

2Date: 16 Sept 2015

Time: 20.00PM-22.00PM

Venue: Classroom 3

Note-Taker: Dave

Presiding Officer: Tee

Attendance: Dave, Tee, Anandita, Avery, Swarnima, Tamara, Jay, Isabel, Matthew, Qi Siang

Absent: Jay Lusk (with apologies), Adila, Subhas, Sara

Agenda:

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

Summary:

| Agenda                    | Discussion Points   | Action |
|---------------------------|---|--------|
| Presentation of Proposals | Matthew Ware volunteered to take over the position of Devil's Advocate in Jay Lusk's absence.<br><b>Avery and Swarnima's Proposal</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. YNC Student Council:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Elections: Vote for 8 at-large, 3 RC, 4 Class Reps to form Student Council (total 15). Student Council elects a First Minister from amongst them (1st among equals). First Minister appoints Ministers.</li></ol></li></ol> |        |

- i. --> Why? Elect people who are interested in student government overall. This formalizes existing process in student govt (by appointing ministers).
  - b. Chief Executive: First Minister. 1st among equals, member of Student Council. Limited veto power.
  - c. Mandatory Ministers of...
    - i. Student Organizations
    - ii. Finance/Budget
    - iii. Academic Affairs
    - iv. Communications
    - v. Community Living
  - d. Recommended Ministers...
    - i. External & Global Affairs (off-campus contact with Yale/NUS)
    - ii. Arts
    - iii. Athletics
  - e. Representatives
    - i. 3 RC Representatives/Liaisons with RCACs
    - ii. 4 (3 for now) Class Reps
  - f. Total members of Student Council: 14 this year, 15 next year
  - g. Term: Class/RC Reps: 1 semester; Others= 1 academic year
  - h. Transition: Next govt will only serve for semester, with entirely new govt elected in Fall Semester of 2016.
2. Judiciary Council- 5-7 members

Discussion

- 3. Devil's Advocate:
  - a. Cons: Creating specific roles that are appointed may lead to electorate feeling that they didn't get a say in that minister's appointment

b. Pros: Creates consensus among the government  
Qi Siang: 'At-large' should be the people elected to the position of 'first minister' to ensure that they have the backing of the student body.

Matthew's Proposal

1. Similar to existing system of representation

Tee: A problem with this flat system is the unequal divide of work as well as the possibility of 'sleeping' members if there is no central figure to discipline a member who has not been doing the job they are supposed to.

Isabel's Proposal

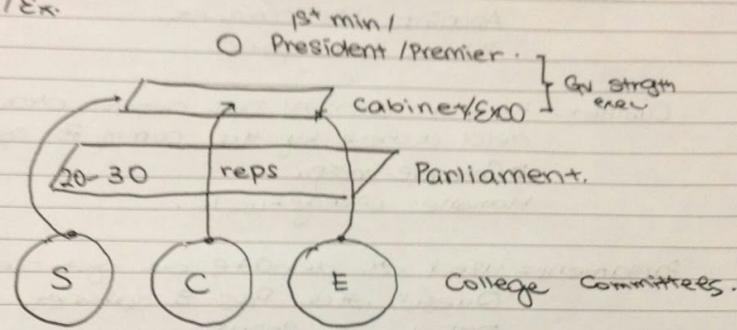
1. Chief Executive - but would be in favour of voting them in directly
2. Roles - also in favour of roles but also wants them voted in directly
3. Higher End of 20-30

**Qi Siang:** Do they support the principle of democratic centralism?  
Qi Siang's proposal below (photographs)

Should we even have @-large members? The barrier to elect much lighter than year

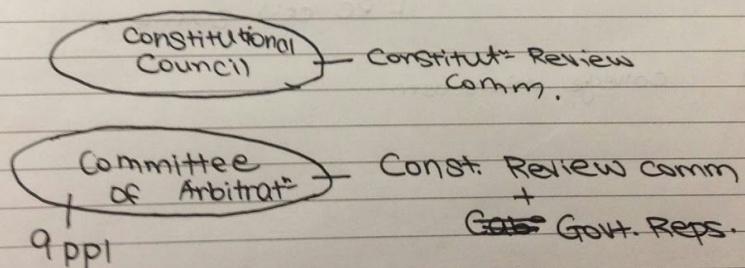
National University of Singapore

Leg/Ex.



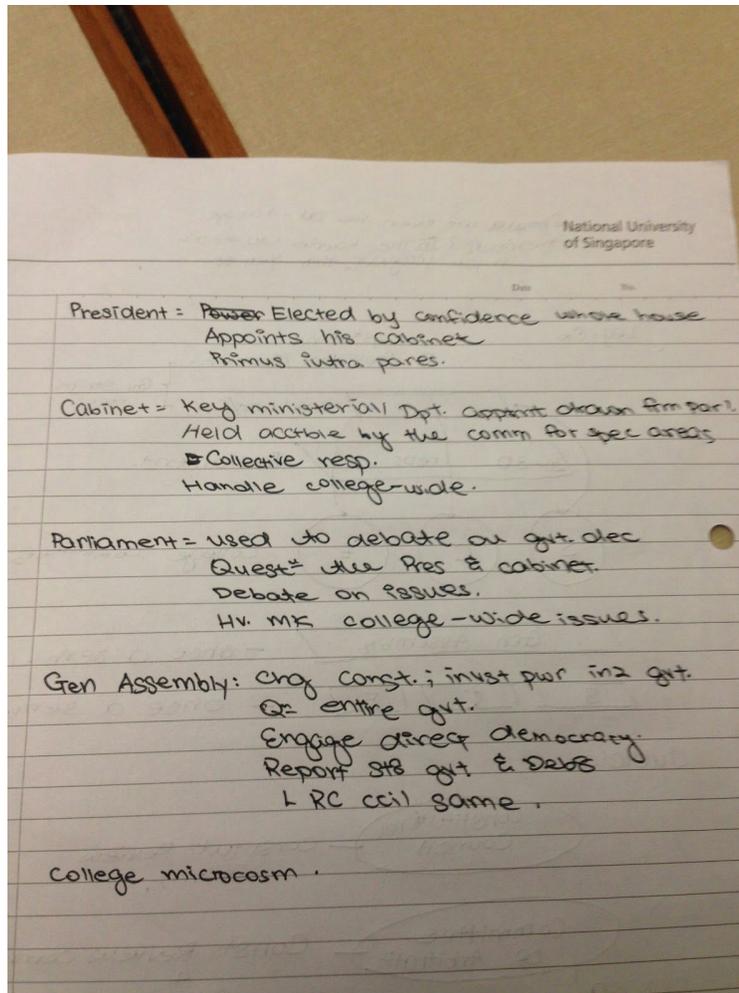
Gen Assembly - once a sem.  
S | I | C | E - once a sem.

Judicial



Elect?:

- No pol pties? - Duh.
- Shld we even have @-large rep?



## Discussion

1. Devil's Advocate:
  - a. General assembly can be difficult to hold

- b. Using different sized constituencies can lead to different barriers to entry

Anandita's Proposal

1. Facilitating smooth functioning and management
  - a. Legislature
    - i. Hold General Assemblies and other things to take feedback
  - b. Judiciary
    - i. Dispute management both between students, dos, faculty
  - c. Executive
    - i. Similar to Avery's model except first minister is elected by the student body

Tamara's Proposal

1. Prime minister type role
2. Divided between executive+legislature and judiciary

Discussion

1. Matthew: Do most university governments elect their judiciary with their executive etc?
2. Avery: I have seen examples, such as Amherst, where it's a mix of appointment and election

**Dave's Proposals**

**Original:** The executive board will be comprised of 21 members, with one chief executive, vice-chief executive (for when the chief executive is away or busy), secretary and co-directors (3 for each area) of student-life, athletics, student organisations, events, budget and communications. This internal

structure can be rearranged by government vote, should it warrant it. All members hold equal voting powers, and the chief executive votes last.

Directors are responsible for their area of student life and are to set up standing committees, which are to include public representatives. For each project and piece of feedback, the directors are to appoint a singular 'point-person' to head up the projects.

The chief executive acts as the primary link with the administration and external parties, following up on government action and feedback and organise and preside over weekly government meetings.

There is a separate judiciary, comprised of 6 members that are randomly selected from the pool of applicants. Their job is to ensure that the constitution is upheld and to issue reports on the government.

**RCAC Alternative:** The executive board will be comprised of 9 members, with one chief executive, vice-chief executive (for when the chief executive is away or busy), secretary and directors of the various areas, but no co-directors. The RCACs, if actually elected will form a council of representatives. The directors shall form committees with at least one RCAC per RC and public representatives. These committees will have equal voting power to decide on issues relevant to the community, but the executive board reserves the right to overturn these decisions.

the RCAC's would be elected per class within their RC, to ensure that members of each year and RC are represented

Questions:

1. Swarnima and Avery's Proposal

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|------------------|--|--|
|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Anandita: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Are the non-class and RC reps not class and RC specific? - Yes</li> <li>ii. If you are not elected to the chief executive, what's happens if you aren't elected? Will it form splits? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Qi-Siang: This may happen even if they are elected separately</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Tamara: What happens if the chief executive doesn't have the participation without the RC and class representatives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Avery: RC and Class reps are in the 15</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Dave: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What would be the class job? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avery: None</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. How do you deal with overlap?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
| Structure debate | <p>Proposals for Consideration: Dave (1 and 2), Qi Siang, Avery</p> <p>Agenda for debating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chief Executive position</li> <li>2. The nature of roles in the government</li> <li>3. How the RCACs fit with the govt</li> <li>4. The kind of elections we want</li> <li>5. Whether we should allow political parties</li> <li>6. The Judiciary council</li> <li>7. What are the are the actual powers of the government?</li> </ul> <p>Matthew: We should note that this particular committee does not have the 'legitimacy' of being voted in by the whole student body.</p>  |  |

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|--|---|--|
|  | <p>Tamara: The posters will be up by tomorrow.</p> <p>Tamara: Would it be possible to shift the Monday meetings to the Elm Dining Hall because more people go to the Elm Dining Hall - more people from all the classes go there.</p> <p>Swarnima: Out of curiosity, what are everyone's opinions on veto power?</p> <p>Tee: I am for a veto power which can be overturned by a two-thirds majority of a student government - which will both function as absolutes.</p> <p>Matthew: Second Tee, and I think that the person with veto power should be elected.</p> <p>Qi Siang: If we have a veto power, we will give a lot of power to a single individual.</p> <p>Isabel: This would give a lot of power to the people in a certain group.</p> <p>Tamara: This would put too much power in the hands of a single person.</p> |  |
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Agenda for our next meeting:

- In Principle Approval (IPA) sought for a single draft proposal for further modification
- IPA sought for a process of review

Reminders/ Updates