Zi Kai (Comp).

3.18 **Vote Results:**
Total Strength: 36

Yi Yun (PA)

For: 30

Against: 6

Javier (Comp)

For: 30

Against: 6

Invalid: 0

3.19 Yi Yun (PA) and Javier (Comp) are elected as members of the Union Election Committee (UEC).

3.20 Richmond (Biz) and Li Dan (SDE) arrived at 1122HRS.

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3	Election of Union Election Committee (UEC)	Information No Action Required
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3.5	Opening of nominations proposed by Alvin (Med).	
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3.7	Nominee: Javier Leong (Comp) Proposer: Ng Zi Kai (Comp)	
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S/No.	Agenda	Action By
4	Xiao Wee (Arts) & Jun Jie (Biz) - Rag and Flag Queries	Information
4.1	<p>LT27, Faculty of Science</p> <p>questions are posted to the faculty clubs as well as everyone in the Council. Personally, I felt that Rag & Flag has become our tradition for all the Participating Bodies (PBs), however, there is a lapse in the conceptualisation of the event. Every year, we just assume that it is an event that we have to participate and fulfill the requirements. Therefore, we have a few queries as follow; what is the objective and meaning of Rag & Flag? Our purpose raising this question is not cancel the event but perhaps, should NUSSU or Council has an overall objective for the event that we can all agree on? Because everything we do for Rag & Flag should reflect these objectives. All this while, we have been operating on the assumption that Rag is a performance to thank people who Flag for us and the beneficiaries. If such is the case, including volunteerism and community appreciation, we felt that these should be reflected in the rules and regulations and the operations of the event. We also hope to have some clarification on the direction and objective of the event taking into consideration the Union and the school's interest. From what I understand, the school is interested in the branding of the school from this event. It will also be good if the Council is aware of what had been done previously and what will be done this year to achieve the objective and meaning for the event. But first, from your point of view, what is the objective of Rag & Flag?</p>	No Action Required
4.2	<p>Alvin (CSC): So, as for the objective this year, we have kept it the same such that we still focuses on the community appreciation and the spirit of volunteerism. The changes that we are making this year also work towards these objectives such that the event will be held on a Saturday to allow the public to participate in the event. Essentially, we have tried to adjust our execution to better align ourselves with the objectives. Other than that, in terms of direction and objective is very much the same. I wouldn't disagree with what Xiao Wee mentioned earlier that since we have been doing it for many years, the sentiment for the event has changed and it is not as strong as what it is set out to achieve. I think, all in all, the event is clear that we are here to create community engagement opportunities and to inculcate the spirit of volunteerism in our students. Other than that, it is very much on the execution. I have continuously stressed to my Committee that at the end of the event, we hope that everyone who came to flag and participate in Rag will have some attachment to the event and not doing it just because their faculties asked them to do it. That itself is the spirit of volunteerism. Personally, if the Council ever feel that there is a need to set a clear objective together that we will use it across every faculty, we could come out with one and we could continue to publicise these objectives to our students. I think, what happened over the years has been very disjointed such that many groups of people participate in Rag & Flag for different purposes. The</p>	

objectives have been the same but the purposes and reasons why they are still doing it which much enthusiasm are different. Some are for tradition while some are because it is part of their freshmen activities. These differences are not ideal so if we could come out with something that everyone could built on and accept to make the event better, this will be something we could do.

- 4.3 Jun Jie (Biz): If I ask you to describe Rag & Flag in one sentence to pitch to a student, how do you actually tell them the main objective and purpose of the event in your own opinion?
- 4.4 Alvin (CSC): In one sentence, it will be the spirit of giving and community service that we want to inculcate in our students and the Rag performance is to showcase our students' talent in this grand event. As we observed, most of the faculty clubs have evolved throughout Rag & Flag and the clubs are the channel which reaches out directly to the the students. Hence, the clubs have played an important to reach out to the students and to achieve the objectives mentioned. It is very relevant and again, that is my opinion. If anyone felt otherwise or that it could have been better, feel free to inform us and we could work out something. I have been discussing with PDs and DOPs on how we could make this event better but much of what we have been doing focuses on the event execution and not so much on the objective setting.
- 4.5 Xiao Wee (Arts): From my faculty, I have gotten many queries from students, the Flag on community service is fine, but for the Rag whereby we thank the beneficiaries and public to have that kind of interaction, it will be good not only to look at the rules and regulations but the outreach of the event and the execution. Since the PBs are involved, it should be conducted in a way that embodies the objectives that is set out. On the other hand, from what I understand, the halls are doing a combined float this year so in that sense, it is easier for them to involve their members because they stay there. So for the faculties, yes, there are certain groups who are more involved in Rag & Flag but from my point of view, Rag is separated from Flag and the measures that have been done thus far is not clearly reflected during the Rag event.
- 4.6 Alvin (CSC): I have a few things to clarify on what Xiao Wee has mentioned, firstly, the 6 halls will come together to do a combined float and also mentioned that it is easier for the halls. The truth for them is the otherwise. After we have done many discussions with them, we have found that they are severely lacked of members. At the end of the day, Rag and Flag is a freshmen event for both faculties and halls and because of that many of their hall members are doing Rag & Flag for their faculties. And that's why we have came out with a mutual understanding that they will do a combined float due to their shortage in manpower and still have Rag & Flag for all the 6 halls. On the other hand, regarding the Rag component, we did reflect about it to find out how and why Rag is so disjoint from Flag and then we realise that if we look at what happened last year, it was different as compared to 2

years ago, when it was held in school because when we moved out last year it wasn't only because of the scale but the people who attended the event. The people who attended are parents and the public who are the people outside of NUS. With this, we were able to reach out beyond our students and it sums up to be a success. More importantly, most of us as students were happy after the event as well as all the effort that was put for this event. The point here is that we hope to achieve the same such that we could get the public to be part of the event so that they would know what is this event all about and if we are successful, it will be something to keep for the upcoming years. The Rag day is what set us apart from other community service groups such that we are not only doing community service but we are also showcasing students' talent to the public who have donated for Flag. So, on the execution end is what we have focus on doing and we will continue to make the more related. Having said that, the some fundamental problems still exist. For myself, when I was a freshman, I wasn't properly informed on what Rag & Flag is contributing to and why are our students dancing and building floats for days and months so I think, one other side of story is for us to properly communicate this to the people who are participating the event. Our students are participating not because it is a tradition but they are participating because what we wish to achieve which is to inculcate the spirit and to showcase what our students are able to offer.

- 4.7 Claire (CAC): Do you all know, why Rag & Flag is branded as a freshmen orientation project? The main point of this event is not only on Rag Day or Flag Day but the reason why it is branded as a freshmen orientation project is because of the time spent together to build the floats and the long night spent to prepare for the dance choreography. This time is for you to bond with your freshmen and other members of your faculty. So that is one of the internal purpose for Rag & Flag. With this, we hope to provide our students with a memorable experience through this long process of working together. And of course, we do have the spirit of volunteerism aspect making this event more meaningful for our students and the public.
- 4.8 Aik Loong (CSC): Given that everyone has different perspective of Rag & Flag such as the school, freshmen and faculties, but given that one of the primary objective is to promote the spirit of giving since Rag Day is a performance to give back to the community then has there in previous Rag or will there be in this year's Rag to have any direction perhaps to involve some of the beneficiaries? This is coming from a perspective of community service and not the engagement of the general public.
- 4.9 Alvin (CSC): Similar to previous years, they do engage the beneficiaries to attend the event. I would expect to be the same but of course, we are not expecting a lot from them. But we would definitely invite them for the event to enjoy the performance from our students.
- 4.10 Cheng Lei (USC): While we want to bond the freshmen through the freshmen orientation projects (FOP), we are also getting feedback from OSA that their

parents are saying that the students are getting fatigue through all the camps and throughout the FOPs especially when they belong to more than one faculty and if they belong to a bigger faculty, there are small camps going on as well. So, if we put ourselves in that perspective, to think that whether is it meaningful to put our students through a project that was supposed to promote the spirit of volunteerism and giving through endless night building a float for a one day performance which they do not directly see the communication between the beneficiaries and the performance they are putting for. Other than the fact that we try to extend invitation to them but we do not mechanism to enforce such that the beneficiaries are truly benefiting from this experience. Because I can always say that I can do a 2 nights OBS and people still get bonded so why do I need 3 months. Why do I have to spend \$4,500 building up a float? Why can't I use \$4,500 to bring my freshmen for a buffet. Or in the spirit of volunteerism, I donate this \$4,500 to the charity, will that be much better than engaging and inviting the beneficiaries to watch the show? So what is the cross return that we are looking at with regards to the event tying back to the spirit of volunteerism and that it is beyond a competition that is put up for the faculty to give back to the society. Have NUSSU really thought about how can they change the way they communicate Flag to people or is the competition between the Flag and the faculties hindering from the spirit of volunteerism making it much more of a pride thing? Have we really thought about all these things and recalibrate the judging scheme, the purpose of the competition and the point of enforcing minimum fund raising amount that happened last year from faculties? Have all these things deviated from the point that we try to bring across? So I think these are bigger concerns we should rethink than to knit down minor details of where are we going to hold the Rag, what are we going to do for the Rag, how much should we spend for Rag. Faculties are willing to put forward the money to make the event happen so long as there is a true purpose and that the objectives of the event are aligned and they see effort being put into making it happen. I cannot say for all faculties, at least within my own faculty, the administration has been highly pushing for us to withdraw from Rag because they do not see any purpose behind it other than putting up a show for a day. So that is something for NUSSU to rethink because if faculties are seeing it in this perspective, that is something that is not positive for event.

- 4.11 Xiao Wee (Arts): From my side, I have three recommendations for Rag & Flag; first one is to have a clear objective and the rules and regulations should reflect this objective. Second is to review the rules and regulations and the third is to consider whether should Rag & Flag be compulsory for all faculties and halls.
- 4.12 Zi Kai (Comp): Can I just ask, given a choice, would you rather not do Rag or do Flag?
- 4.13 Xiao Wee (Arts): For me because I am having similar problem as Cheng Lei. My faculty office has mixed feelings for Rag & Flag. On the Student Life side

is fine but for every other side of the Office, they do not really see as something that is worth it.

- 4.14 Zi Kai (Comp): But as a student or as someone who has gone through Rag, given a choice, would you want to do Rag & Flag?
- 4.15 Xiao Wee (Arts): No. I have made the effort to go through the entire process. First as a attendee for Rag Day in my first year and last year I was involved in Rag throughout. As organising committee, we join with an altruistic mindset such that we are doing this for the faculty to put up a good performance and yes, there is an element of giving. But, to me, it is not justified not only because of the amount of manpower that is required of the freshmen in that 2-3 months period which makes it different from camps which only last for 4 days 3 nights at most. Besides, the monetary cost is also not justifiable in the long run and it has been a sore point for many years and why not we just give the money to people. I just feel that for something that cost that much is really not equitable to students neither it is to quantify as a charitable or giving event. Though freshmen might think differently but I think, after going through it as a freshmen and organizer, I can safely say that there are divided opinions on Rag & Flag and given that my faculty is big and there is already a lot of dissent especially from those who have gone through it. From their sentiments, I gather that there are quite a lot of divided opinions and maybe unhappiness about Rag as an event to compliment Flag.
- 4.16 Jun Jie (Biz): Actually I have a question regarding the halls' Rag because given that they are combined, so how are they going to compete? Are they against the faculties or among themselves?
- 4.17 Alvin (CSC): The halls no longer compete with the faculties. So there is no longer competition for halls. But there will still be awards for them. They will judge based on merits. So we will grade them together on their float and the difference among them is from the performance. So they will have segments in their performance for each halls to showcase their talents and will be judged accordingly.
- 4.18 Jun Jie (Biz): With such a precedence, don't see that the smaller faculties in the future will actually go towards this path? Follow up to that question, let us say that the faculties that are participating in a less competitive way in Rag to combine together as one to make it more competitive then would that make Rag even more competitive and wouldn't the bigger faculty also lose out from this merger?
- 4.19 Alvin (CSC): This precedence is not because the halls cannot compete and in fact some of them do as well as some of the faculties and maybe better. But we have came out with this system because we also want to appreciate these people who do well because if we were to tell them to participate and perform without awards, I think, that loses the meaning for some of these

people who participate. Because they really want to contribute to their hall and want to see their hall to obtain certain merit out from this event. We have considered about this and so have decided not to take these merits away through the effort that they have put in. So, we still award them for their effort and because we understand that some of them do not have the capacity to even organise Rag, that is why we agreed to have a 6-in-1 float.

4.20 Jun Jie (Biz): So don't you think that now Rag has become a competition? And from an organizational perspective, we are looking at it as a competition and so how does that link back to the initial purpose? And how do we change this competition?

4.21 Alvin (CSC): So firstly, what do you mean by Rag being competition-centric? That will be question I wish to find out. Is it winning medals represent competition? Is it fair that I do not give any awards at all to everyone especially for those who PBs who have put in a lot more effort relative to those who have done less? For our organisation end, we felt that it is not the case, the awards that we give is to reflect the amount of effort and contribution the PBs have put into. Competition has always been sidelined. PBs can choose to put minimal effort and still go up on stage but the question is, is that what you think your faculty can achieve? Is that what you want to see from your faculty? For many is not the case because we know we can go further. We know that our students can do more and so why do we limit that. But of course, this also revolves the scale of measurement and how it can better reflect the effort and be fairly judged for all PBs.

4.22 Cheng Lei (USC): To me, it is very contradicting and problematic in what was mentioned. First you say that Rag & Flag is for the spirit of giving and then you said that we are keeping competition so that we can attract halls that are interested in the competition to stay in Rag & Flag. So, are you looking for people who are interested in competition or are you looking for people who are interested in the spirit of giving?

4.23 Alvin (CSC): First of all, we don't create competition to attract this enthusiastic people. The awards are given for their effort and contribution. I think, we, as organisers, have always been focusing on inculcating the spirit and achieving our objective. But we have to take into consideration of the students who are actually participating. For me, I have spoken to a wide range of people from Presidents all the way down to the people who are doing it. And the question that I often ask the people who are doing it is, why do you spend 3 months doing Rag? And I often receive the same response because they want their faculty or hall to gain some achievement. And because of that, I cannot neglect that perspective completely because they felt so strongly for it that I have to acknowledge it. And that in essence is volunteerism. It is true that the sentiments are different at different levels and as organizer, we have to acknowledge why are they here for or why are they doing this for. With that, we can better structure to cater to different group of people. In terms of competition, I have concluded that the idea of

competition counterproductive because we are trying to acknowledge the effort that they have put in. It is not so much of who competes with who and who is better than who but it should be who have put more effort to put up a good performance.

4.24 Yong Ming (Comp): We should focus on what we want to achieve for the future and the upcoming Rag and I think, one way forward is for the Committee to present whatever plans and execution they have in mind so far and see whether it matches with objectives that all of us want to achieve. Though we might have different objectives, we can come together and see if it matches and if it doesn't match, we can recommend and hopefully they would accept. For example, we have been focusing a lot on the competition and so moving forward, we can put a stop to it and focus on what we want to achieve for the coming Rag.

4.25 Alvin (Med): Actually discussion was supposed to be on such a formal note. The whole point of tabling this agenda is to get everyone to think about Rag & Flag and also to table any future recommendation if we wish to them. Unfortunately it is difficult to implement changes for this year's Rag since they have started planning and brief all the PBs. I think, the purpose of this discussion is to see how are we going to steer the direction for Rag.

4.26 Xiao Wee (Arts): I think one thing can be done now is the objectives. That will be the most immediate thing.

4.27 Cheng Lei (USC): I think, I would echo what Xiao Wee and Jun Jie are trying to convey. I think, the purpose of them tabling the agenda is they are not here to say whether Rag & Flag is right or wrong but we are trying to find a reason to go back to our faculty offices and say there is a purpose to do Rag & Flag. For example, in USP, we have never been doing tin can flagging because students and faculty office do not see the purpose. So if this trend continue to run for Rag, we are really trying to see how we can resolve this issue. As mentioned, there are fundamental problems which I think the Committee has already noticed by saying that students are more interested to fight for faculty clubs' pride. So that is a flaw because our objectives were different and so the Committee should resolve the flaw and not to embrace the flaw. I think, we need to relook to say whether should Rag continue with its objective or we realign the objective so that we are clear with new direction and move forward with it. Or, we to keep the old direction and rethink how we could execute important concept to achieve its objective. With that, we could communicate to our offices and students the objective and action plan to achieve this objective.

4.28 Xiao Wee (Arts): Basically we need either rethinking the objectives of Rag & Flag and if were to have the same objective then we will need a reaffirmation by means of regulations or statement.

- 4.29 Aik Loong (CSC): Actually, I agree with what was mentioned by Yong Ming. Given that quite a number of Council members have various issues with Rag & Flag such as having competition as the main focus which have diluted the purpose of the event, I would suggest that the DOP and Committee figure out how to tackle the various issues and present us with some of the changes. I understand that some of the planning may already be ongoing but maybe we could see if there are things that we can do so slowly move towards the objective.
- 4.30 Cheng Lei (USC): We might not be able to make major adjustment to the current Rag & Flag due to time constraints. But there are some little changes we can think about and still do that PBs can still take back and improve the situation and also how we can better communicate to the freshmen what is Rag & Flag. I think we have given a good summary of what is happening on the ground. So maybe you can bring it back to the PD and get the PD to look at this issue and present the measures to the concerns raised.
- 4.31 Khai Shing (Arts): There is still time to do something for this year's Rag & Flag meaning we could still give proper objective for the team to work towards. But even if we set a purpose and direction now, will that be sufficient to answer to all your faculty offices that this is the reason to do Rag because we are aware that many people have their own reason to participate. Or, is it sufficient if we properly communicate to the PBs, what Rag is about? Because last year, Rag & Flag was part of the freshmen program and it was not properly explain the purpose of the event. If we educate people on why they are doing it for a reason, it is also a step towards refocusing on our objective.
- 4.32 Zi Kai (Comp): I understand what the problem is about and as the VP in charge of the Rag Committee, I have gone through the similar thought process. I just want you to know that even if we have an objective on what Rag is it boils down to whether you believe in it or not. Whichever the objective, do we truly believe in it and are we going to convey back to the Committee and is that going to reflect in their actions? That is the problem. We could say Rag & Flag is about the spirit of giving back to the community but how many people truly believe in this concept? For example, in community engagement which is inline with the spirit of Rag, so how many faculties do more than one engagement because there requirement is only one. Regarding the competiton aspect, the point we do float was to use recycled materials to create a performance but over the years, we have seen people who are spending money which is why you all are saying that it is a waste of money. But why are leaders spending this money on float when it was supposed to be recycled materials. The question is are the leaders interpreting the objective for Rag properly? I think that is the main problem and if they don't understand this concept, it will then reflect in their actions and that is what we have today. Maybe the main point is for us to really see whether what we are doing are in line. The other question, is whether

do we still want to do Rag, given a choice. For me, personally, yes, this is something I want to do though it is tough for the freshmen but how else am I going to get 3 months worth of engagement for them. To spend time and bring them to my faculty. I think, Rag is a very good platform for that I would want to continue with it. Though there can still be adjustment in term of execution, ultimately, it is still depend on us, as leaders, how we want to lead and deliver this experience for our freshmen.

- 4.33 Alvin (Med): I think, the discussion has gone pretty well. We have heard view points from both sides so I shall let the discussion go on for another 5 minutes and if anyone wish to raise up anything, please feel free to do so.
- 4.34 Li Ting (Sci): Just to share about how Science Club does it, for us, the Flag Committee don't just do Flag community engagement through beneficiaries visit and only contribute to Flag day. Across the year, the Flag Committee will plan events such as old items collection and charity run and all this money goes back to the community to understand the true meaning of Flag. It doesn't have come in a form of tin cans but other means to give back to the community. With that, there are many activities that students can participate in giving back to the community. So I think, when we revamp the system, we shouldn't add a connotation that if you do more beneficiaries visit or if you get your beneficiaries down for Rag day, we give you more points because if I remove the competitive element, and you lose the motivation to contribute back to the community, it shows that you are doing it for the wrong reason. So this is something we need to reevaluate about because we don't ask to count points for every old item collection because if that is the case, we don't truly want to do old item collection but we are just doing it for the points.
- 4.35 Jun Jie (Biz): I would bring up an example regarding the tin flagging last year, the Committee has added 10% weightage and this is very relatable to what was just mentioned. The 10% component in Rag is unjustifiable if we use the historical trend of how much the faculty or hall has flagged in the past years. For example, Bizad collected \$84,000 last year but we did not score the full 10% because our trends were higher, so what we are trying to tell Business Faculty is that we are putting a competitive element into Flag because we have flagged a considerably high amount but yet, we don't score the full 10%. So the thing about adding a Flag component in Rag is to increase the relevance of having Rag & Flag together, however, we have now created a competitive element for Flag as well. So instead of trying to look into competitiveness and volunteerism, we should not use competition to reinforce volunteerism. At least for one of the suggestion is would it be possible to have Rag & Flag separated than being together? It could still be executing as it is but we do not put them together. Honestly, a Rag performance does not attract the public. No matter how much we want to emphasize on attracting and marketing it to the public and how to bring the public to watch the performance, at the end of the day, it is still a school competition. Another example for this, I think every faculty will face this problem. No matter how much emphasis we want to put into our events,

how much we change our events to attract seniors, at the end of the day, seniors don't want to come. There is just very little connection we can do to reach out to seniors so now I bring it to Rag, no matter what we do or change to attract the public, the public doesn't want to come because it is a school event. At the end of the day, it is still our own supporters. Our crowd in floating platform is not going to be sustainable even if we want to look into that.

- 4.36 Zi Kai (Comp): Do you think without the competition element, your members of the Business Faculty will flag as hard?
- 4.37 Jun Jie (Biz): Yes, because we function the same way as Science. We have annual engagement with our beneficiaries.
- 4.38 Zi Kai (Comp): But I think it is not true for all faculties because some people needs to be incentivised to work harder.
- 4.39 Weng Heng (Engin): I was the one who put in place the Flag scoring system into Rag. I recognised it was an experiment to see how different clubs who didn't put in effort to flag previously would improve. Based on the outcome, it had turned out well. Of course, the biggest losers were Biz and KR and I sincerely apologise for that and we are looking into recalibration. The point is I don't like the idea of giving incentive but how do you want me to encourage all the clubs to flag more when they are capable but they just don't want to.
- 4.40 Xiao Wee (Arts): I understand that some people need the incentive of awards, similar to why we talk during tutorials. To me, all these things can be resolved when we have a very clear objective and our rules and regulations. Ultimately, the rules and regulations guide our actions and the fact is that NUSSU is the one who coordinates these things so I feel that whatever the rules and regulations are, it must be guided with very clear objective of what we want to achieve for Rag & Flag. However, we want to interpret in our faculty or how we wish to carry out is our choice.
- 4.41 Cheng Lei (USC): I wouldn't agree with Weng Heng by saying that we need a competition to drive changes in terms of flagging. Flagging is not about monetary, giving back to society is not about money. It is about the kind of engagement and impact you make. If you ask any organisations out there, they might tell you that raise money might not be the best impact for the beneficiaries who are receiving. Sometimes, emotional connection are much more valuable as compared to monetary scheme. So, we shouldn't be saying that we need the competition to drive monetary and we need to increase the monetary year on year. I don't think that is a concern we should look at. Moreover, I think, I agree that NUSSU has to come out with proper guidelines and objectives and it should not be a top down approach. It has to be agreed and consolidated with all the faculty clubs. If I put it bluntly, if all faculty clubs were to pull out from Rag, there will be no Rag. NUSSU cannot

run the Rag without faculty. NUSSU only exist because faculty exist and faculty clubs exist because students exist. That is the same thing I tell to my faculty office. Your position as the Director of the Faculty because I am enrolling to the school. If I don't enrol, you don't exist. Same thing apply for NUSSU. If I don't enrol to NUS, NUSSU don't exist. I think we need to think from the ground and what exactly we want the students to take away from this and how are feeling from the regulations and changes we are putting in place. We should not be just thinking about increasing the amount of money raised and scaling Rag up. These might be concerns of NUS management, however, for the student body, our perspective we need to reflect what the students are thinking.

- 4.42 Weng Heng (Engin): To clarify, when I commented about the Flag scoring, I was only referring to tin can flagging. Instead, I believe, for last year, in the scoring system, it has been refined such that it has more values on beneficiary engagement. But of course, we don't want to quantify our engagement creating what you call competition. So it is still a work in progress on how to judge and meeting the objective. I do agree we need a definite objective for Rag & Flag and this should be communicated to the students and the officers and the rules and regulations should reflect these objectives. This what I can ensure we will work towards it. But at the end of the day, we need your buy-in to the objectives and rules and regulations such that you will communicate this to your people. For example, my Flag PD was a very passionate flagger and she received a message during Flag day such that a Flag Head from a particular faculty told the flaggers to just go out and just fill your cans with a few coins and come back. Is this the purpose that we wish to inculcate in our students? This is a definite no. But the problem is that we need the help of the PBs not only the Presidents but the Flag Head, OG Heads and participants such that they believe in the objective of Rag & Flag if not, this discussion is not productive.
- 4.43 Zheng Jie (USC): I think, personally, I think the problem with Flag is that the current criteria for measuring community engagement is too narrow such that we shouldn't measure each faculty according to the amount of money raised because we can still achieve the objective even if the act is different.
- 4.44 Alex (Engin): Students join Rag because it is fun. These people were able to spend three months with friends and our Rag PD has a way to convince people to join Rag by encouraging people to do something new such as learning to dance. Besides, participation is also voluntary and nobody was forced to do it. Therefore, some students join not because of pride or to flag but it is because Rag & Flag is a fun activity.
- 4.45 Cedric (Sports): Since everyone is talking about the competitive element in Rag, so I understand that award is a form of privilege we give to all the PBs for their hardwork. But personally, I feel that if a performing arts group puts a concert, are looking to win prizes out from it? That is not the case. They are putting up a performance to gain satisfaction and pride and that should

be the case for people who participate in Rag. The student focus shouldn't be the award but to enjoy their Rag experience. The same thing goes to Flag. Doing community service should not be because we could raise the most money to earn points instead we need to believe in the spirit of giving. If you don't believe in this spirit and if you are being forced to go for it, then what is the purpose of the program.

- 4.46 Yong Ming (Comp): So the problem is now, the whole Committee has the objective to promote community service and volunteerism but the hands and legs are not moving as such. There is no one to blame but we are trying to fix this. So when we say we want to gather as much money as possible, our KPI is money. But the KPI for Rag & Flag shouldn't be money because we cannot measure its success based on figures. The focus should be making the participants feeling proud and happy because they have helped the beneficiaries and not because they have won the competition. Though the objectives have not been as such, the rules and regulations have been promoting such a scenario. So we need to fix this together.
- 4.47 Jun Jie (Biz): Basically, I can share with you why am I here today. It is because there is a fundamental flaw with Rag & Flag. There is a problem with the objective. As what Yong Ming said, we need to find a solution to this particular flaw in its objective and values and for us to do so, we need to rethink about why do we really do Rag & Flag and the possibilities of changing it radically. I wouldn't be proposing any solution because I think that is what the Committee needs to look into.
- 4.48 Alvin (CSC): All that have been mentioned in this discussion will serve as an input for us to improve. However, when speaking of solutions, I have to stress on this and remind everyone who are part of the PBs for Rag & Flag that the problem goes in two levels; we as the event organisers, we execute, create the platform, set the rules and regulations for the PBs to participate in this event. However, the clubs are the PBs. The clubs are the one who control the PBs and their students. My Committee will always tell your team how we will conduct and how it will be like. We put in place certain measures to make sure everyone is more involved in the event. This are the things we can do and of course, objective setting is part of what we do. But do we control each faculties' freshmen. I doubt so. We publicise the right way. We can do everything right. But at the end of day, the participation is from the PBs. And that goes back to Weng Heng's point that we need your help. Your help to reach out to our people. Your help to make them believe the objectives set for this event. Because that is what we are incapable of. Having said that, definitely for rules and regulations, we could do and we could work with you to do it but other than that, there is a boundary that me and my team can go and you have to understand that it has a limit.
- 4.49 Alvin (Med): With that, we will close the discussion. Thank you very much, Xiao Wee and Jun Jie. So there are a lot of valid points that have been raised and I'm sure Alvin and his team will take these points into consideration and

	<p>work on it as well. Though there are only about 40 of us, there are already so many differing views but at the end of the day, communication is still the key. Some of the issues that you all brought up has been brought up many times over the years and solutions may have been found and implemented but they are just not communicated properly. I hope I will see something from the Rag & Flag Committee in the next Council meeting in terms of the recommendation that the team will move forward to.</p>	
5	AOBs	Information No Action Required
5.1	Alvin (Med) has proposed to have the next Council meeting on the Saturday, 18th June 2016. Alvin has reminded all Council members of their responsibility to attend all Council meetings. There will be agenda to be voted upon in the next meeting.	
5.2	<p>Aik Loong (CSC): What will the Constitution Review Committee (CRC) be doing during this period?</p> <p>Alvin (Med): The CRC will be working on the other Regulations to close the loop and the change will be on the NUS PA membership. These are the matters that we will be voting on.</p>	

With no other outstanding matters to discuss, Mr Tan Kian Wei Alvin (Med) proposed to close the meeting at 1237HRS.

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