

Minutes for 7th 37th NUSSU Council Meeting

Date: Saturday, 18th June 2016

Time: 1000 HRS

Venue: LT33, Faculty of Science

Attendance:

Present:

Council Representatives (25):

Toh Xiao Wee	Arts & Social Sciences Club, President
Wong Jun Jie	Business Club, President
Tan Yong Ming	Computing Club, President
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
Alexandra Noronha	Engineering Club, Secretary of Student Affairs
Liu Guiliang	Law Club, President
Teo Siu Ming	Law Club, Vice President
Wong Wen Kai	Medical Club, President
Tan Kian Wei Alvin	Medical Club, Honorary General Secretary
Tan Li Ting	Science Club, President
Chua Zhe Xuan Royston	University Scholars Club, Vice President
Ng Aik Loong	Community Service Club, President
Chia Ren Bin	Community Service Club, Vice President
Lim Shiao Wei	Community Service Club, Vice President
Camille Zhao Yi	Cultural Activities Club, Vice President
Ong Shi Jie Jocelyn	Cultural Activities Club, Vice President
Shen Jiayi	Political Association, President
Jia Haolin	Political Association, Vice President
Loh Yi Chin	Political Association, Vice President

EXCO Representatives (12):

Megha Verma	Science Club
Lai Wen Shen	Medical Club
Loo Weng Heng	Engineering Club

Tan Wee Bian	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
Ong Zi Hao	Political Association

Observers (6):

Ang Li Qing	Engineering, Year 2
Jeffrey Lee	Science, Year 2
Diane Loh	FASS, Year 2
Try Sutrisno Foo	FASS, Year 1
Khwang Jia Ying	Business, Year 1
Ong Zhang Yao	Business, Year 3

Absents with Apologies (17):

Marissa Chang	Arts & Social Sciences Club, Honorary General Secretary
Sarah Chew	Arts & Social Sciences Club, Marketing Director
Thenaesh s/o N Elango	Computing Club, Vice President (HR and Development)
Sandra Chen Ming Shu	Dental Club, President
Hamza Naqvi	Engineering Club, President
Chua Sin Hui Melissa	Medical Club, Vice President
Lim Cheng Lei	University Scholars Club, President
Cindy Handjaja	Cultural Activities Club, President
Glen Anthony Ooi	Cultural Activities Club, Assistant Financial Secretary
Cedric Lim	Sports Club, President
Yeo Eng Way	Political Association
Chia Sheng Hui	Arts and Social Sciences Club, EXCO representative
Gordon Wong Wei Jie	Medical Club, EXCO representative
Kenji Ong Shao Qiang	Law Club, EXCO representative
Lim Sin Yang Edmond	Business Club, EXCO representative
Toh Wen Jun	Business Club, EXCO representative
Goh Suen Rong	Cultural Activities Club, EXCO representative

Absents without Apologies (5):

Wei Yi Chen	Bizad Club, Vice President (External)
Richmond Lee	Bizad Club, Vice President (Student Life)
Chua Khai Shing	Arts & Social Sciences Club, EXCO representative
Hazel Tan Xin Wei	Design and Environment Club, EXCO representative
Tan Zheng Jie	University Scholars Club, EXCO representative

Meeting Agenda

1. **Presidential Update**
2. **Election of the Union Election Committee (UEC)**
3. **NUSSU Regulations' Amendment**
4. **Discussion on Special Voting Rights**
5. **AOBs**

The 7th Council Meeting was called to order at 1015 HRS by Mr Tan Kian Wei, Alvin, the Chairperson of the 37th NUSSU Council.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
1	Presidential Update	Information No Action Required
1.1	Refer to slides.	
1.2	Orientation Camps Update	
1.3	Orientation meeting with OSA Javier (Computing): Who will be involved in the meeting? Weng Heng (Engin): We want all the clubs to be represented. Preferably presidents, if not they can send their VPs or FOP Directors.	
1.4	Membership status of non-faculty clubs.	
1.5	5 pillars of GE modules and the extension of grade-free scheme	
1.6	Jiayi (PA): Would you be giving Council an update of the status of NUSPA membership? Weng Heng (Engin): 2 weeks ago, we met up with OSA and some of the directors and we discussed about NUSPA's status. We are going to work up some clauses in NUSPA's Constitution	

<p>1.7</p> <p>1.8</p> <p>1.9</p> <p>1.10</p>	<p>to write out what are the procedures to make political pronouncements and what are the mechanisms.</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): I hope that this update would address the concern over the ambiguity of what political pronouncements entail.</p> <p>Cedric (Sports): Should the quorum be met, will it be representative of all members?</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): This has not been concretely resolved with OSA yet.</p> <p>Zi Kai (Computing): Under what circumstances would you make a political pronouncement?</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): Dean from OSA was not able to furnish us the details that we wanted.</p> <p>OSA are actively de-registering NUSPA from ROS.</p>	
<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>2.9</p>	<p>Elections of the Union Election Committee (UEC)</p> <p>Alvin Tan (Med) went through the roles and responsibilities of the Union Election Committee (UEC).</p> <p>Alvin Tan (Med) proposed no presentation but a 5 minutes Q&A for each nominee for this election.</p> <p>Opening of nominations proposed by Alvin (Med).</p> <p>Nominee: Manali (CSC) Proposer: Yi Yun (PA)</p> <p>Nominee: Loo Weng Heng (Engin) Proposer: Jiayi Shen(PA)</p> <p>Nominee: Him Ling (Sports) Proposer: Clement (Sports)</p> <p>Closing of nominations proposed by Yi Yun (PA).</p> <p>Manali (CSC) is called for the Q&A session.</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): Why do you think you are a suitable candidate to be accepted by the Council?</p> <p>Manali (CSC): I ran through last year so I kind of experience how</p>	<p>Elections procedures</p>

	<p>the UEC function. Together with my team, I want to contribute and make any changes so that it can be better than last year's UEC.</p>
2.10	<p>Alex (Engin): What would you do differently? Manali (CSC): Communication is what we need to work on this year, from the beginning of the election. I will work with my team to ensure that the information is reaching out to more students. So that the students know what is happening and who are they voting for.</p>
2.11	<p>Closing of Q&A session proposed by Zi Kai (Computing).</p>
2.12	<p>Weng Heng (Engin) is called for the Q&A session.</p>
2.13	<p>Jiayi (PA): What was a major problem you encountered last year and how can you prevent that from happening? Weng Heng (Engin): I think that last year's process was quite awful because we have candidates pulling votes right outside the polling station. We would look into expanding the boundaries. As UEC officers, we have to look into what is happening on the ground instead of keeping ourselves in the polling station. A lot of voters did not know who they are voting for. I would propose to have information of these candidates right outside the boundaries that we set. This is to allow voters to have a clear idea the candidates' visions. These are the two things that I would like to implement during this upcoming election.</p>
2.14	<p>Alex (Engin): Why are you running to be in the UEC this time round and not during the first round? Weng Heng (Engin): I was not prepared to run for UEC back then as I was concern about my other plans. I have ever since sorted out my plans and will be able to commit in the UEC.</p>
2.15	<p>Jun Jie (Bizad): Who will be the returning officer of the UEC? Weng Heng (Engin): It will be decided by the 5 of us internally.</p>
2.16	<p>Alvin Tan (Med): There are pros and cons to online and physical voting. Which do you think is the more ideal way to go forward? Weng Heng (Engin): In the current juncture, physical voting is the one I prefer. I am concern about the technology capability behind online voting. We are hesitant at this point to carry online voting to the whole school. It is vulnerable to hacking and people will pass</p>

	<p>their account to other people to vote. During physical voting we will know who the actual person is voting.</p>
2.17	Closing of Q&A session proposed by Jiayi (PA)
2.18	Him Ling (Sports) is called for the Q&A session.
2.19	<p>Jiayi (PA): Why are you running when you have already graduated?</p> <p>Him Ling (Sports): It is the last thing I can contribute to the Union.</p>
2.20	<p>Megha (Science): How can you get students to be interested in the voting process?</p> <p>Him Ling (Sports): We can focus on publicity since most of the students are not aware of the election. Posters may be placed around the campus to get students interested.</p>
2.21	<p>Li Ting (Science): How do you foresee yourself in the UEC?</p> <p>Him Ling (Sports): I see myself as an ordinary member. I admit that I am unfamiliar with the regulation but I will try my best to contribute to the UEC.</p>
2.22	<p>Alex (Engin): Wouldn't you be starting work in August and thus affect your ability to commit during the election process?</p> <p>Him Ling (Sports): My workplace is at Science Park II, so it is relatively near to our campus.</p>
2.23	Closing of Q&A session proposed by Jiayi (PA).
2.24	<p>Vote Results: Total Strength: 33</p> <p>Manali (CSC) For: 28 Against: 4</p> <p>Weng Heng (Engin) For: 29 Against: 3</p> <p>Him Ling (Sports) For: 28 Against: 4</p>

2.25	<p>Invalid: 1</p> <p>Manali (CSC), Weng Heng (Engin) and Him Ling (Sports) are elected as members of the Union Election Committee (UEC).</p>	
3.1	<p>NUSSU Regulations' Amendment (Part I)</p> <p>3.1.1 Alvin Poh (CSC) presented the regulations' amendment (Part 1) to the Council. Please refer to slides.</p> <p>3.1.2 Yong Ming (Computing): On top of the three types of election system, I think there will be a hybrid category. Would there be one? Alvin Poh (CSC): Currently in the Constitution there isn't a hybrid category. The Regulation being laid out is very general. You are not supposed to have a hybrid option. You will have to choose from the three options.</p> <p>3.1.3 Alvin Tan (Med): Thenaesh has actually tabled a question for this slide. He wanted to clarify what is the definition of each type of these election system and which clubs are practicing which system. Alvin Poh (CSC): CSC would be using a direct internal system, PA has been using direct external system, and Engineering is practicing external-internal electoral system.</p> <p>3.1.4 Yong Ming (Computing): The duration for the nomination period, does it include by-election? Alvin Poh (CSC): This regulation does not cover by-election. The day you open nomination until the students are elected; it should end in day 21.</p> <p>3.1.5 Vote Results: Total Strength: 36 For: 36 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>3.1.6 The Council has passed the proposed amendments for the NUSSU Regulations' Amendment (Part I).</p> <p>3.1.7 Yi Yun (PA) proposed for a 5 minutes break.</p>	<p>Elections procedures No Action Required</p>

3.2	NUSSU Regulations' Amendment (Part II)
3.2.1	Alvin Poh (CSC) presented the regulations' amendment (Part II) to the Council. Please refer to slides.
3.2.2	<p>Jiayi (PA): Are you giving the next batch an option for the online Council poll?</p> <p>Alvin Tan (Med): It is stated as <i>if necessary</i> because I feel that the online Council poll will be more convenient for the rest of the Council members in terms of passing certain motion. It is entirely up to the next batch whether they want to adopt the online Council poll.</p>
3.2.3	<p>Jiayi (PA): Personally I find that the online Council poll was very convenient and I was wondering if you might want to remove the <i>if necessary</i> part under part (h) since it will be convenient for Council members to use it?</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC): I don't think it is right to tell the next batch to make it mandatory to do the online Council poll. I think that is not the right way to go to write the regulation. Perhaps the future batches might feel that the cons outweigh the pros of online Council poll, they have the option of not having it.</p>
3.2.4	<p>Yong Ming (Computing): According to part (f), the Council Chair shall not take part in debates, what constitute to debates?</p> <p>Alvin Tan (Med): I may have a stand on the issues that is being raised during the Council meeting, but as the role of the Council Chair, it should be neutral and not contribute to the discussion. Otherwise, a few Council members may be swayed towards the Council Chair's opinion. I usually take it offline if further discussion is needed. But the Council Chair has the right to raise any point of information.</p>
3.2.5	<p>Zi Kai (Computing): Does the Council Chair have the right to change the standing orders?</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC): The standing orders are listed in the regulation.</p>
3.2.6	<p>Vote Results: Total Strength: 35 For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>

<p>3.2.7</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.3.1</p> <p>3.3.2</p> <p>3.3.3</p> <p>3.3.4</p> <p>3.3.5</p>	<p>The Council has passed the proposed amendments for the NUSSU Regulations' Amendment (Part II).</p> <p>NUSSU Regulations' Amendment (Part III)</p> <p>Alvin Poh (CSC) presented the regulations' amendment (Part III) to the Council. Please refer to slides.</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): May I know what does it refer to by <i>maintaining a register of the Union</i> under part (k)? Alvin Poh (CSC): The register that I am referring to is our volunteer register, it does not imply to all students of NUS; since all students are automatically part of the Union. I would change the wording to avoid misleading information.</p> <p>Zi Kai (Computing): Will it take effect in the upcoming election? Alvin Poh (CSC): Yes it will be.</p> <p>Vote Results: Total Strength: 35 For: 32 Against: 2 Abstain: 1</p> <p>The Council has passed the proposed amendments for the NUSSU Regulations' Amendment (Part III).</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p>Discussion on Special Voting Rights (SVR)</p> <p>Opening this discussion to the Council members to understand their opinion on SVR. Subsequent discussion may change on allowing special voting rights.</p> <p>Jiayi (PA): Would there be any impact on the protocol of our club's election process based on the outcome of this discussion of SVR? Weng Heng (Engin): It will not affect the protocol in the upcoming election. We will take this discussion with the upcoming meeting with the lawyers. It may or may not impact the subsequent elections.</p>	

4.3	<p>Jiayi (PA): NUSPA has been practicing it for quite a while. We are still supportive of this scheme unlike other clubs that have phased it out. It allows us to maintain the quality of the candidates for the election.</p>
4.4	<p>Alvin Tan (Med): What is the weightage your SVR towards the election? Jiayi (PA): It is changing periodically; starting from 0% to 50% with 50% being the maximum.</p>
4.5	<p>Weng Heng (Engin): Are there any clubs that are against SVR?</p>
4.6	<p>Wen Kai (Med): I personally feel that SVR are not in accordance with what we want to achieve as a student organization. If we are trying to emulate what our nation does, our Prime Minister does not receive any SVR, so why should we have it then.</p>
4.7	<p>Jiayi (PA): Being transparent, NUSPA make it a point of raising SVR during AGM and address any questions that the audience may have.</p>
4.8	<p>Alvin Tan (Med): 2 years ago, the 35th NUSSU Council amended the wording of the SVR regulation such that it holds 0 % to the total vote count. CRC is currently looking at the issue and do not wish to remove the SVR regulation. We will talk to the lawyers in re-wording the portion of SVR such that it doesn't conflict with other clubs' Constitution.</p>
4.9	<p>Alvin Poh (CSC) showed the Council the current SVR regulation in the Constitution.</p>
4.10	<p>Alvin Poh (CSC): Instead of removing it completely, the wording sends a message that SVR should not be practiced. Weng Heng (Engin): A point of clarification, SVR can be exercise in other meetings and not be confined to elections.</p>
4.11	<p>Royston (USC): SVR may also be used to invalidate the candidate votes which also fall under this regulation.</p>
4.12	<p>Jiayi (PA): As it stands now, SVR has no effect with this Constitution. Although the members were ambivalent about removing it entirely, SVR from what I understand is invalidated. It will amount to no consequence. So for the upcoming election,</p>

<p>4.13</p> <p>4.14</p> <p>4.15</p> <p>4.16</p> <p>4.17</p> <p>4.18</p> <p>4.19</p>	<p>NUSPA will be using SVR in this upcoming election.</p> <p>Zi Kai (Computing): Why do you strongly support SVR? What are the consequences you will face if there is no SVR? Jiayi (PA): Logically, the implication would be that even if say I vote, based on this Constitution, my vote will be given less influence than that of a normal undergraduate.</p> <p>Alvin Tan (Med): CRC will approach and engage the clubs that are exercising SVR. We will find a way forward in terms on how things will change.</p> <p>Weng Heng would like to raise the motion to remove Clause 48 in the Management Committee Elections Regulations.</p> <p>Xiaowee (Arts): What happen if it remains? Alvin Poh (CSC): If this clause remains, everyone who is having special voting rights will be affected as listed in the Constitution. Once it is removed, then the clubs can stay as it is, to conduct their own elections.</p> <p>Vote Results: Total Strength: 33 For: 20 Against: 7 Abstain: 6</p> <p>The Council has passed the motion to remove Clause 48 from the Management Committee Elections Regulations.</p> <p>Weng Heng (Engin) added to have those clubs who practice SVR to have it written black and white in their respective Constitution.</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Weng Heng (Engin): Do you feel the need to change the duration or period of budgeting from 1 October to 30 September? OSA would like to find out from the Council. Jia Min (SDE): From SDE, we can only do receipt claiming method.</p>	

5.2	Weng Heng (Engin): From the general consensus, the current arrangement is fine if there is no further discussion.	
5.3	Yong Ming (Computing): I think there should be exception when there is a by-election for finance secretary, it won't be in time to submit the budget. But I think that communication between OFS and the clubs is what is important.	

With no other outstanding matters to discuss, Mr Tan Kian Wei Alvin (Med) proposed to close the meeting at 1325HRS.

Prepared by,

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37th NUSSU Council

Vetted by,

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