



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 5th 38th NUSSU Council Meeting

Date: 20th May 2017

Time: 1023

Venue: LT25, Faculty of Science

Meeting Agenda:

1. Presidential Update
 - Extension of Union Membership
 - Freshmen Inauguration Ceremony
2. Election of Union Election Committee*
3. NUSSU EXCO Elections AAR

* Requires voting

Attendance:

Present:

Council Representatives (23):

Cheryl Low	Bizad Club, Vice President (External)
See Xin Yu	Bizad Club, Vice President (Student Life)
Tee Yan Yie	CAC, President
Glen Anthony Ooi	CAC, Vice President (Special Projects)
Low Yong Cheng	Computing Club, Vice President (Human Resource and Development)
Tan Li Kiat, Rebecca	Computing Club, Director of Publicity
Stanrly Moo Jia Lir	CSC, President
Joscelin Ong Jia Xin	CSC, Vice-President (Special Projects)
Ang Shi Min Charmaine	CSC, Vice-President (Regular Volunteering Programmes)
Tan Yu Kiat	DE Club, President
Quek Jia Xin, Bevin	DE Club, Vice President (Internal)
Sun Zi Cheng	DE Club, Vice President (External)
Tan Shao Tao	DE Club, General Finance Secretary
Woon Yongsheng Jedd	Engin Club, President
Loi Wen Tian Jodie	Engin Club, Vice President (External)
Lim Yu Han	Engin Club, Secretary of Student Affairs
Ryo Yap Zhe You	Law Club, President
Lee Yew Boon	Law Club, Vice President
Loh Yi Chin	PA, President
Benjamin Lem Han Wei	PA, Honorary Financial Secretary

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Matthew Tan	Sports Club, President
Yvette Choo	Sports Club, Vice President (Internal)
Hong Li Wee	Sports Club, Vice President (External)

EXCO Representatives (11):

Lee Chin Shian	CAC, EXCO Representative
Quek Yan Tong	CAC, EXCO Representative
Ong Zhang Yao	CSC, EXCO Representative
Vivian Leow Hui Ying	CSC, EXCO Representative
Tan Zhi Hao Ian	DE Club, EXCO Representative
Tan Wee Bian	Engin Club, EXCO Representative
Tai Ben Wey	Engin Club, EXCO Representative
Kenji Ong Shao Qiang	Law Club, EXCO Representative
Lee Zi Quan Jeffrey	Science Club, EXCO Representative
Yue Yao Chong	Sports Club, EXCO Representative
Soon Hao Jing	USC, EXCO Representative

Observers (5):

Eu Xuan Lin	Engineering
Chan Yong Qing	Business
Desmond Lee Boon Hui	Business
Ivan Fenzely Yang Shao Yi	Engineering
Yeo Kian Wee	Computing

Absence with Apologies (23):

Wong Xue Wen Laura	Arts Club, President
Soh Wei Ren Alson	Arts Club, Honorary General Secretary
Sangeetha Krishnan	Arts Club, Communications Secretary
Siong Li Qing Jeannie	Arts Club, EXCO Representative
Tan Jun Wei	Bizad Club, Vice President (Internal)
Toh Wen Hui	Bizad Club, EXCO Representative
Tan Jie Yin	CAC, Vice President (Internal)
Chong Wei Ling	CAC, Honorary General Secretary
Loh Jin Wei	Dental Club, President
Teo Yong Shun	Engin Club, Honorary General Secretary
Ivan Low	Medical Club, President
Hargaven Singh	Medical Club, Vice President
Lim Ellene	Medical Club, Nursing Sub-Club President
Thaddaeus Tan	Medical Club, Honorary General Secretary

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Soong Tse Kiat	Medical Club, EXCO Representative
Tseng Fan Shuen	Medical Club, EXCO Representative
Elston Foo Sheng Kai	PA, Vice-President (Projects)
Shen Yunni	PA, Vice-President (Engagement)
Lim Jia Wei Elvin	PA, EXCO Representative
Nicole Jean Lau Yi Xuan	PA, EXCO Representative
Ng Shi Yuan Brandon	Science Club, President
Nguyen Dang Hoang Yen	Science Club, EXCO Representative
Kong Xiao Wei	Sports Club, EXCO Representative

Absence without Apologies (4):

Wei Yi Chen	Bizad Club, President
Loo Qi En, Benjamin	Computing Club, President
Soh Wei Hao	Computing Club, Vice President (Operations and Projects)
Cheah Wenjie	USC, President

The 5th Council Meeting was called to order at 1020hr by Mr Glen Anthony Ooi, Council Chairperson of the 38th NUSSU Council.

S/No.	Agenda	Action By
1	<i>Presidential Updates</i>	Information. No Action Required
1.1	Wee Bian (Engin) presented to the council on Extension of Union Membership and Freshmen Inauguration Ceremony (FIC). Please refer to the attached slides for further information.	
1.2	Jodie (Engin) joined the meeting at 10:24. Kenji (Law) joined the meeting at 10:25.	
2	<i>Election of Union Elections Committee*</i>	
2.1	The Council Chairperson went through the Roles and Responsibilities of the Union Election Committee.	
2.2	Opening of nominations for Union Election Committee proposed by Wee Bian (Engin).	
2.3	Nominee: Zhang Yao (CSC) Proposer: Wee Bian (Engin) Seconder: Jeffrey (Science)	
2.4	Zhang Yao (CSC) accepted the nomination.	

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2.5	Closing of nominations proposed by Wee Bian (Engin).	
2.6	Glen (CAC) informed the council that there will be a 5 mins presentation and 15 mins Q&A and it will be an open voting unless otherwise proposed.	
2.7	Hao Jing (USC) proposed for closed voting. Glen (CAC) accepted the proposal. Voting of the UEC will be closed voting.	
2.8	Zhang Yao (CSC) made his elections speech to the 38th NUSSU Council.	
2.9	Opening of Q&A session proposed by Glen (CAC).	
2.9.1	Hao Jing (USC): So, when you refer to a better timeline, what do you mean by that?	
2.9.2	A: Better timeline as per any event that you organize, you will want to know when to start your publicity and when we actually get the candidates to know about it. Whatever is debated in terms of nomination period and all those is already in the constitution itself so not really very in depth but what we are referring to is preparations before the elections. Getting everything out to the Constituent Clubs, the collaterals and everything up and running at least a few weeks before the event itself.	
2.10	Closing of Q&A session proposed by Yong Cheng (Computing).	
2.11	Shao Tao (DE) joined the meeting at 10:34	
2.12	Voting Results for Zhang Yao (CSC): Total Strength: 31 For: 30 Against: 1 Invalid: 0	
2.13	Zhang Yao (CSC) has been elected as a member of the Union Elections Committee of the 38th NUSSU Council.	
2.14	<i>Rebecca (Computing) joined the meeting at 10:40.</i>	
2.15	Glen (CAC): since we do not have the UEC completely filled, that leaves us with from my perspectives, 2 options. One, to have another council meeting to fill in the UEC again and hope that there's more nominations. Or, the UEC, at their own discretion co-opts members into the UEC but I propose that they do not have the power vested in the UEC in the review of any candidates and the adjudication of disputes.	

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2.16	Hao Jing (USC): I have a question. Currently we have 2 elected members. So, if there is a tie, we need an odd number at least.	
2.17	Glen (CSC): Agreed. Which would mean that we will have another council meeting to elect more members of the UEC.	
2.18	Hao Jing (USC): Is it possible to re-open the nomination? I am sure nobody here wants to come down again.	
2.19	Glen (CSC): We can if someone proposes the opening of nominations again.	
2.20	Re-Opening of nominations for Union Election Committee proposed by Hao Jing (USC).	
2.21	Nominee: Hao Jing (USC) Proposer: Hao Jing (USC) Secunder: Yong Cheng (Computing)	
2.22	Closing of nominations proposed by Cheryl (Bizad).	
2.23	Hao Jing (USC) made his elections speech to the 38th NUSSU Council.	
2.24	Glen (CAC) proposes the opening of Q & A.	
2.25	Yu Kiat (DE) Proposes the closing of Q&A.	
2.26	Voting Results for Hao Jing (USC): Total Strength: 33 For: 26 Against: 3 Invalid: 4	
2.27	Hao Jing (USC) has been elected as a member of the Union Elections Committee of the 38th NUSSU Council.	
2.28	Glen (CAC) proposes to pass the motion that co-opted members into UEC shall not have the power to review any of the candidates and they should not be able to adjudicate any disputes raised by the candidates.	
2.29	Voting Results Total Strength: 34 For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 2	
2.30	The motion has been passed. The UEC shall co-opt members	

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	without any powers that the elected UEC members have.	
3	NUSSU EXCO Election AAR*	
3.1	Hao Jing (USC) presented to the council on NUSSU EXCO elections AAR. Please refer to the attached document for further information.	
3.2	Wee Bian (Engin): You are saying that the NUSSU EXCO elections should be done via NUSync?	
3.3	Hao Jing (USC): Yes, I would recommend that.	
3.4	Wee Bian (Engin): Are you going to recommend or vote to pass all constituent clubs to run their elections through NUSync or online?	
3.5	Hao Jing (USC): This is just for NUSSU EXCO. As for the faculty MC and the non-faculty MC, it is not part of the NUSSU EXCO elections so it is not covered by this.	
3.6	Wee Bian (Engin): So, you wouldn't want to pass online elections for all constituent clubs, only for NUSSU EXCO elections?	
3.7	Hao Jing (USC): Yes, only for NUSSU EXCO elections. I believe that for the constituent clubs' elections, it is the prerogative of the respective MC to decide for their clubs.	
3.8	Jeffrey (Science): You mentioned doing online then why is the general elections of Singapore still using physical vote. Why is the government not doing this? So, I am curious. What is the determining factor?	
3.9	Hao Jing (USC): I believe national election will tend to stick to physical election to have more security in the sense that you see people actually coming down to vote, they show you their ICs, you verify their identity, you make sure they vote in an appropriate manner, secret voting etc. But of course, some countries have adopted some form of online voting or postal ballots etc. These are signs that you don't necessarily need to show up in person on the day itself, queue up, show your IC, etc. So, other countries do all kind of different votings to make voting more convenient for their citizens. But in this case, I don't see that we need to do it so extravagantly just to ensure there is some kind of voters security or anything. In the end, this is a students' union voting, this is between students. I dont think it has that sort of political or national significance. Also, if we use an online platform NUSync, it is secure, it is cloud computing and I think there would be very little risk if you are talking about cyber-attacks or anything.	
3.10	Wee Bian (Engin): So, you mean for students' union elections, there is no need to have security or there is no need to be appropriate in a sense	

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	that anyone can just vote for anybody. I can just vote for my friends without verifying IC since this is not national elections.	
3.11	Hao Jing (USC): What you are saying is that whether there is or is not a need to verify that the person voting is indeed a person right? And in this case, for online voting, we can actually do that. Think about it, we are already logging into IVLE, to our email accounts, log in to do quizzes, log into to do online exams. We can do that because when we log into NUS system, NUS knows that it is us. If you read the end user agreement from Computer Centre, you will know that it is an offence for students to give their user id and password to other people for them to log in and use their accounts. So that is an offence and that is covered for. If it happens, the student can be dealt with. So there are systems in place for that.	
3.12	Jeffrey (Science): I beg to differ. It is an offence, you are right, but you cannot stop people from using other people's account to vote	
3.13	Hao Jing (USC): In that case, why does the school still allow us to do online quizzes, online exams?	
3.14	Jeffrey (Science): They are not fully implemented. That's the reason why. I mean, you still have physical examinations right and that still accounts for quite a big percentage of your module. That is primarily the reason. Correct? It is offence, I agree with you, but you can't stop people from voting on behalf of other people if they do in secret. How do you prevent that? There is no security and that could be the deciding vote. So how would you address that if this is legitly what you want to do?	
3.15	Hao Jing (USC): Alright, if you want to talk about this hypothetical issue, that is fair enough. We also have to weigh the severity of the risk. How many voters can turn out to be such problematic voters who pass their user IDs or accounts. So I would say that if, for example, a candidate gets many people to him their user IDs and passwords so that he can vote for himself. Let's say it happens, how many user IDs and passwords does he have to collect? And if I, as a friend, for example, were to be asked by someone to give them the user ID and password, will I do that? It is my user ID and I probably use my password for many other things. So if I do that, it is not just and offence but a risk to myself. What else might this guy be doing? So, I think the risk is very low, and even if somebody were to try to collect all these user IDs and passwords, if they can collect 100 or 200 and win the elections then kudos to him but I see very little risk.	
3.16	Wee Bian (Engin): So, you are saying that if such things happen, do we know of any mechanism or do we know of how to counter all these? Because if you are going to implement such things during elections, what if somebody does that, how are you going to deal with it? If somebody really go and collect 100-200 and rig the whole elections, how are you going to make sure that this thing don't happen? I mean, you can say that	

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	<p>you won't want to give your password but I am quite sure, amongst all of us sitting over here, some of us over here may have shared our IVLE passwords to certain friends to do certain things. It is possible that at some point of times, some of us over here may have shared our passwords. So, I am saying, let's say we are going to share, how are you going to deal with this? of time</p>	
3.17	<p>Hao Jing (USC): I believe that the UEC would have to address this problem if they are brought up to the UEC. For example, we should make it known to everyone that if they spot any irregularities, if they have any suspicion of irregularities that occurred before and during the elections process, they can feedback to the UEC and the UEC will have to look into the matter.</p>	
3.18	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): Who will spot and feedback to the UEC?</p>	
3.19	<p>Hao Jing (USC): Any student who spots any irregularity or they suspect something wrong is being done, they can feedback to us.</p>	
3.20	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): Then what will be the next step after they feedback to the UEC?</p>	
3.21	<p>Hao Jing (USC): To see who did it, what time.</p>	
3.22	<p>Jeffrey (Science): So, what if you get a lot of feedback? You are doing it online right? Let me give you a number, let's say 500? You get 500 feedbacks. How are you going to deal with it?</p>	
3.23	<p>Hao Jing (USC): Most students barely even take the time to feedback to NUSSU on a daily basis. Given that, what do you think is the possibility of people suddenly flooding the UEC, hotline or our personal mobiles to give us feedback?</p>	
3.24	<p>Jeffrey (Science): I would like to differ on that. We actually receive a lot of feedback. The Constitutional Positions actually receive a lot of feedback. Whenever someone emails our feedback email, we will receive it. I can tell you that we receive a lot of feedback.</p>	
3.25	<p>Hao Jing (USC): Yes, but other issues that actually impacts students, right? As for this election, we will have to see what happens. All these issues that you brought up could happen but again, remains hypothetical.</p>	
3.26	<p>Jeffrey (Science): I am still not convinced. Then, how do you prevent voters from falling into peer pressure? You can switch on your laptop and your friend is supporting certain candidate, and they could have convinced that person to vote for you. Especially for orientation camps,</p>	

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	<p>you have a group of freshmen and say the OGL is supporting a candidate and he/she can potentially convince the whole OG to vote for certain people. How do you prevent that? And I don't think this is a hypothetical situation. This is an everyday occurrence.</p>	
3.27	<p>Hao Jing (USC): So, talking about peer pressure I believe there would be different extent of peer pressure. If it is just influencing, talking to the person, I believe that would be permitted. But if it is duress, that is definitely illegal and can be brought up to the UEC. And, what I understand is that NUSync allows people to go back to revisit and edit their answers as long as the poll has not closed yet.</p>	
3.28	<p>Jeffrey (Science): Then how to do ensure that it is secret? I mean, I could be voting right now and there is a group of people behind me and they could be looking. That person's behaviour might change as a result.</p>	
3.29	<p>Hao Jing (USC): Then you can take a private place. I have a question to put back to you and to Wee Bian if you don't mind. Why do you want physical election so much?</p>	
3.30	<p>Jeffrey (USC): It ultimately boils down to to security and privacy. I go into the booth and decide or not whether to vote for the candidate in my own privacy and no one can influence me. You can give me peer pressure but in the booth, I can write whatever I want. This is probably the reason why the government is still using it. It is security if you get what I say. And you keep saying that it is a hypothetical situation which I don't believe. Personally, I've seen a lot of cases happening. How do you ensure that there is no peer pressure?</p>	
3.31	<p>Yew Boon (Law): I understand some reservations the members of the council have towards the proposed new mode of elections and I think one interest that have been pointed out is security, efficiency and getting the number of votes. That said, I don't think we should foreclose the proposal entirely. That's not to say we should come to a conclusion today. Maybe Hao Jing you can do some research because earlier you mentioned that there are some other countries that have done some mode of online elections also. Maybe you can look a little bit into that and see how we can achieve the interest of both parties into one proposal and present in the next meeting. Because right now, I think there are some information gap between our side and your side. So maybe you can help us to bridge this gap to have more confidence in this mode of elections. Would that be okay?</p>	
3.32	<p>Wee Bian (Engin): Thank you Yew Boon. For me, I am not against online elections. In fact, I feel that online elections is good in a sense that I don't need so much manpower. To make this very clear, I am not against online elections but I feel that if you want to push this motion through the council, you have to think through it carefully. EnginClub does it. I am</p>	

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	<p>sure they took a very long time with much discussion within their own MC before they come to this conclusion. For us, I am not sure whether you have done your due diligence, whether you know how this OrgSync works because all of us are very unclear on how OrgSync works. I believe that we should do our research properly and you should look into this online portal. And since you are now in the UEC, and you feel that this method is the best after we have done our research, then we should look into online elections. But if we, as UEC, feel that online elections is still not the most secure way to move forward, maybe we should be looking into physical voting and decentralized voting instead of going straight with online elections, getting the council to vote and pushing it through.</p>	
3.33	<p>Jeffrey (Science): I am also not against but I feel that it is not detailed enough. And you mentioned about OrgSync right, I can tell you that I am doing projects now so we have actually introduced OrgSync this year to all the Rag participating bodies, so we have 20 plus participating bodies. And currently, we have over half of them giving us feedback saying that they are not using it properly, they do not know how to use it. That is the issue and we are only dealing with 20 people/project directors. So, I have reasonable doubt to believe that not everyone in NUS knows how to operate OrgSync. That is my stand.</p>	
3.34	<p>Hao Jing (USC): To address some of your concerns, in some elections, there are posters and other materials set up for students to see who they are voting for and how do they cast the votes. In this case, we can also publish a simple user guide on how to fill in the survey. All the students have to do, from my own experience, because I voted on OrgSync platform before, is to visit the website, log in with NUSNET ID and password, select the form, fill in accordingly and submit.</p>	
3.35	<p>Glen (CAC): Do you still wish to pass the motion or will you postpone this to let the UEC decide on the platform to carry out the elections? If not, I think there are some reservations to actually have this binding motion that we must carry out online elections for the EXCO Elections. So will you be willing to amend it such that the UEC shall consider their option of carrying out online voting and furnish their findings to the council at a later date once you have completed your research?</p>	
3.36	<p>Hao Jing (USC): All right, that is ok.</p>	
3.37	<p>Glen (CAC): So, the same thing applies for the decentralized voting if that is alright.</p>	
3.38	<p>Hao Jing (USC): Yes, sure.</p>	

With no other outstanding matters to discuss, Glen (CAC) proposed to close the meeting at 1122.

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