

Date: 14 Sept 2015

Time: 12.00PM-13.00PM

Venue: Saga Dining Hall

Note-Taker: Dave

Presiding Officer: Tee

Attendance: Dave, Tee, Adila, Avery, Tamara, Jay, Sara, Isabel, Qi Siang, Swarnima, Subhas

Absent: Fatima, Matthew, Anandita

Agenda:

- Government to provide consultation
- Structure of the constitution (principles, kind of government you want?)
- Process and timeline - for amendments, across the remaining six weeks
- RCAC
- AOB

Summary:

Agenda	Discussion Points	Action
Structure of the Constitution	Sample Constitutions (NYU Abudhabi, NYU Shanghai, Yale, Pomona) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tee: Please look at the example constitutions. As you can see it's very government specific, with the constitution being built around the sort of government they want, outlining the specifics of this2. Avery/Tamara: Liked the delineation of roles. Makes the government more organised3. Isabel: I like how the preamble states the role of the Student Government4. Tamara: Table contents is really helpful	To vote on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Separation of judiciary2. Chief Executive

5. Adila: liked the distinctions between student organisations and non-profits
6. Dave: Likes the use of 'purposes' at the start of the articles
7. Tee: Some similarities include structure, elections, delineation of roles etc.
8. Devil's Advocate outlines types of Student Government that are commonly used in liberal arts colleges:
 - a. Division of powers: Are there divisions? Some have executive, judicial and legislative in one, like we do, but others will split them up in different permutations.
 - b. Specific Characteristics: Leadership hierarchy vs non-hierarchy. Generally done in some ways:
 - i. Separate executive board
 - ii. Election to legislature, who then elect their leadership (this is common in liberal arts colleges)
 - iii. Some involve appointment systems
 - c. How many bodies are there? Is the legislative decision making kept in one body or is it split?
9. Pros and Cons of combining the bodies
 - a. Pros:
 - i. Quicker decisions
 - ii. less layering
 - iii. more knowledge sharing
 - b. Cons:
 - i. Separation creates more stability
 - ii. Prevents abuse of power
 - iii. More conducive to creating more concrete decisions
 - iv. Separation of powers is possible without separating bodies (e.g. council with both legislative and executive bodies inside it)

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Swarnima: Would this be useful?11. Tee: I would have wanted public reps to exist formally to keep checks and balances. But he also wants hierarchical.12. Dave: Two main purposes of accountability. Accountability in upholding principles and constitution, done by public reps. Accountability in carrying out projects, can be done by hierarchy.13. Jay (in personal regard): thinks separation of powers could be problematic in our college.14. Isabel: Asks for clarification of judicial power.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Jay: It's for adjudication the constitution's interpretation15. Avery: separating judicial could be effective, but legislative and executive should be kept together.16. Tee: I am detecting some consensus on a separate judiciary to hold government accountability. I am not detecting consensus on hierarchy yet.17. Swarnima: is not sure whether or not she is favour of separating judiciary. She also notes that hierarchy was beneficial in her high school government, albeit with some cons.18. Subhas: Last year people didn't know who in the government to talk to.19. Isabel: It is very important for helping students to know who to go to.20. Qi Siang: Hierarchy also has the division of labour. Could be like a cabinet system with one fixed leader, who deliniates roles.21. Devil's Advocate: There is an argument to say that hierarchy could conflict with a separate legislature. It is important to note whether or not roles are prescribed or leave it up to government.22. Subhas: Roles do have the issue that people may be assigned roles that they aren't happy with23. Devil's Advocate: We should refer to leader as Chief Executive | |
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| | <p>24. Avery: In favour of chief executive, but is unsure whether it should be prime ministerial or presidential</p> <p>25. Tee: I think we have consensus on having some form of chief executive</p> <p>26. Devil's Advocate: The objection is that having a chief executive can impose power dynamic on the government. It is important to discuss president vs prime minister type. This also has the issue of independent vs dependent election. Some governments have a combination of the two structures, where student body votes from candidates in the legislature</p> <p>27. Pro vs con on prime minister:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Primeminister<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Qi Siang: Allows for greater confidence within the governmentii. Avery: President could confuse executive and legislativeiii. Dave: prime minister allows for greater debate and leads to more representative decisionsiv. Devil's Advocate: Prime minister is elected to oversee the other roles, so doesn't necessarily have to have specific duties other than thatv. Qi Siang: You could have the chief executive appointed by government and ratified by student body.<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Avery: What happens if they reject them?b. Fused<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Devil's Advocate: The third model has more confidence from the people, but loses confidence from the governmentc. President | |
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- i. Devil's Advocate: Gives greater accountability to that individual, which could result in greater effectiveness in deciding actions
- ii. Dave: Less division in government, with whole government working forwards one vision

28. Swarnima: There may be problems with running for specific roles, as it can lead to a lack of debate and consensus between them

29. Avery: What if the positions are appointed after?

30. Swarnima: is unsure how that will actually work out

31. Subhas: There are ways to work around that

32. Dave: One way to work around that is having general meetings when they vote on everything together

Size

33. Jay: Maybe we should also get a straw poll on the size of the government?

34. Say numbers:

- a. Isabel: 20-30
- b. Avery: 10-20
- c. Adila: 10-30
- d. Qi Siang: 15-30
- e. Swarnima: 10-20
- f. Subhas: 15-30
- g. Sara: 10-20

35. Devil's Advocate: No arguments exist to have it less than 10 people.

- a. Small government:
 - i. Cons: It will be very intense of them
 - ii. Pros: They can all sit in the same room
- b. Medium government:
 - i. Difficult to see how this will work

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Cons: Why not go larger? c. Large government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pros: At a larger legislature you can have a large debate. Can lead to more decisions ii. Cons: This will take longer <p>36. Isabel: What kind of representation do we want?</p> <p>37. Tee: figure tends to be 15-20. We have found that it is difficult to discuss these issues separately. Proposes we have a third meeting this week. Each member should come with an idea of what kind of government they would want.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Roles b. Separation of Powers, and how? c. Structure d. Heads <p>38. Tee: Please also consider the other constitutions</p>	
Process and Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tee: let's think about how we're going to use this time. He strongly suggests doing all articles simultaneously. Proposes breaking this committee up to work out specific articles and then draft reports to propose to the committee. 2. Adila: To do this we need a structure first. 3. Tee: Agreed, we'll do this after the next meeting 4. Swarnima: Perhaps we can start on definitions by making list of the stuff 5. Tee: Does someone want to coordinate this list. 6. Jay: Don't assume that there are any connotations with a title 	Swarnima to coordinate list of definitions
RCAC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dave: Given the background of our current constitution this is something we need to discuss. So we shall be meeting with Rectors 	

	and RC reps to discuss representation, election procedures and whether or not we integrate them.	
AOB	1. Tee: Meeting adjourned	

Agenda for our next meeting:

- Presentation of proposals and discussion
- Structure of government
- Structure of constitution
- Delegation of work
- Update on feedback/suggested amendments, if any (this will be a permanent agenda item from now on)

Reminders/ Updates