



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE STUDENTS' UNION

NUSSU Secretariat, Yusof Ishak House, 31 Lower Kent Ridge Road, #05-01, Singapore 119078

Telephone: 6601 1345 | Website: www.nussu.org.sg

Minutes for 3rd 38th NUSSU Council Meeting

Date: 21st December 2016

Time: 1820 - 2140

Venue: LT27, Faculty of Science

Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Election of Welfare Standing Committee*
- 2) Presidential Updates
 - Orientation Review Committee
 - Medical Club
 - Review of NUSSU
- 3) Welfare Cell Updates
- 4) NUSSU Exco External Elections AAR
- 5) Constitution Review*
 - NUSSU Constitution
 - Law Club Constitution
- 6) Rag and Flag Discussion
- 7) AOB

* Requires voting

Attendance:

Present:

Council Representatives (35):

Wong Xue Wen Laura	Arts Club, President
Soh Wei Ren Alson	Arts Club, Honorary General Secretary
Tan Jun Wei	Bizad Club, Vice President (Internal)
See Xin Yu	Bizad Club, Vice President (Student Life)
Tee Yan Yie	CAC, President
Tan Jie Yin	CAC, Vice President (Internal)
Glen Anthony Ooi	CAC, Vice President (Special Projects)
Chong Wei Ling	CAC, Honorary General Secretary
Loo Qi En, Benjamin	Computing Club, President



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Low Yong Cheng	Computing Club, Vice President (Human Resource and Development)
Soh Wei Hao	Computing Club, Vice President (Operations and Projects)
Tan Li Kiat, Rebecca	Computing Club, Director of Publicity
Stanly Moo Jia Lir	CSC, President
Ang Shi Min Charmaine	CSC, Vice-President (Regular Programmes)
Joscelin Ong Jia Xin	CSC, Vice-President (Special Projects)
Tan Yu Kiat	DE Club, President
Sun Zi Cheng	DE Club, Vice President (External)
Quek Jia Xin, Bevin	DE Club, Vice President (Internal)
Tan Shao Tao	DE Club, Honorary Finance Secretary
Woon Yongsheng Jedd	Engin Club, President
Loi Wen Tian Jodie	Engin Club, Vice President (External)
Teo Yong Shun	Engin Club, Honorary General Secretary
Lim Yu Han	Engin Club, Secretary of Student Affairs
Ryo Yap Zhe You	Law Club, President
Lee Yew Boon	Law Club, Vice President
Ivan Low	Medical Club, President
Loh Yi Chin	PA, President
Shen Yunni	PA, Vice-President (Engagement)
Elston Foo Sheng Kai	PA, Vice-President (Projects)
Benjamin Lem Han Wei	PA, Honorary Financial Secretary
Ng Shi Yuan Brandon	Science Club, President
Matthew Tan	Sports Club, President
Yvette Choo	Sports Club, Vice President (Internal)
Hong Li Wee	Sports Club, Vice President (External)
Cheah Wenjie	USC, President

EXCO Representatives (14):

Siong Li Qing Jeannie	Arts Club, EXCO Representative
Toh Wen Hui	Bizad Club, EXCO Representative
Ong Zhang Yao	CSC, EXCO Representative
Tai Ben Wey	Engin Club, EXCO Representative
Tan Wee Bian	Engin Club, EXCO Representative
Soong Tse Kiat	Medical Club, EXCO Representative



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Tseng Fan Shuen	Medical Club, EXCO Representative
Lim Jia Wei Elvin	PA, EXCO Representative
Nicole Jean Lau Yi Xuan	PA, EXCO Representative
Lee Zi Quan Jeffrey	Science Club, EXCO Representative
Nguyen Dang Hoang Yen	Science Club, EXCO Representative
Kong Xiao Wei	Sports Club, EXCO Representative
Yue Yao Chong	Sports Club, EXCO Representative
Soon Hao Jing	USC, EXCO Representative

Observers (14):

Eu Xuan Lin	Engineering
Hew Yee Ling	Science
Ng Zi Kai	Computing
Yeo Kian Wee	Computing
Wong Zhi Wei	Arts
Lee Boon Hui Desmond	Business
Jacob Li Peng Cheng	Computing
Ivan Fenzely Yang Shao Yi	Engineering
Hor Zhan Rong	Business
Martin Wei En Indrawata	Arts
Chium Feng Yong	Science
Seah Yang Xiang	Engineering
Tan Wei Shao Thaddeus	Arts
Shermon Ong	Alumni

Absence with Apologies (9):

Sangeetha Krishnan	Arts Club, Communications Secretary
Wei Yi Chen	Bizad Club, President
Cheryl Low	Bizad Club, Vice President (External)
Vivian Leow Hui Ying	CSC, EXCO Representative
Lee Chin Shian	CAC, EXCO Representative
Quek Yan Tong	CAC, EXCO Representative
Tan Zhi Hao Ian	DE Club, EXCO Representative
Loh Jin Wei	Dental Club, President
Kenji Ong Shao Qiang	Law Club, EXCO Representative

Absence without Apologies (2):



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Hargaven Singh
Thaddaeus Tan

Medical Club, Vice President
Medical Club, Honorary General Secretary

The 3rd Council Meeting was called to order at 1820hr by Mr Glen Anthony Ooi, Council Chairperson of the 38th NUSSU Council.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
1.	Election of Welfare Standing Committee.	Information No Action Required
1.1	Council Chairperson went through the Roles and Responsibilities of the Welfare Standing Committee.	
1.2	Opening of nominations for Welfare Standing Committee proposed by Wee Bian (Engin).	
1.3	Nominee: Benjamin (Computing) Proposer: Jeannie (Arts) Secunder: Rebecca (Computing)	
1.4	Benjamin (Computing) accepted the nomination.	
1.5	Closing of nominations proposed by Brandon (Science).	
1.6	Benjamin (Computing) made his elections speech to the 38th NUSSU Council.	
1.7	Opening of Q&A session proposed by Brandon (Science)	
1.7.1	Jeannie (Arts) Q: Considering your position as president in Computing Club, how do you think you can value add to this standing committee?	
1.7.2	A: A lot of things are very relatable. Like academics, these few years, Computing has some changes in the academics structure as well because of the emphasize on business analytics and stuff. So, that itself will have an impact. And also Board of Undergraduate BUS, I think that everyone that went for the ISB Dialogue will know. For food, I think Bizad and Computing are trying to look at the	



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1.8	<p>Business canteen's environment and stuff. So I think this is very relatable as students on the ground will know what is happening. Especially as a president, I will need to know more about my own faculty areas. So I guess that itself can help me in the job to better spot problems that we can try to solve for the council.</p> <p>Closing of Q&A session proposed by Jodie (Engin).</p>	
1.9	<p>Glen (CAC) reminded the Council that it will be an open voting for standing committees unless someone from the council objects.</p>	
1.10	<p>Voting Results for Benjamin (Computing): Total Strength: 45 For: 45 Against: 0 Invalid: 0</p>	
1.11	<p>Benjamin (Computing) has been elected as a member of the Welfare Standing Committee of the 38th NUSSU Council.</p>	
2.	<p>Presidential Updates</p>	
2.1	<p>Wee Bian (Engin) presented to the council on the Orientation Review Committee, Medical Club election and Review of NUSSU EXCO. Please refer to the attached slides for further information.</p>	
2.2	<p>Orientation Review Committee</p>	
2.2.1	<p>Benjamin (Computing): With regards to the feedbacks that we have discussed during C-Cube meeting, when will we get the updates?</p>	
2.2.2	<p>A: From NUSSU EXCO's side, we will consolidate the feedback and send to the C-Cube for you to look through before we send to the Senior Management. From there, I do not know when they are going to update us but I will press them to update us on that. We will take note of that. Thank you. The report is actually very long so this is more of a summary of the important things to take note.</p>	



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2.3	Li Wee (Sports) joined the meeting at 1831.	
3.	Welfare Cell Updates	
3.1	Jeannie (Arts) presented to the council on the BUS Meeting Outcome, ISB new bus routes and Provost Dialogue. Please refer to the attached slides for further information.	
4.	NUSSU EXCO External Elections After Action Review (AAR)	
4.1	Hao Jing (USC) presented to the council on the 38th NUSSU EXCO Elections AAR. Please refer to the attached slides for further information.	
4.2	Jeffrey (Science) proposed a 5 minutes toilet break. Jeannie (Arts) seconds.	
4.3	Zi Cheng (DE) joined the meeting at 1848. Fan Shuen (Med) temporarily left the meeting at 1850 for a meeting.	
4.4	The meeting resumed at 1851.	
5.	Constitutional Review	
5.1	The Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) consisting of Wee Bian (Engin), Matthew (Sports), Jedd (Engin), Yi Chin (NUSPA) and Jeffrey (Science) presented to the council on the Constitutional Review. Please refer to the attached slides for further information on proposed amendments.	
5.1.1	Wenjie (USC): May I know why you want to put this (to increase campus vibrancy in the constitution as part of the Union's fourth objective) down in writing?	
5.1.2	Wee Bian (Engin): So actually I realized that a lot of things that we are doing is actually to improve the campus vibrancy, for example	



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	<p>FOP project, Rag and Flag and things like that. And another reason why I want to include this article inside is because now the EXCO has a new cell which is the Student Life Cell. With this article, it will be more in line with us. Because everything that the Student Life Cell does is to promote campus vibrancy. For example, Union camp, Rag and Flag and Open Day. All of these contributes to extra campus vibrancy. And I think it doesn't restrict us from doing anything. In fact, it is just stating on what we are doing. That's why I would like to include this article in the constitution.</p>	
5.1.3	<p>Shermon Ong (Observer): I would like to exercise my rights under First Schedule of your Meeting Regulations Clause 12 just so that anyone can speak, has speaking rights.</p>	
5.1.4	<p>I would like to call to 3 points of order for NUSSU constitution. First I would like to ask the CRC. Have you read the entire NUSSU Constitutions? I am Shermon, an Alumni. I was a drafter of the current state of Constitution and I was the one who did most of the research until the 35th EXCO. I was in EXCO from the 33rd to the 35th. I am trying to share what my experience was in the context so that the council can refer.</p>	
5.1.5	<p>First, I would like to point out a few errors which are pretty small but quite critical. Number 1, NUS was not formed until 1980. So to say that the legal constitution was approved by the NUS Board of Trustees in 1976 would be a critical error and I hope that you can amend that. Secondly, If you look at the old legal constitution, it says NUS National University of Singapore, but actually during that time it was University of Singapore so there was no way that it could be the National University of Singapore as it was only formed in 1980, a merger between University of Singapore and Nanyang University. I believe this is something of history that everyone can check up.</p>	
5.1.6	<p>Third I would like to say a few things, if you look at the 37th Council, when they amended this during the 6th Council Meeting, under Point 1.4 of Meeting, which you can check it out now, there was only a two-third (2/3) majority passed. But they did not seem to</p>	



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have any evidence on following amendments procedures under Article 2.22 and 2.24, you can check it out now, which states every constituent body must have at least one vote voting for the amendments, and given that during the meeting, there were constituent bodies that have only 2, and there are 3 abstain votes, there is reasonable doubt that 2.22 has not been followed. So in a sense, did the 37th amend correctly? I think this is something that you have to consider. The amendments must be null and void because they did not follow the amendments procedures.

5.1.7

Next, the old legal constitution which you refer to in 1976. I have someone from the Council forwarded me, he or she was a very nice person which forwarded to me. What I see is that there was no signature or anyway to verify that that was the thing passed by the Board of Trustees. It's just a PDF document and it has got errors like NUS in 1976. There is nothing to say that this is the old legal constitution passed by the Board of Trustees, be it University of Singapore or National University of Singapore. And I have with me a book here containing all the University's Statutes and Regulations circum 1999 to 2000, which was given to me by one of the NUSSU alumni. There was no mention of the NUSSU constitution inside. This was before the corporatization of NUS. So if there was no such statutes inside, there is much doubt about the validity of that legal constitution which you are referring to.

5.1.8

Next, if you are saying that the old constitutions is illegitimate, I would go one step to say that I would caution every member here, especially the EXCO members, to not use the word illegitimate. Why? It's a circular reasoning. If the current constitution is illegitimate, all of you who are elected here, pursuant to the EXCO Elections Regulations and the MC Election Regulations, which were promulgated under the constitution, your position here is illegitimate and any power you exercise here is illegitimate and any illegitimate power cannot be exercised to amend the constitution. So you can see this is a circular reasoning. It is quite worrying and you cannot do anything at all. This council does not exist because it is illegitimate if you were to call the illegitimacy of the old constitution.



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5.1.9

Next, I would like to say that just now I really like what Wee Bian said about the Council and EXCO working together. I think that's a very good vision, but I think that's quite a selective representation of the necessary slides of the different probation. If you scroll up to 3.14 part 2, it says very specifically that the Council shall exercise control over the EXCO, other Standing Committees and any other committees of the Union, somewhere along those lines. But basically, if you search the old legal constitution upon point 1, it says the same thing because I was the one that put it inside. It says the exact same thing because the structure of the Council is meant to check against EXCO against its excesses. If you think that this is something that some students, some Council Representative dream up of their own fantastical power struggle, I would like to refer you to the University of Singapore Amendment Bill 1975. The then Minister of Home Affairs said specifically, they modify the original USSU, which was the predecessor of NUSSU, they put into the Council, put in every single representative to sit on the Council so as to check against the EXCO assessors. You can read the Parliamentary Debates. It is all online. So perhaps to that, I would like to caution against going so far to say there is no check and balance. Because, if the EXCO was to say I want to spend money on something, the Council has to step in, cause financial disbursement of the Union is a primary responsibility of the Council. And if you look at Part 3.1 and 3.2, the legislative function of the Union lies with the Council, executive function of the Union is exercised by the Council and the EXCO, which means that the Council has some executive powers.

5.1.10

Another thing which I would like to point out is Wee Bian just now suggested campus vibrancy to add to the objects of the Union. I think that this is a political decision to be taken by the Council. But do bear in mind that campus vibrancy can in some situations be inconsistent with the rest of the objects. If you look at the Object 2.1, which states the interest of students. For example, if I were to spend half a million dollar on extravagant Rag and Flag in school, it promotes campus vibrancy but is it in the interest of the members of the Union? And if there is a conflict, why do you want to put



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5.1.11

something in that can make it very conflicted. Why not just subsume campus vibrancy under interest of the members of the Union? I think that is something for you guys to think about.

And also just now I think Jedd you mentioned one point about anything that is inconsistent with NUS Statutes and Regulations has to be amended. There is no express requirement that it has to be amended. In fact I did put in at that point in time, the regulation Clause 2.18 which states that anything that is inconsistent with the NUS Statutes and Regulations is null and void to the extent of the inconsistency, which means that anything that is inconsistent will automatically not be in operation because it is just null and void. Also, some Council members have feedbacked to me, those who have asked me here, felt that this whole CRC, this whole process is a bit rushed. Because, if you look at the 37th, it took a series of Council Meetings and internal meetings to hash out what should be amended in the constitution etc. And the constitution is something like a fire extinguisher. No one cares about it's state in normal times but when things goes wrong, people do actually refer to the constitution to protect their own club's interest and their own members' interest. Therefore, I hope that the Council Members have a greater appreciation of the context and the importance surrounding the constitution and let them have more time and space to think about the implications of the proposed amendments. In fact, on 3rd November, I did send an email to the EXCO, for an unrelated stuff, but I did enclose a link to a copy of the CRC's report back in 2012. For some reason, when I sent that link on 3rd November, the link was still on the NUSSU website. On 7th November when I went to check again, that link was removed. I do not know why no one told anything whatsoever. I think that is something for the EXCO to exercise their prerogative, but I think it deprives Council Members as well as your Union members a very valuable source of insights of the people who were on that committee on why they put in certain clauses, the context, the functions and to remove it without telling other Council Members. When I asked them do they know that it was removed, they are unaware. I think that's something that it gets from good faith and I hope that Council Members here can take a look into it.



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| 5.1.12 | <p>And a very last point, NUSPA's constitution says National University of Singapore Students' Political Association correct? I went to check up today the Registries of Singapore's Societies and the copy of NUSPA's constitution is a 1976 version and it says National University of Singapore Students' Political Association. If you look at the Societies Act, it is an offense to amend your own society's constitution without informing the Registrar of Societies. So if NUSPA have elected its members under the amended constitution after 1976, technically speaking, the legitimacy of all your MC members will be in doubt. How is this relevant to NUSSU? Because during the first Council Meeting, the NUSPA MC Representatives and EXCO Representatives sit on the Council. I think the EXCO representatives are kind of safe as they are elected under the EXCO Elections Regulations but the MC representatives will be slightly in danger. They who have their legitimacy taken then elect the EXCO's Constitutional Positions. Which means that potentially, someone may say the elections of your EXCO's Constitutional Positions are illegitimate. It is a very dangerous thing. And I always believe that NUSSU is as strong as its weakest link. If there is this such danger facing NUSSU, you don't know when the whole NUSSU will be dragged down by this and I hope that the Council can do something about it as soon as possible. Thank you.</p> |
| 5.1.13 | <p>Yi Chin (NUSPA): Thank you Shermon. I understand your concern but that is actually an issue that we are currently discussing with OSA. But it is only after we have amended the NUSSU's Constitution that we can amend the NUSPA's Constitution itself and address any loopholes which you might have seen.</p> |
| 5.1.14 | <p>Shermon Ong (Observer): Thank you Mr Loh. I would just like to point out that it does not matter what the NUSSU Constitution says. Because the National Law says that it is an offence if you amend without telling the Registrar of Societies. This is not something that NUSSU can say for because we are not the Government.</p> |



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5.1.15	Yi Chin (NUSPA): I understand but there are somethings which we are currently in discussing with OSA. It is not something I can clarify at the moment because even Sean and Lyana (OSA staff) are not clear on this. We are in the process of sorting it out and we can't confirm anything at the moment.	
5.1.16	Shermon Ong (Observer): I do not want to take up any more of your time but in the meantime, please consider that there is this potential threat hanging over every Constitutional Positions' head and every NUSPA MC members' head and please resolve it as soon as possible.	
5.1.17	Glen (CAC) called for a 10 minutes recess for the CRC to discuss on how to proceed. To reconvene meeting at 1928.	
5.1.18	The meeting reconvened at 1930.	
5.1.19	Wee Bian (Engin): Firstly, I would like to thank Shermon Ong for your insightful comments. Because for us, we have been operating on this with OSA, so certain thing that they tell us, certain things that we have gathered from 37th, this is how we gather this CRC to work together for the past month. I admit that some of the things mentioned, we are not very clear, that's why we will consider your feedback. Thanks a lot for your feedback and from here, we are just going to finish up telling you what are the amendments we plan to do today. After we finish up, we will open up for Q&A. After our Q&A, we will do a simple vote to see if you guys are keen on carrying on with the voting. If majority are not keen on carrying on this voting, we will postpone it and we will bring it back to the lawyers before we carry on with the next council meeting.	
5.1.20	Matthew (Sports): Just to add one more point. The whole purpose of going through CRC, going through the constitution is exactly because of what Shermon raised up. The constitution has exactly been what you said, illegitimate. If anyone were to raise up this point, all of us, our leadership roles would be just nullified. This council isn't supposed to exist in the first place. So the purpose of	



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	<p>pushing this through, going to the lawyers as soon as possible, is so that we can have at least a legitimate NUSSU.</p>	
5.1.21	<p>Jedd (Engin): Right now, we will just finish up the report. So there rest are just basic, small, formatting amendments.</p>	
5.1.22	<p>The CRC continued their presentation on the proposed amendments for the NUSSU constitution.</p>	
5.1.23	<p>Jedd (Engin): That's it for proposed amendments from CRC. Right now, we will just take any questions. Are there any questions?</p>	
5.1.24	<p>Wenjie (USC): Can you clarify the status of NUSSU and while we are at it, NUSPA as well. Like are you all a society apart from NUS? Because I understand that NUS is an incorporated company and so unless the things that NUSSU is embodied within this company, so this will help clarify the legal factors of the constitution</p>	
5.1.25	<p>Yi Chin (NUSPA): With reference to NUSPA and NUSSU?</p>	
5.1.26	<p>Wenjie (USC): Both. For example, what Shermon mentioned was that NUSPA is a society of its own which I am not sure is correct or incorrect.</p>	
5.1.27	<p>Yi Chin (NUSPA): At the moment, we are in transition.</p>	
5.1.28	<p>Wenjie (USC) : So you are in transition from a registered society to a new state? As for NUSSU, can we confirm that you are a body under NUS?</p>	
5.1.29	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Basically NUSSU is a student association of NUS. That is the correct definition if you want. It is still under 1976 constitution and as what Shermon point out back then it was not known as NUSSU yet. It was USSU. Corporatization is enacted in 2005 as everyone knows and it constituted NUSSU under section 19 where students association is known as NUS student unions and its constituent bodies.</p>	



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5.1.30	Hao Jing (USC): So Yi Chin, you were saying that NUSPA is transitioning from a registered society to some in between states. I don't think in between states is legal.
5.1.31	Yi Chin: Currently discussing about transition.
5.1.32	Hao Jing (USC): So until transition happens you are still a registered society?
5.1.33	Glen (CAC): Please refrain from asking any further questions about NUSPA as the focus of the discussion is on the NUSSU constitution.
5.1.34	Ivan (Med): I just want to clarify, as in you mentioned that associate bodies are going to be removed because they don't meet NUS statute and regulations. Can you clarify which part of regulations and the rationale of the regulations?
5.1.35	Wee Bian (Engin): So under this Regulation 9, we talk about management committees which are the con-clubs as well as exco reps, in this regulations, there's no any mention of the associate body reps. Although it's possible that we bring it up to the BOT to include associate reps, but we felt that there is no need to, that's why we are removing Associate Bodies part from our constitution.
5.1.36	Ivan (Med): Just a follow up, how is NUSSU going to engage these Associate Bodies although we are removing them?
5.1.37	Wee Bian (Engin): Associate Bodies are not in the Council. But on regular basis, actually NUSSU EXCO and JCRC are meeting up very often in meetings. Last time we meet up is for introductions and discussion sessions. Moving on, besides regular meetings, some of our project director will meet up with them for FOP, Rag and Flag interact on very regular basis. Removing them from council won't distance us from associate bodies because we are just removing them from council but not stopping all interactions with them.



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5.1.38	Benjamin (Computing): Just to clarify what Ivan is saying, Associate Bodies only refers to JCRC?
5.1.39	Wee Bian (Engin): Associate Bodies include CSC as well.
5.1.40	Benjamin (Computing): Can you all help me understand why are we removing them? In a sense the JCRC are under who? For constituent club, we are still part of NUSSU. In a sense, JCRC do not fall directly under NUSSU umbrella. So these changes were amended by the previous council? Is the reason to remove them solely because Regulation 9?
5.1.41	Wee Bian (Engin): The most critical reason of why we remove them is because Regulation 9. They are not being provided for in this Regulation 9. When they talk about council they only talk about con-clubs and EXCO. They never talk about associate representatives. Technically, con-clubs are not under Union, Con-Clubs are under Council. Associate Bodies technically have advisors from OSA. JCRC report to hall master and hall masters reports to registrar. I wouldn't say JCRC falls directly under NUSSU umbrella, but there's still a linkage to NUSSU. The other reason is that previous 37th does not want the JCRC to be double represented.
5.1.42	Benjamin (Computing): Can I understand why the change is not to change this to include them, rather than to exclude them?
5.1.43	Wee Bian (Engin): If we change this we have to bring this up to BOT too. But we felt that there isn't a need to. Because one reason why is because Union members pay membership fees to the con-clubs and the EXCO, so we are included in Union Council to discuss issues related to them. When we pay Union fees, they are not paid to Associate Bodies.
5.1.44	Jeffrey (Science): Actually the main idea of Regulation 9 is that it states that 14 constituent clubs to be part of NUSSU. So technically it's not correct to drag the Associate Bodies which are the halls and residential college into Council and put it under the Union. It is not



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	<p>actually stated in NUS regulations and NUSSU structure is actually determined by NUS regulations.</p>	
5.1.45	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): Removal of Associate Bodies is actually done by 37th, we are here to clean up the portions left by them, some wordings here and there.</p>	
5.1.46	<p>Benjamin (Computing): From what I understand, the 37th changes are not legitimate right? So the change is actually not a change yet until you passed through the BOT. So any changes by the 37th council is not brought to BOT right. If the BOT has not clear the changes, technically the changes is not official. We need to follow the version 1.</p>	
5.1.47	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): It was agreed upon by the 37th Council. So once the 38th Council agrees with the changes we will pass it to the BOT. So removal of associate bodies was started by 37th Council.</p>	
5.1.48	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Basically it's possible to still change the regulations. Then we will submit to BOT to amend it, once they amend it then it's the legally binding document.</p>	
5.1.49	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Can I say in terms of easy understanding, so in the past the NUSSU Constitution is called version 1. After last year, it's consider 1.5 and it hasn't hit 2. In the sense before all this happen we will need to follow 1, not 1 point something.</p>	
5.1.50	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Correct, which is the 1976 version of NUSSU Constitution.</p>	
5.1.51	<p>Hao Jing (USC): Just now you wanted to introduce new objectives to Union Objective. I understand why you want to do that. But now I see you trying to delete the Halls and associate bodies and all that, I understand why you want to do that, but I think this action is moving associate bodies away from NUSSU. Now we are adding this new objectives, it seems very contradictory. As a person who lives on UTown, I can say that Halls and RCs contributes a lot to campus vibrancy. I think that if you want to have improving campus</p>	



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	<p>vibrancy as one of the objectives of NUSSU. Then you will need to include the Halls and RCs. Also, you have raised up points of double representations. I think to some extent it is like for example you have members of the Council from non-faculty clubs. But in the end they may still be Engin students or Arts Students. So you can say that Arts and Engin are double represented. So what I am saying is that we should think twice about removing the Associate Bodies. So why not we explain to BOT about why we should include Halls and RCs to improve campus vibrancy. Otherwise if you want to include the changes and remove associate bodies, then I think it is inconsistent with adding new objectives of NUSSU.</p>
5.1.52	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): Just now as I was saying, the most critical reason why we are removing associate bodies is because they are not included in NUS regulations. Second reason is double representations. Double representation is not really a deciding factor, that's why I have only briefly mention it. Removing associate bodies from the council does not mean that they never provide campus vibrancy. It does not mean that way. It doesn't mean that in council meeting you guys are going out to provide campus vibrancy. Because like what I mention, we are going to engage them in so many different projects. We are not meeting them in council but we are meeting associate bodies in regular meetings. That's how we see them providing vibrancy through all the FOP project. Removing them from council does not mean that I feel that they are not providing campus vibrancy. It's not a direct relation.</p>
5.1.53	<p>Hao Jing (USC): Ok. But still it seems a bit not right. And I think that people living on campus will have their own unique set of concerns, even though they are from Engin or Arts but staying on campus will have a very specific set of issues as well. For example, they will rely more on shuttle bus.</p>
5.1.54	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): Yes, that's why I said we are not engaging them on a Council level. But we are still meeting them on regular meetings and that's how we are engaging them. That time we have meeting with JCRC presidents, all of them came down and we are asking them for concern of anything. That's how we engage them.</p>



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	<p>Union Tea we also invited them down, council is not the only platform that we can engage them.</p>	
5.1.55	<p>Xiao Wei (Sports): Actually, NUS also has many societies. JCRC is like one group of students and con-clubs are like another group of students. We are not removing any one of them. We are just clarifying the relationship amongst this different group of students. This amendments is to clarify that they are not related to council directly but we are still engaging them, just on a different platform other than the council.</p>	
5.1.56	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): If we are going to follow what you said, then whole LT will be filled by societies' presidents because they are all providing campus vibrancy. That doesn't make sense. If they are not here it does not mean that they are not promoting campus vibrancy.</p>	
5.1.57	<p>Glen (CAC): Any more questions from the Council?</p>	
5.1.58	<p>Jedd (Engin) asked the council for a show of hands to see if they want to continue to have the votings for the passing of the proposed amendments. Glen (CAC) checks for council members who came in late during the council meeting to see who are eligible to vote.</p>	
5.1.59	<p>Hao Jing (USC): So if we agree to carry on, no further changes will be made to the amendments?</p>	
5.1.60	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): We will pass it through the BOT.</p>	
5.1.61	<p>Wenjie (USC): If there are any amendments being made by CRC, will we know about it? Because hypothetically, if the lawyers think that a certain amendments cannot be made, how will the Council know it?</p>	
5.1.62	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): if any amendments are changed after we meet the lawyers, then we will pass it through the Council again.</p>	



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5.1.63	Rebecca (Computing): I would like to check, if we choose to not continue to vote, what will be the next course of actions. If we continue to vote, will consolidate amendment and send to BOT?
5.1.64	Matthew (Sports): We will still continue to consult the lawyers. So basically whatever that we have proposed here we will consult with the lawyers to see whatever legal grounds we have of changing. Because right now a lot of points that Shermon pointed out just now are new knowledge to us. Like What Wee Bian mention, we are operating based on whatever Dean and OSA has shared. So from here onwards, whether we approved the proposed amendments tonight, we will still continue to consult the lawyers. Then we will come back to the council for further approval, so by next time the council sees the amended constitution, it will be the one that is properly phrased.
5.1.65	Rebecca (Computing): So my question is like, if we continue to vote, we will consolidate all the amendments and bring to BOT. That's the outcome right, if we don't continue to vote, we will also consolidate the amendments and go to BOT.
5.1.66	Matthew (Sports): BOT will be the last step of this entire review needed, so regardless of this amended constitution tonight is approved or not, we will still go to the lawyers, the lawyers from office of legal affairs, they will advise on the phrasing, the proper way to go about this whole thing, then we will come back to you guys with anything that have been amended based on what the lawyers said. So after that, only then we will go to the BOT. Once everything has been done.
5.1.67	Laura (Arts): Then what is the point of voting? If you are just going to continue on with whatever you are going to do? I am very confused, maybe I am getting this all wrong.
5.1.68	Wee Bian (Engin): If we are not approving the amended constitutions, then we will postpone it to the next council meeting. The period between the next council meeting and this council meeting, we will take into the feedback you have because I believe



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	<p>if you are not going to approve the amended constitutions, there must be a reason why. So after taking your feedback into consideration, we will consolidate it before passing it in the next council meeting.</p>	
5.1.69	<p>Jedd (Engin): Just to clarify, the reason why we are rushing with the passing of amended constitution is so that we can work with timeline by OSA and Dean. So what they said is that for them to look through everything takes time, and that has been the case for the many years that went before us, that's the reason why no legal constitution has been rectified by the BOT because actions were always taken too late. That's the reason why we were given a deadline by January to meet with the lawyers. If today, we did not pass the amendments, the next council meeting will take place in February. Passing of amendments of constitution will take place in next council meeting which will most probably be February. That might bear a risk of delaying the approval by Board of Trustees.</p>	
5.1.70	<p>Laura (Arts): I actually brought this up because I feel that it is a bit rushed. I understand that you have a lot of constraints. But we have only just read through all the amendments along with the comments made during this meeting and we do not have the time to read and process everything. That's my concern.</p>	
5.1.71	<p>Matthew (Sports): And that's exactly the point why we are having a voting on voting now.</p>	
5.1.72	<p>Stanrly (CSC): From my understanding, if the vote does not go through and at some points you go to the lawyer to address uncertainty. In both case, you are still going to the lawyer, regardless of whether we pass it, so why not go to the lawyer to get something final, and we work as a council on that final copy, rather than now we vote yes, then you all go to the lawyer, then we come back to vote again if there's another thing that need to be changed. Then there's no point in discussing again here since it will go on and on for every council meeting. Because you all mention that you all are going to the lawyer irregardless, in that case, there's no need to vote now.</p>	



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5.1.73	Glen (CAC): Besides questions for votings, is there any other questions? We have been going on around this topic for quite a while.	
5.1.74	Xiao Wei (Sports): To clarify, our voting is to vote whether you agree with the amendments. If you agree, or say no then we can receive feedback and say why not so CRC can vet the changes. If you say no, then what do you expect them to change? They need some feedback. If you say no, either we need more time to read the constitution then we can give you all more time to read the constitution. If you all have other comments with the amendments that come out, then we they will consider. If you all have no comments, then CRC will send the proposed amendments to lawyers to vet it through. If you all think that you have read through the constitutions and you are okay with the amendments then you can vote yes. If you all say no, then maybe you all need more time to read or you guys can feedback the changes that you want them to include. This is a feedback channel for CRC. Does it sound clearer?	
5.1.75	Stanrly (CSC): just to clarify, on my own ideas, I don't need more time to read because I read through already but rather I am more interested in what the lawyers think about this constitutions. So in this case if you all are going to the lawyers already, Why not approach them first and come back to the next council meeting? I am not sure whether anything in the timeline will be affected by it, because Shermon has brought up some point and everyone has been talking about it. So couldn't you all just go to the lawyer first? If everything is okay then next council meeting I will vote.	
5.1.76	Wee Bian (Engin): I think what you said make sense because you want us to do things faster, to put everything together and go through. One thing to take note when we take it to the lawyer, we ask the lawyer on how to remove certain things, but we don't ask the lawyer on how they want to change the constitution. So lawyers will mainly advise us on wording wise, So I am not sure which would	



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	you guys prefer? Go to lawyer first or rush through then go to lawyer?	
5.77	Glen (CAC): Put this to a single vote whether the council want to continue on voting first.	
5.2	Vote Results to continue with the agenda at hand: Total Strength: 44 For: 8 Against: 32 Abstain: 4	
5.3	CRC review will be adjourned until the next council meeting.	
5.4	Ryo (Law) joined the meeting at 1916. Thad (Observer) left the meeting at 1927 for training. Ruoyi (Observer) joined the meeting at 1930. Adrian (observer) joined the meeting at 1942.	
5.5	Glen (CAC) wants to get a sense on why the Council had voted no.	
5.5.1	Wenjje (USC): We are not very sure of legal standards of the Constitution now. It will be good to have some inputs from lawyers that you are going to consult before you pass it back to us.	
5.5.2	Hao Jing (USC): I think other than the small technical edits, which I think everyone is fine with, there are some points need more discussion, like what sheron mention just now, there is the new addition of the new purpose and objective, I think that kind of decision is a political decision and basically will need to have more discussion.	
5.5.3	Xiao Wei (Sports): To clarify for those that vote no, are you guys okay with the amendments and do you guys want them to send to lawyer first and come back again? Or is it like what Hao Jing mention? Any comment to the amendments?	



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5.5.4	Rebecca (Computing): My concern is that I want to know this constitution is even actually legitimate and formal before I can approve any other amendments that is proposed. We are basing this amendments on something that is not legitimate in the first place and that's the problem. We need to confirm the accuracy of what we are basing on. We are basing on constitution that is devised last year, but is that even legitimate? That's where I think the lawyers come in.	
5.5.5	Benjamin (Computing): Another thing that will help Council members to better understand is the steps on how we are suppose to change the constitution? It seems that it is very confusing on whether we go to lawyer or council first. Now it seems like no matter what we do we will go to lawyers first, then we go to council. Or we can just go to council then go to lawyer. I don't think this is the correct way. By right this kind of things there should be a structure way of doing.	
5.5.6	Glen (CAC): The Council will approve proposed amendments by the CRC and then approach the lawyer to help remove or rephrase (the proposed amendments) in the constitution.	
5.5.7	Benjamin (Computing): Now it confuses me that we go to lawyer and come back again. Is there a way that is written that states we need to follow this way? How to amend the constitution? How can you change something that is legal binding without understanding what you need to do to change it. For national constitution, when we change the law, the parliament will debate and go to change. So now it is a bit confusing as in we are changing something with no stated procedure.	
5.5.8	Wee Bian (Engin): For me I am not a lawyer but maybe Ryo or Wenjie can help us? Are these steps written in the constitution on how to amend it?	



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5.5.9	Wenjie (USC): Any constitution should have provision on how to amend the constitution itself. I have not read the NUSSU constitution very in depth but it should be inside.
5.5.10	Ryo (Law): That's actually correct, most of the time the things we read in constitution is just about the vote shares required to change the constitution. Whether the lawyer advised is needed is just something extra and it should never be added into the constitution. It is something extra to do to make sure and get some input that you want to know on the implications. So it's just asking him for his opinion, there's no legitimacy that comes from asking a lawyer.
5.5.11	Benjamin (Computing): I am more curious about steps that we are supposed to take to pass these amendments. Because if the council decides by majority to pass this amendments, whatever the lawyers changes, it is actually not right to short change, because it is not passed by the council. So it is actually an error?
5.5.12	Ryo (Law): The lawyer is not changing anything for the constitution. What CRC is consulting you all on is to decide how should we make amendments, so the lawyers comes up with the proposed amendments, which will then be voted on. Technically, no matter what the lawyer does, if there is no 2/3 majority voting yes, nothing the lawyer does stand. So at the present state, what we have in the constitution is a legitimate amendment cause and there need not be any mention of lawyer advice in the constitution.
5.5.13	Wenjie (USC): If they want they can go to the lawyer, but after they do that if there are any changes different from what they have written here, they will have to come back to us, CRC is like a representative body.
5.5.14	Benjamin (Computing): If they meet the lawyers, the lawyers will do their job and CRC will bring it back to us. Then the council will decide again. I believe that there is a need for 2/3 of any changes, so I would see that itself as a problem.
5.5.15	



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	<p>Ryo (Law): In short, nothing in constitution changes if no majority 2/3 pass. What they are going to the lawyer for is to come up with proposed changes, to bring to the next council meeting to get a 2/3 majority. No matter what lawyer does, if subsequently we don't have a 2/3 majority, nothing will change.</p>	
5.5.16	<p>Benjamin (Computing). So am I right to say that the first voting right does not mean anything? In this case we will vote twice in between the lawyers.</p>	
5.5.17	<p>Jeffrey (Science): So basically, just now the voting was to get you guys to vote if you are ok with changing.</p>	
5.5.18	<p>Benjamin (Computing): That's not my concern here. The concern I have is it's stated that as long as council vote 2/3 majority change, it is change with respect to what we have voted on. It should be make clear to the council that we are not changing the constitution.</p>	
5.5.19	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Once the Council approved, the amended constitution will be brought up to BOT. The lawyer only work on the phrasing of constitution part.</p>	
5.5.20	<p>Benjamin (Computing): I seriously think that there is a logic error. If you think about it, we will vote in between the lawyers, given current situation, we will vote twice in this scenario. It should be made clear that the vote earlier is not to change the constitution, it's to propose these changes to the lawyers for them to review.</p>	
5.5.21	<p>Jeannie (Arts): I think what Ben is trying to say is if the lawyer change something, even one wording, means that the constitution have to be passed again by council.</p>	
5.5.22	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Yes so in a sense this vote does not change the Constitution.</p>	
5.5.23	<p>Laura (Arts): But grammatical changes does not change the meaning of the amendments so why are we debating?</p>	



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5.5.24	Benjamin (Computing): Grammatical error is just an example.
5.5.25	Shermon (Observer): I just want to say this because this is going in circles. I go through normal parliamentary national level, perhaps the CRC has phrased it wrongly. They should have phrased it as a motion to propose amendments to the constitutions. And if you read the constitution in stricter sense, either the legal or current constitution, the proposed amendments does not need 2/3 to pass, because you are not changing and you are just agreeing to propose to the amendments. After you pass this propose amendments, you bring it to the lawyer, the lawyers will give comment etc and it will bounce back to the council. For the final proposed amendments, do you want to effect a change? If yes, 2/3 plus other requirements, then the council will decide. So actually now I don't think that there should be a 2/3, since it is just proposing amendments to bring to further consideration. In parliamentary terms, for those who are familiar, it's like parliament deciding to send constitution to a selected committee to do the recommendations, select committee will give their recommendation and parliament during their third reading will then consider and vote on it. I hope that makes the thing clearer.
5.5.26	Benjamin (Computing): That's exactly my point. From what I understand, the vote is just now is whether that we want the amendments.
5.5.27	Glen (CAC): To clarify, just now the vote is to see whether we should continue on voting.
5.5.28	Benjamin (Computing): But if we voted yes, then we will vote again to change the constitution, that itself is wrong. What I understand just now is that the vote will change the amendment. So actually if we are voting to pass the proposed amendments, in that case it's okay.
5.5.29	Jeffrey (Science): I think what we wanted is to at least have an idea on how to approach the lawyer on what to change. Because the lawyer will not tell us what to change. Basically, if there is no



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	<p>feedback and you all don't email Wee Bian your feedback, we have no feedback to tell the lawyer. With this we will have a clearer direction. The lawyer doesn't do much, they are assisting us with the change. We are the one with the power when we go to the lawyer.</p>
5.5.30	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Am I right to say that what Shermon said is the current procedure we are following? If it's right then it's okay.</p>
5.5.31	<p>Ryo (Law): Sorry. The answer should be no because we failed the first voting. We did not get 50% of the votes. We are not following the procedure anymore because we have failed the motion. So basically we are just clarifying and in the next Council meeting, we will be voting to decide whether we are following the procedure not. It does not really matter. Technicalities.</p>
5.5.32	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Just now for the vote, we only need 50%. For the subsequent vote, we will need 2/3 majority. But we did not even hit the second part because we fail the first part. Further propose amendments will still be required to go through the Council again.</p>
5.5	<p>Tse Kiat (Med) proposed to close the discussion. Ivan (Med) seconds.</p>
5.7	<p>Shao Tao (DE) proposed a 10 minute toilet break. Yu Kiat (DE) seconds.</p>
5.8	<p>Fan Shuen (Med) return to meeting at 20:28</p>
5.9	<p>Law Club Constitution</p>
5.9.1	<p>Glen (CAC) reminded the council to state their name and representing club before speaking and also to speak up loudly and clearly.</p>
5.9.2	<p>Ryo (Law) presented to the council on Law Club's Constitution. Please refer to the attached word document for further information.</p>



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5.9.3	<p>Ryo (Law): Law Club's Constitution was last edited in the 1970s. There are many errors but Article XI Point 2 required the NUSSU Council's agreement to make any amendments to their constitution. Part of the amendments that Law Club is proposing is for the Council to amend the amendment clause so that Law Club can regulate their constitution internally. At this point, the first question I think the Council will bring up is that whether our previous discussions will affect this. The answer is no. If NUSSU's Constitution is binding and legitimate, then this constitution will be recognized as well as a subsidiary constitution. It is like a by-law. But if NUSSU's Constitution is not legitimate, then this would be an internal agreement within Law students. So either way, there is no harm in the council assenting to this agreement. Unless you all think that it is important for other faculties to have a say in whatever changes we make. Which I would strongly discourage because you will be flooded with a lot of proposals in the next council meeting. I will keep it short and let's move to Q&A. Are there any questions?</p>	
5.9.4	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): Just to check. After two-third (2/3) of the Council approves, does it mean that the constitution is changed or does it have to pass through the BOT as well?</p>	
5.9.5	<p>Ryo (Law): It doesn't have to be passed through the BOT because this is not the overarching constitution. So if our NUSSU Constitution is binding, all these have to be in compliance to is the NUSSU's Constitution.</p>	
5.9.6	<p>Yew Boon (Law): So you only have to pass the main source, get the main source legitimized because all these are by-laws of the main law itself.</p>	
5.9.7	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): So technically when we pass this, when we change the constitution, are there any steps that future Law Club members would have to take for them to change this constitution or are they allowed to change it and pass it through their own management committee?</p>	



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5.9.8	Ryo (Law): So what we are proposing to change is Instead of two-third (2/3) of NUSSU Council, two-third (2/3) of Law Club's management committee will suffice. So if the Council agree to this, all subsequent generation of Law Club members will be able affect their amendments internally within their own meetings, with their own requirements. The NUSSU Constitution will still apply. We will still be governed by that. There is no independence of sort. It is just a delegation of power.	
5.10	Vote Results: Total Strength: 49 For: 48 Against: 1 Abstain: 0	
5.11	Law Club's proposed amendment have been passed by the 38th NUSSU Council.	
6	Rag and Flag Discussion	
6.1	Glen (CAC) presented on Rag and Flag discussions in the 37th Council. Please refer to the attached slides for further information.	
6.2	Glen (CAC) invited Jeffrey (Science) to present on what was done for the previous Rag and Flag to give the Council some brief background on how issues were intended to be tackled by last year's committee.	
6.3	Jeffrey (Science): Just to pre-empt everyone, because this issue was discussed to late last year, we couldn't make any changes. So, this year we decided to start early. I think the main thing pointed out last year was "is Rag really about giving back and thanking the public?" There are sayings that most of the time, for Rag, only Rag seniors will be back but not so much of the public. I think this actually started even before the 37th. I was actually the Flag PD last year and worked closely with the Rag PD Liqing as well. What happened was, we agreed on the points raised and decided to take some measures to really make it all about thanking the public. For	



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	<p>instance, one of the things that we did was to put Rag Day on a Saturday. If you all know, previously, Rag Day was usually held on Fridays which doesn't make sense. How many people do you expect to take leave just to come down to watch Rag? To be honest, if you really want them to come, really want to thank them, it should be on a day when it is convenient for them to come down. So we put Rag Day on a Saturday despite facing several difficulties.</p>	
6.4	<p>Second point raised was that not a lot of people know about Rag, other than perhaps NUS Alumni and NUS students. Not a lot of people know about Rag, at least from the public. Something that we did last year was also to basically make it sort of compulsory to indicate Rag Day on all the stickers given out by the Flaggers. As you may recall, the stickers given out during the recent Flag day actually has this clause that says 'See you on Rag Day' with the time and date. We also made it a point to include both Rag and Flag in all publicity efforts.</p>	
6.5	<p>Glen (CAC): I initially planned for the discussion to really try to see how we can move forward as a Council, to agree on the consensus on what we are going to do for Rag and Flag, the objectives and from there see how we can come up with some concrete suggestions on how we are going to improve on Rag and Flag. Does anyone have any objections to this flow? Or would anyone like to say anything on this issue first? I think we will just put it to a half-hour discussion on what the objectives of Rag and Flag should be for this year and beyond. Anyone has any inputs to this? I am aware that these are some of these are specifically for Rag and some of the objectives are present varying in level in each faculty so I would like to get a sense on this. Or what should be the priority for Rag and Flag? Or rather, for Rag?</p>	
6.6	<p>Zi Kai (Observer): I am actually quite confused. What do you actually want the Council to discuss on? Is it the validity of Rag, like is Rag valid or something like that. Should the discussion flow goes otherwise, are we going to cancel Rag? I mean, what is going to be the outcome of this discussion?</p>	



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6.7	Glen (CAC): Firstly, is anyone here of the opinion that Rag should be cancelled and would like to share on that. Secondly, if no, how are we going to move forward to improve it?
6.8	Zi Kai (Observer): I think the reason why the Council is not responding is because they do not know the outcome of this discussion.
6.9	Glen (CAC): The outcome of this discussion is really for everyone to be on same page, moving forward to plan for Rag and Flag. There are a lot of feedbacks or opinions that Rag has deviated from its purpose. Is Rag and Flag something that should be done? Differing opinions can stem from what I have just mentioned. So, the objective here is really just to try and get a consensus or at least air the views of the Council on this issue
6.10	Benjamin (Computing): So any points raised in this Council, voted and passed must be carried out by the Rag Committee?
6.11	Glen (CAC): I would say it is not binding but the committee would be strongly encouraged to follow said consensus.
6.12	Yu Kiat (DE): Just to clarify, will there be a vote or is it just a discussion so that all the other clubs and whoever is involved will be informed of issues raised?
6.13	Glen (CAC): I would say we go with a discussion first. To vote or not depends on the discussion. If there is a discussion, I would say it is strongly encourage for Rag and Flag committee to carry out.
6.14	Benjamin (Computing): Can we list down what we want to discuss, after objectives what is next, so that we know what is going to happen next?
6.15	Glen (CAC): To discuss on objectives so that we can agree on what is the focus that Rag and Flag should have and from there, how are we going to move on with Rag and Flag. What are the concrete



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	<p>suggestions that will come out of this? Or would anyone want to propose other forms of discussion on this? Otherwise, I would consider that Rag and Flag is something that the 38th Council does not want to discuss.</p>	
6.16	<p>Shao Tao (DE): Just to clarify, so our discussion is based on the assumption that Rag and Flag will continue?</p>	
6.17	<p>Glen (CAC): That is why I had asked, based on Zi Kai's question that if anyone is of the opinion that Rag and Flag should not be carried out.</p>	
6.18	<p>Shao Tao (DE): Then should we do a vote on that first?</p>	
6.19	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Why not let me kick start the discussion. I think back then in the 37th, during the second last Council Meeting, somehow the Council started this discussion on Rag and Flag and there were a lot of discussion and different opinion on Rag and Flag. But the discussion started too late and some of the points made were too late for the committee to do anything. So this is why, this time in the 38th Council, we are starting this discussion early to see if the Council has any comments. If the Council really does not have anything to discuss then we will just skip this topic and move on. But if you guys have anything that you feel strongly about, you can raise it up and we will talk about it. It is a discussion but not voting required.</p>	
6.20	<p>Ivan (Med): Can we just go through the suggestions/propositions by the 37th?</p>	
6.21	<p>Glen (CAC): The 37th had no concrete suggestions whatsoever. It was first tabled as trying to find the objectives and meaning for Rag and Flag. From that, the discussion went into the topic of the competition of Rag. Is the competition necessary etc. From that 2 hours discussions, there is no concrete suggestions tabled, other than considering the points raised.</p>	



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6.22 Zi Kai (Observer): I think we should invite Jeffrey up to answer any questions. So I was in the 37th Council I can say a few things. One of the main reason why this topic even existed in the first place is as what the Council Chairperson said. Some of us saw the lack of relevance of Rag. What I hear from freshies is that Rag is supposed to engage the community and give back but at the end of the day, every faculty cares about the faculty pride. They are aiming for the gold, for the awards. So the basic question we are trying to ask is, is something that is supposed to be in the spirit of community, be incentivised in such a way that if you raised certain amount you will get certain points? Or if the float is done extremely well and you get a gold? Should the spirit of Rag be like this? If it is like this, how is it relevant to what we are trying to tell our freshies about giving back to the community and things like that?

6.23 Wenjie (USC): Are you looking for personal opinions or are you looking for how our respective clubs feel about Rag and Flag? I think it makes a difference. If it is the former, based on personal opinions, then why should that sovereign how the entire NUS runs Rag and Flag. For the latter, I am not clear yet because I do not know how my committee in general feels about Rag and Flag. I am asking them next month, in January.

6.24 Zi Kai (Observer): I think I will start by asking Jeffrey. What do you think of the incentivising system so far? Like, is there a need for us to carry on with it or can we scrap away this system?

6.25 Jeffrey (Science): Thank you for your question. Actually, the award thing is never to incentivise and make life hard for everyone. I think this award idea actually started way back. The PDs, after talking to the respective Rag PDs, wanted to make the event more meaningful by giving out some awards to appreciate their effort. But along the years, it came to a point where people start to feel that they want to compete. For our side, we tried to reduce this competition thing. We know that it is ongoing but it was never intended to be. We tried to put the scores back to make it more like one project because it does not make sense to have separate awards for Rag and Flag. That is also to appreciate all the faculty's



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	<p>efforts in doing it. It was really never intended to make everything competitive for a freshmen orientation project. One of the thing discussed was also the exact definition of Rag. What some of the Council members in 37th feel is that the exact meaning of Rag is not properly conveyed? There will be a slight deviation between different faculties. Some would say that it is to thank the community, some would say that it is to thank the public, some says that it is a freshmen orientation project and so on. For Rag, it is a time-honoured tradition that NUS has and the main aim really is to thank the public and a freshmen orientation project but I think along the years it has become a NUS tradition but this part is actually not properly conveyed to everyone.</p>
6.26	<p>Yu Kiat (DE): You mentioned the award to appreciate the faculties. Is there a possibility the gold, silver and bronze award given out has no restrictions in terms of how many golds are given out? There have been rumours that there is a fixed amount of gold/silver given out.</p>
6.27	<p>Jeffrey (Science): There is no bell curve in this. It is based on many criteria such as environmental friendliness. It is really to appreciate. No matter what, minimally you will get a bronze. We do not want it to be a competition.</p>
6.28	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Can I know the amount of money spent on Rag and amount donated for Flag. I.e. money spent such as expenses on stage and such, for the planning of Rag. I do not know how much they are.</p>
6.29	<p>Jeffrey (Science): For Flag, we raised \$472k last year. Based on our agreement with MOE and Community Chest, up to 10% can be taken out, of which 2% will be taken by us for all the administrative stuff and 8% is claimed by participating bodies for all their expenses put into organizing Flag Day. Minimally, let's say the whole 10% is utilized, 90% will be donated. That is the worst case scenario. But that did not happen along the years. For NUSSU EXCO's side, we actually donated our 2%. So basically, minimally, 92% is being donated and the 8% if not fully claimed. Let's say</p>



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	<p>\$10k is raised and you are entitled to claim \$800 but only \$500 was spent, you can only claim \$500. Most of the time, the 8% will not be fully utilized. On top of that, we also gave all of the respective participating bodies the option to donate their 8%. Last year, a lot of the participating bodies actually opted to donate it as well and out of \$472k, approximately 96% is donated. Only very limited amount of participating bodies made their claims last year. Relative to other POWs that organizes flag day, I think they are entitled to claim up to 20% and they will usually claim most of it. For the Union, we want to give as much back as possible to the beneficiaries and that is why we actually cap ourselves to 10%. That said, the 10% is usually not fully claimed. For Rag, as a whole, to organise the whole thing is about \$70k.</p>	
6.30	<p>Xiao Wei (Sports): We spent about \$70k last year on Rag but about \$50k was spent on the stage and carnival booths set up and also carpeting for dance studios to protect the floors. \$50k out of the \$70k is mainly spent on staging, the lightings, the audio system and the technicians to control the audio and visual system.</p>	
6.31	<p>Benjamin (Computing): So just to clarify, this \$70k spent is totally funded by the NUSSU EXCO?</p>	
6.32	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Correct.</p>	
6.33	<p>Xiao Wei (Sports): The committee did source for sponsorship but only manage to get about \$5k last year. The rest is actually from the NUSSU EXCO's budget.</p>	
6.34	<p>Rebecca (Computing): Maybe I will share my perspective as a freshmen who have experienced Rag and Flag for the first time. All the way till the last day, I did not know it is about giving back. I thought that it is a freshmen orientation project, a competition among faculty. I think that that is problematic and there should be a better way in communicating the importance of this event and how it applies to giving back to the society. I really didn't know about that part. Has there been efforts to minimize the competition amongst faculty?</p>	



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6.35	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Thank you for your question. Let me go to the first part first. That's actually a problem we identified too. What we know from our survey, from the ground is that different seniors will tell their freshman slightly different variation of the objective of Rag, what Rag means. This is why, I hope that everyone can help out to convey the proper meaning of Rag and what Rag is about. From our side, all the information is actually online but I think most of the time, freshmen did not google to find out about it. So, it really rely on the seniors to tell them what Rag and Flag. I really hope everyone can help me out with this and let the seniors know the reason behind it. From our side we will come out with a formalize definition of Rag and Flag and pass down the information to all the constituent club.</p>
6.36	<p>For the second part, the competition is really never intended. From our side, we kept telling everyone that it is not about the competition. We did ask before if we should remove the competition but you will be surprise that there is a fair amount of people thinking that Rag is meaningless without the element of competition. So we can only try to minimize it and continuously tell people that the it is not about the competition. Actually, the number of gold awards given out is increasing every year such that it may come to a point where every gets gold.</p>
6.37	<p>Rebecca (Computing): I am thinking, every faculty has different resources, what about doing a mass resources pooling together and yet have competition amongst faculty. Like, splitting the resources and they can do whatever that they want, coming up with their own floats. At least it would be a One Union effort to collect the resources. What I am trying to say it that to make it Union effort to pool the resources together instead of making each constituent club count on their own faculty to collate the resources for their float. This will feel friendlier.</p>
6.38	<p>Jeffrey (Science): From my personal point of view, I don't think it is a good idea. Rag is also about the amount of effort you want to put in by collecting the recyclables. What you are suggesting of having</p>



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	<p>a giant mass resource pool, I think it will actually make the competition thing worst. When that happens, we are actually judging based on the dance performance only. Dancers will then feel more pressured.</p>	
6.39	<p>Rebecca (Computing): I understand where you are coming from. I am just saying that maybe we can do something together and minimise the competition rivalry thing.</p>	
6.40	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Maybe some of you all can share with us your experience in collecting the resources because what we survey on the ground might not be the things that that is actually happening.</p>	
6.41	<p>Brandon (Science): Just to share what Science does. My Rag director is not a project director but a Management Committee member and so sits in all the MC meetings. We try to work together as a MC to push forth of the ideals of Rag: primarily to show appreciation to the public and also undoubtedly a source of our faculty pride. What the Rag committee does even starting from semester 1 is that tag along with various initiatives of various sub-committees. For example Exam Welfare Pack, for all those wrappers that comes along with it, we have collection corner around Science to show students how to unwrap everything nicely we can use it. We put it around science and collaborate with different initiatives/events so that better and make the faculty involved and instil a sense of pride.</p>	
6.42	<p>Charmaine (CSC): Just to clarify something. So the point system, like the gold, silver, and bronze is to acknowledge and appreciate their efforts and the points system becomes something to incentivise them, causing a problem. So is there anyway that we can change how to appreciate them and not through the points system? So that we won't be that competitive anymore, which is changing the meaning of Rag and Flag itself.</p>	
6.43	<p>Jeffrey (Science): We are actually looking into that and we are actually thinking about introducing giving other awards instead. For instance, I believe you all have attended your faculty bash before,</p>	



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usually what happen in bash is that we will give out award to everyone, like Mr Sunshine, Mr Happy, Mr Handsome. We are thinking of doing that and we are studying it carefully. Because if we do not apply it correctly, it will become a situation where people will associate certain award to be more prestigious than others. It might worsen the situation because there is no longer distinct weighting system. Personally, I don't think removing the award will be useful. Removing the awards might cause more problems. The awards actually started to grade, to spice up things more. In fact if you look at the scoring systems, most of it come from float like how environmental friendly it is. We do hear report before on people trying to empty tin cans, to basically use the can for their float. Honestly I have not seen it before. So for this kind of situations, if you guys see it, please report to us and we will go an assess, because fundamentally it's wrong and participating bodies that did this should be held responsible for it.

6.44 Charmaine (CSC): For now, for Rag and Flag participants do they receive certs or anything?

6.45 Jeffrey (Science): Yes they do. We have been giving more things.

6.46 Charmaine (CSC): What about appreciating not through the whole faculty, but more of individually. So it's not to promote competition and everyone will get the same price. Everybody who participate will get the same kind of appreciation, not by ranking them by faculty.

6.47 Jeffrey (Science): Everyone is indeed getting a certificate now. But I think if I give everyone the same thing, it's almost the same as don't be giving anything.

6.48 Charmaine (CSC): But we are appreciating them, not giving them something for the sake of awarding. It's really to thank them for going through the process.

6.49 Jeffrey (Science): For us, We do want to thank them individually. If we are doing this, I would basically give everyone the same thing



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	<p>to appreciate everyone. It's not wrong, it's correct but that's the idea situation. It somehow doesn't work out. Because majority of people will say that they want differentiation. It's like the NUS system, there will always be PDs, and a lot of majority that want some slight deviations. What we can do is to minimise the deviation so that there is not so much different between getting a bronze and a silver.</p>	
6.50	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Can I understand if previously, has Rag been done without competition before?</p>	
6.51	<p>Jeffrey (Science): I did talk to a few PDs. Way back in the past, the competition has already started but the competition was not that fierce. Hence it wasn't a problem, but now it has intensified and has become a problem. Award started very long ago.</p>	
6.52	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Therefore I question, have we try Rag and Flag without competition instead? Will that result in loss in spirit? Last year, due to orientation problem. The Flag segment of Rag and Flag was removed from the grading criteria but they did not change the outcome of Rag and Flag.</p>	
6.53	<p>Jeffery (Science): The Flag grading system is not exactly removed. It was reduced.</p>	
6.54	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Reducing it did not affect what we are trying to achieve through Rag and Flag. So what's the point of the competition? If the whole aim of Rag and Flag is not the competition, so this itself is a problem. You mention that there is problems removing it but I do not understand what are the problems of removing it.</p>	
6.55	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Removing the award system is okay. But my take is not to remove it entirely and suddenly. This will result in a very serious backlash effect, especially for everyone who have already start planning for Rag and Flag this year. This is why my cell is studying how to make it less competitive. We can forcefully removing it but the backlash of removing will be harder.</p>	



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| 6.56 | <p>Benjamin (Computing): I think that it is an understanding issue. If you carry on what you proposed just now, I think that's what called recognition not competition. That itself will remove the competition in the Rag and Flag. That's why I think that what you propose is a good idea and it would be good to try out. Maybe I will share with you some personal reason why I don't like the competition. I have been through 2 Rag and Flag. One as a freshie and one as a senior. As a senior, Computing has an issue of getting bronze. As the whole aim is to bond, although it is a friendly competition. After 3 months of effort. Once getting bronze, you will still be affected ultimately. It's like all the effort you place is just bronze. It's like you saying that CAP is not important but it really is. It is something contradicting. I feel that It does not give freshies the necessary morale. It does not help them in trying to improve Rag and Flag next year and to persuade them in joining Rag and Flag in subsequent years. I find it shocking that how Rag and Flag system is graded is not shared between each faculty. So there's no chance of improving it.</p> |
| 6.57 | <p>Jeffrey (Science): The scoring system was actually shared to the Rag Directors. The scoring system was shared between PDs during Liqing's period. Everything was shared to them clearly.</p> |
| 6.58 | <p>Benjamin (Computing): Maybe that is not passed down properly. And I believe that that should be done and there should be more room for improvement.</p> |
| 6.59 | <p>Jeffrey (Science): Thanks for the feedback. What happen for last year because of that we actually decided to include a portion of Flag as well so as to reduce competition between Rag? I understand the demoralise factor for the Raggars, ultimately I hope that all seniors will help to pass down the real meaning of Rag. Because most of the time the seniors will tell the freshman that Rag is about winning the gold. It might be casual comment but that will result in passing down the wrong message. Ideally, the senior can tell the freshies that Rag is mostly about thanking the public. Ultimately, we are looking into it to reduce competition and we are</p> |



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	<p>studying it carefully. This is something that we cannot immediately implement but we will slowly reduce it to make sure that the consequence of removing it might not be severe. I do not think completely removing it this year will be a good idea, it will cause some repercussion as it may affect Flag Directors with plans and direction already. I can promise you that we are looking into it and we are studying it carefully. We realize that this is a problem that reoccurs every year.</p>	
6.60	<p>Xin Yu (Bizad): Now that we want to decrease the competitive spirit and since we have so many alternatives and cutting away the competition now is hard. If decreasing competition is hard and people will be unhappy, and have fewer sign ups as people are less willing to push Rag forward. Should we up our charity game and make sure that Rag is all about charity while still keeping the competition. It's either we up our charity game or just reframe the whole thing and take away the competition sector.</p>	
6.61	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Actually for Rag and Flag there's actually a charity component which is Flag. Rag is actually just about thanking the public but along the years, students split Rag and Flag into two different things and hence they feel that Rag is not relevant. I think what they are not seeing is that Rag and Flag is actually one event. It's important to let them know that it's one event. We do up our charity games, as you can see that for the past 5 years the donation amount have been increasing. As for Rag, the amount spending on it actually go down, so we are trying to make Rag use as little funds as possible. The more pressing issue is that people are pointing out that basically some faculties buy materials for Rag. I think that is a cause of concern. We should not be buying recycled materials to do Rag. It is wrong. If you are unable to get the materials, you should be putting in more effort to get it or change the design of the float. But there's no concrete evidence yet. If the Council knows anything, please let me know. I know that some faculty does not want to say anything because they fear they will be affected. It is important for all of us to come together and do this thing. It's a moral hazard thing, if someone cover this up, then one day this problem will eventually be</p>	



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	<p>resurfaced. It might become a common thing when the message is wrong to begin with. This is also to discourage people from buying materials as there's actually a maximum size on the floats because we don't want people buying stuff. These are measures that we have actually implemented.</p>	
6.62	<p>Xin Yu (Bizad): we always assume that judging system is bell curved. I only know that it's not today. Maybe this message can be passed across to our directors and be re-emphasized. This will lowers the competition as everyone will now aim the target, instead of fighting each other.</p>	
6.63	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Eventually if everyone converges to gold, then we can consider removing it entirely. A major part of the thing is about environmentally friendly, how much effort and thought is put into using recycle materials. Ultimately if everyone can do it, it can save fund. I hope that everyone has a common understanding.</p>	
6.64	<p>Zhi Wei (Observer): Replying to Benjamin. I was in the Rag 2015 Rag committee for Floating Platform. I was part of the team that did the history research. In 1990, NUSSU Exco remove the Rag competition for that one year. The backlash is that the EXCO's president was voted out of the EXCO. There was too much competition and the EXCO took a drastic step. As a result of the harsh removal, The JCRCs are the more competitive one throughout the years. They actually voted out the President. In 1991, halls actually pull out of Rag as a sign of the protest. They did a non-competitive 6 halls combined float. In the past there are a lot of competition going on. This past few years, the competitions are mild compared to the past. There have been elements of removal in the past.</p>	
6.65	<p>Benjamin (Computing): Now I'm questioning the objectives of Rag and Flag. I understand the backlash of having less participants but to remove the president is too much. I feel that defeats the purpose of Rag and Flag and in that's the case I rather remove the competition.</p>	



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| 6.66 | <p>Jeffrey (Science): I think that this goes back to my definition of Rag and Flag. Rag and Flag started in 1957. I think it is a tradition that we should continue. Along the years it is a freshman orientation project and we should thank the public and let the freshmen bond. Along the years it has evolved to become a NUS tradition. Singapore tourism board recognise it as a Singapore event, it started way earlier than Chingay. So if you guy participated in Chingay, technically Rag and Flag started before that and Rag and Flag is similar to it. I think that it is a NUS tradition that we should really continue. I think that NUS students generally don't appreciate Rag and Flag. I can tell you for sure that our sister University is actually very envious of our Rag and Flag. In fact, they wanted to plan one last year but they couldn't because they realized the amount of effort and resources that they would have to fork out. Starting from a fresh start is almost impossible. They kept changing it and eventually it changed into something else and became something like a charity run. It's not just because of this reason that people envy us, we must continue Rag and Flag. But I think that we should really consider it carefully about stating that Rag and Flag is not necessary anymore. It is easy to remove something but not easy to add it back, once it's lost it's lost forever especially with 58 years of history.</p> |
| 6.67 | <p>Glen (CAC): We will continue this for another 15 minutes.</p> |
| 6.68 | <p>Laura (Arts): I feel that we all have very different points of views and we are getting a bit heated here. I was actually going to suggest that maybe Jeffrey can come to talk to us individually and ask us for our opinions because I don't think the council is best place to consolidate coherent ideas. I don't think anything is going to come out of this if we continue in this direction. Just my personal suggestion.</p> |
| 6.69 | <p>Stanrly (CSC): I have never taken part in Rag and Flag before. I speak from my experience as someone who have been donating to Flag for 6-7 years already. Every other years, I will meet a lot of people asking for donations and I will donate. When I donate, it is for a good cause but right now we are spending money on stages</p> |



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and all just to thank the public. If I am the public and I donate, I don't think I would want to be thanked by something that cost \$70k or so. Like what Charmaine told me, If people really like to dance, we don't need a huge stage to show it. We can always do it over and show the beneficiaries that we collected money for them. The public themselves, when they donation, it isn't about just donating and say that I want to see a performance. I don't even know that Rag existed last time and nobody told me that I if I donate I can see the performance. It isn't a continuity type of thing where when you donate you can be invited down. In this case, I question whether we still need the stage which cost \$50k. Building the float cost around \$20k we can still save \$50k. Maybe NUSSU can still donate it to the charity of their choice and something along the line. In the end, we still don't take any of the performances, we still don't take away any appreciation from the public. We want to appreciate the public and do something small for the public and they will still feel happy. In the end, if you say that it is a time honored tradition, I recognise it. But to me, If we do something good now, 50 years later it will still be a time honored tradition. If we see a need for it then we should change it, if not then we can continue with it. Ultimately, we should decide as a council after we consolidate our thoughts. Because I recognise that if everyone just contribute their ideas, in the end when we need someone to make a concrete decision it's very hard. We still need some time to process and consolidate after everyone as contribute their thought.

6.70

Jeffrey (Science): I think last time it wasn't conveyed properly to the public that they are actually invited, unless they Google it. Since last year, we actually decided that all our publicity must have Rag and Flag together. Everytime Flag reaches out to the public, there must be an indication that they can come see Rag Day. This is why we included for the Fag stickers to include Rag day. Most of the public when they took it they ask about the event. This is something that we have to do to make sure the public is more aware of it. Secondly, float thing I agree with you. But why not, let's look at it for a different perspective, say for other universities they have a talent show thing for their freshman orientation, for NUS we don't have something of a similar scale. My personal take is that Rag is



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	<p>a similar thing to that, just that other talent shows are organised by universities. For NUS, they rely on the Union to do it, NUS stand has always been that student's things are always organise by the students. Student activities should still be plan by the students, compared to other universities where events are planned by other universities. I think that this is something that is unique in NUS.</p>	
6.71	<p>Charmaine (CSC): As in I feel that we don't need to just think of it terms of whether we still want it or we don't want it. Although it has always been a tradition, we should challenge the process and do something else. We can do something charitable and also to thank the public and stuff. If Rag people like to dance, they can go down to the charitable organisation to perform for them. The reward that they get is seeing the smile of the beneficiaries, that it is the reward. If the main objective is to thank the public, It don't have to a very one grand thing.</p>	
6.72	<p>Jeffrey (Science): That's something we can consider. Maybe we can include that for Rag dancers to do something for charitable cause. My personal take is still that in a way we are decentralising things. It's like a camp that we are planning and we are telling different OG to do different things. It's not entirely a bad idea, it's something to consider definitely.</p>	
6.73	<p>Glen (CAC): I think everyone has said their fill on this. I admit that this is not a very directed discussion as I hope it would be. I acknowledge Laura's point that this should be brought to a smaller group first, I think we will move forward with Rag and Flag through this suggestion. Anyone has any last comment on Rag and Flag, because if there's not then we will call it a day.</p>	
6.74	<p>Benjamin (Computing): I hope from here, I don't know if it is Glen's or Jeffrey's responsibility, but I hope there is a proper way of review for Rag and Flag. If not, there will be no point, it will be just the same as the 37th with no decision made. Be it NUSSU or whatever constituent club, there must be a decision done.</p>	



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6.75	Wenjie (USC): I want to build upon Benjamin's point. I think what we shared here today is very helpful but ultimately I feel that it was all our personal opinions and I would urge all of us to go back and talk to our constituent clubs and get a sense of how your students feel about Rag and Flag. I think that would then really move the discussion forward and make their job a lot easier when they are trying to decide what to do with Rag and Flag.	
6.76	Jeffrey (Science): I really hope everyone will help me to convey whatever was discussed during this council meeting to your Rag and Flag directors. I think this is very important. If not chances are we will engage them as well and they will be repeating what their predecessor is doing. Just an update, my cell have finished collecting all the contacts. We will be meeting the Rag and Flag directors soon also.	
6.77	Shao Tao (DE): I think someone from VPC has the history of Rag and Flag. Is it possible to give to the conclubs then we have a valid case to talk to our directors.	
6.78	Jeffery (Science): We will consolidate and send it to everyone.	
7	AOB	
7.1	Glen (CAC) reminded the Council to complete the Council Poll when the minutes are sent out.	

With no other outstanding matters to discuss, Glen (CAC) proposed to close the meeting at 2140hr.

Prepared by,



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