

Yale NUS College Judiciary Meeting

Meeting Number: 2

Date: Friday, November 4, 2016

Time: 6:10 pm

Location: Saga Anteroom

Present: Tee Zhuo '18, Patrick Wu '19, Varissara Charassangsomboon '20, and Ann Chen '20.

Topics

6:16 PM – Stipend Proposal:

- Judiciary reviewed a not-finalized version of Student Government's stipend proposal
- The document is vague and student government's motivations are unclear
- The proposal runs the risk of being unconstitutional
- Concerns were expressed that students may run just to get these funds
- Many other students serving on councils do not get paid and may request funding
- Judiciary members also expressed concern about it violating the principle of discrimination. C.f. Article I.1 of the Constitution (19 August version)
- Stipend can be negative even if disguised as positive and single out certain students of government. C.f. Article
- No enumerated power for Council to distribute funds in this way

6:29 PM - Judiciary Report:

- Chief Justice Tee presented an initial plan of the Judiciary report.
- Members should avoid targeting individual members, although the council may have to make exception for certain members.
- Judiciary reviewed the performance of the Student Government
 - Some students have feedbacked that the Council made promises but did not deliver on them (e.g. indomie for providing feedback)
 - although this promise is rather trivial, this habit will be problematic if they don't deliver on bigger promises.
 - Student life report was generally well done. Although it didn't consult admin, most Judiciary members were neutral on this issue; consultation may itself bring into question representativeness and bias of Council
 - they had a good response from the student body
- The council has also done good outreach initiatives with the student body, although the feedback from the student body has been mixed.
- Council is structurally transparent, but student body rarely is aware of procedures. They may need to work on communication to be truly transparent.
- Attendance at recent meetings have been poor and meetings start late because the speaker is not informed of these absences.
- The speaker is doing a good job by restrict time at which people can speak, keeping on track with the agenda and not allowing meetings to drag on

- Meeting minutes for sub committees are not being released
- Halloween event: good coordination with other town colleges
- Website needs to be better updated
- Student body does not seem to be very responsive to social media
- In meetings members of Student government are not paying attention to other projects. Hence, there is no contestation between students.

6:52pm - Internal Affairs:

- Jared Theodore Yeo '17 is not serving next semester
- Judiciary will have to choose from new pool
- The demographic representation may present a problem for the class of 2017

Decisions

Stipend Proposal:

- Judiciary reached general agreement that Student Council should present a new revised version. Chief Justice to ask President Saza Faradilla '18 on the estimated deadline for this.
- The new version will be reviewed again by the Judiciary.

Judiciary Report:

- Judiciary has decided to take out specific recommendations, given they fall outside scope of Judiciary
- Will also recommend that Judiciary release a report every semester due to the nature of the term of the government. Chief Justice to discuss with President Faradilla.
- Allocation of tasks:
 1. Summary, notes, and editing: Tee Zhuo '18
 2. Good observations: Varissara Charassangsomboon '20
 3. Areas for improvement: Patrick Wu '19 and Ann Chen '20.

Action Items

- Judiciary report by Wednesday (various Justices - November 9, 2016)
- Confer with Student government
 - Person in charge: Tee Zhuo '18
 - Will ask President for finalized version of proposal.
 - Will also suggest that Judiciary reports are to be released per term instead of per month.

Next Meeting

Date: TBD

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

- Members should be responsive on Facebook for further updates.

Possible Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:

- Student Government Policy Change: Stipend for council members.