

**Date:** 31 Aug 2015

**Time:** 6.30PM-8.30PM

**Venue:** Elm Dining Hall Anteroom

**Note-Taker:** Feroz

**Presiding Officer:** Bing

**Attendance:** Bing, Zach (left early), Qis, Dave, Yongzhi, Feroz (late: Common Curriculum Dinner Table), Tee (late: CC Dinner Table), Maria (late), Ami (late), Jared (late)

**Present:** Izzy

**Absent:** Jay

**Agenda:**

- Idea for Centralisation of school resources
- Dining Hall Committee Briefing
- IFG Shirt Situation
- Website Debrief
- Academics report
- Review Panel for Student-organised Events
- Feedback

**Summary:** In this meeting, we discussed Izzy Ngo’s (‘19) idea for a platform that centralises of school resources for the common curriculum classes and that may eventually branch out to support various other student groups. We also received updates the new student government website, regarding the IFG t-shirt situation after having received responses from administration, information on dining hall spaces and meetings with the dining hall committee as well as an upcoming DoS hiring talk on Tuesday, 8 Sept, 2-2.45pm and 2.45-3.30pm which students are encouraged to attend. A report on academics at Yale-NUS will be submitted to Dean Bailyn on Friday morning with meal-time discussion tables for students to air their views on their classes thus far. The student government will also be clarifying school-wide policies on absenteeism from classes due to student-organised events during term time.

Agenda	Discussion Points	Action
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<p>Idea for Centralisation of school resources</p>	<p><u>Idea for Centralisation of school resources (Izzy '19)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. She would like to start a platform more formal than facebook to communicate about the common curriculum</li> <li>2. The impetus for the centralisation comes from the divergence/difference between different sections, different years etc. This creates a need for consistency that students are trying to solve on a grassroots level.</li> <li>3. Sensing from DFs and RCAC is that yes, she has support from these bodies. Current status: team of 3 students are working on the project.</li> <li>4. Genesis of project:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Whatsapp groups for each class.           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. e.g. CSI class - “what’s the need for different types of power”, arranging study groups, taking photos of whiteboard diagrams, etc.</li> <li>ii. From there, people are desiring centralised platforms where they can see OTHER seminar groups beyond their own.</li> <li>iii. Izzy wants to create 4 facebook groups, one for each CC Sem 1 subject, and have these be a source/place for people to upload their notes.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through this, she seeks to create a culture of communal learning in the school and have this culture be perpetuated for future years.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Help from govt requested: the authority + legitimacy to turn facebook groups into a major endeavour.</li> <li>6. Another obstacle faced: faculty involvement. Especially regarding issues like plagiarism, Izzy needs to get faculty in the loop       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Feroz: Are you aware of Facebook Academic Resource Hub?           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Izzy: Yes but we need something more centralised, more official, to add on to that. I want to set of a culture that makes everything more efficient and centralised.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>7. Dave: Do you worry if this will disincentivize people from taking notes?</li> </ol>	<p>Follow-up from Izzy where necessary.</p> <p>No govt-level action required.</p>
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	<p>a. Izzy: People who need it anyway would want to take notes. I want to start with Common Curriculum first. Thinking of something visual, casual and social, with links to contact people who put it up there.</p> <p>8. YZ: Beyond pooling of resources, what kind of centralisation are you pushing for?</p> <p>a. Izzy: Mostly, it's just resources. If anything else is added, that's an unintended consequence.</p> <p>9. Dave: There are a variety of options right now to communicate/have discussions, e.g. Canvas boards, IVLE forum, Government's website, etc.</p> <p>a. One meaningful suggestion is a commons.yale-nus.edu.sg website, through which participation is restricted to matriculated YNC students.</p> <p>i. This also uses Wordpress, which would potentially be an efficient way to provide content.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Izzy: is Commons the go-to for creating websites in YNC? potential for 9gag/reddit-esque mediums.</li> <li>2. Dave: right now, this is the case for student groups. KidsAccomplish, GCC, Week 7 -- all of these have commons websites.</li> </ol> <p>ii. Izzy: is centralising a desirable aim to begin with?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yongzhi: beyond pooling of resources, what does this centralisation mean?</li> <li>2. Izzy: updates and announcements, student organisation activities, links to canvas, links to clubs and groups -- one go-to page, a one-stop shop where all resources are accessible.</li> <li>3. Dave: this kind of endeavour is in the spirit of the Common Curriculum -- it's a concretiser/multiplier of the conversations e.g. about Nietzsche that happen organically in the dining hall.</li> </ol>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The idea of it evolving and becoming a platform for announcements is even better - a platform for announcements is even more needed now, given that College students page is getting extremely cluttered.</li> <li>4. Tee: centralisation has the potential to be much more efficient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. However, faculty buy-in is important.</li> <li>b. The administration seems to be broadly supportive (e.g. DFs), but, going forward, we do not know if their enthusiasm may flag.</li> <li>c. The more important discussion may not be about the design of the website, but of the type of support that the government can render.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Dave: many universities in the UK have similar internet infrastructure for updates, assignments etc.</li> <li>iii. YZ: are there existing resources that can provide the information to people that you can <b>direct</b> people to, rather than replace? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dave: there's nothing really inter-class - the next best thing we have right now is the Academic Resource Hub, which is used in a much more casual frame.</li> <li>2. Izzy: Common Curriculum resource sharing can be a smaller, faster project that has potential to expand (and include/direct to other resources) later on.</li> <li>3. YZ: so, is peer-to-peer sharing of resources (in the status quo) insufficient for the needs of the school? Do the academic demands of courses require or encourage certain levels of peer-to-peer sharing?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dave: it varies a lot from section to section, class to class. BUT: there's no way of rectifying teaching differences.</li> <li>b. Izzy: especially for SI, a section being taught by an expert on that particular topic will be in a much better position - and can potentially share its notes to make it better for others who are not in the seminar group.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. Tee: what kind of resources can the government provide? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. e.g. Dave's experience with Commons,</li> <li>2. Do they need funds?</li> <li>3. Ground sensing from the government, especially re: faculty opinion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>v. Bing: why is faculty buy-in necessary? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. if this is going to be a facet of the student experience of the CC, then it's important for faculty to know and understand.</li> </ul> </li> <li>vi. Dave: regarding continuing the culture, it could be crucial to have classes make their notes accessible to the classes that come after them e.g. 2019 shares with 2020, etc.</li> <li>vii. Izzy: students will always be different, and interactions between students and the content will always differ.</li> <li>viii. Maria (via Tee): Potential for tie-in with the new Student Services Centre soon to be started up.</li> </ul> <p>b. CONCLUSION: Government supports the venture.</p>	
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Website Debrief	<p><u>Website Debrief</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Info for Meet the Team, Projects, etc still needs to be updated.</li> <li>2. Dave was unable to do the Resources page, due to a delay in getting information. It is currently in progress.</li> <li>3. Both General Assemblies (arrowed to Qis and Maria) still missing from Projects page.</li> <li>4. All govt members encouraged to add projects.</li> <li>5. Polling system: is it confusing (for people to use)? Turnout has not been up to par.</li> <li>6. Tee: the interface of the polling system may be causing some confusion. Greying of text/buttons causes students to think their vote has already been cast. Otherwise, students generally think the polling system is fine. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dave will adjust the interface to possibly make the polling options and status clearer.</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. How do we drive volume of poll respondents up? What are the current issues preventing uptake of poll system for students? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maria: all juniors are extremely busy, freshmen have yet to encounter many of the issues being polled for.</li> <li>b. Dave: we'll keep old surveys open in the archives for people to vote. We can boost/highlight different questions at different times.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>All government members</b> to provide Dave with necessary information for the bios, profiles and projects page.</p> <p><b>Dave &amp; comms</b> : look into technical questions about voting system</p> <p><b>Comms</b> to work on integrating Google form with feedback system.</p>
Academic Report (Tee)	<p><u>Academic Report</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student participation has not been great thus far, so we have decided to hold meal tables (lunch and dinner) for students to sit with us and air their views.</li> <li>2. Student Advisory Group + Government + Public Reps + other sit-in students will be a broadly representative census of the student body, or at least much more representative than the previous arrangement.</li> <li>3. Drafting is starting currently, and the report is due by Friday morning @ 2am, at Dean Bailyn's office.</li> <li>4. Tee: would more government members like to participate in mealtime</li> </ol>	<p><b>Comms</b> to publicise discussion times on the Facebook page.</p>

	<p>discussions?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Always at noon for lunch, and at 6pm for dinner in Saga Dining Hall at rectangular configuration of tables. Ongoing for the next 2 days.</li> <li>b. Maria, Tee: Academics has a duty allocation for manpower.</li> </ol> <p>5. Dave: what about the academics poll on the website? currently has 37 respondents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tee: we will combine poll results into each area of survey, and then use those findings to lend weight to related suggestions.</li> <li>b. We will combine qualitative and quantitative feedback in the formulation of the report.</li> <li>c. Government assistance in <b>proofreading the report</b> would be very useful. More publicity and ‘pulling people’ to the discussions would help to make discussions more representative as well.</li> </ol>	
Dining Hall Committee Update	<p><b><u>Dining Hall Update</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dining Hall Committee would like to meet with Student Government by the end of next week.</li> <li>2. Suggestion for Monday’s meeting, either during or before.</li> <li>3. The hallway between Saga and Elm dining hall will be locked and no movement through the corridor will be allowed.</li> </ol>	
IFG T-shirt Updates	<p><b><u>IFG T-Shirt Updates</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IFG Committee was initially told by Casey and EVP Tai Yong that the Office of the President gives permission for students not to wear the new IFG shirts, because the school is unsatisfied with the design.</li> <li>2. However, because the Committee had made the decision that everyone should wear the shirts, the Office of the President wished to honour that decision.</li> <li>3. The IFG Committee was asked whether they would inform the student body of the permission given by the President’s Office. There exists an understanding between the administrations that the old IFG T-shirts will be acceptable for the remainder of the games.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Yongzhi and Zach</b> to follow up on :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deadline for IFG committee to inform student body</li> <li>2. Understanding</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Bing, Tee: (Our participation as a faculty in the IFGs) sends a conflicting signal that should be discussed with the larger population.</li> <li>5. Dave: <b>Identity Committee</b> can focus on building on this discussion further.</li> <li>6. Zach: It's important to note that the YNC admin is not happy with the status quo, and that the government can work with the admin to push this issue forward.</li> <li>7. Tee: Is this a potential Town Hall issue? It also has potential for a General Assembly discussion.</li> </ol>	<p>between President's Office &amp; NUS : who has the right to authorise students <i>not</i> wearing the shirts.</p>
Dean of Students' Search	<p><u>8th September 2-245pm, 2.45-3.30PM: next DoS search meal</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Another DoS candidate presentation will be happening 8th September, 2-2.45pm, 2.45-3.30pm.</li> <li>2. Can we ask professors to excuse students in order to drive signups? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Jared - from DoS, no.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Government members to indicate their availability.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Jared</b> to put up a call on Slack for more participation and info re: availability.</p> <p><b>Jared</b> to obtain written explanation from DOS for students being late to class</p>
Review Panel for Student Organisations' Events	<p><u>Review Panel to decide if Student Events can be approved</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Yongzhi and Jared declare conflict of interest.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Room for general policy</b> for absences overall. Perhaps the Vice-Rectors note can be used as a more applicable tool.</li> <li>3. When IFGs clashed with a PPT essay deadline, the Vice-Rector wrote a vice-rectors note to extend the deadline for those involved, but there was a faculty backlash.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Student Orgs Comm:</b> <i>long term policy.</i> Discuss with administration the general policy on</p>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Tee: there should be an overarching policy, but this should be applied across the school, not within each seminar group. Guidelines can be set, but professors should not be micromanaged for each absence.</li> <li>5. Dave: having a co-ordinating body helps to alleviate vast differences between professors. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Problem of faculty, VRs, and DOS unilaterally deciding Yale-NUS's "strategic interests."</li> <li>b. But, it should not be up to the panel to discuss what is in Yale-NUS' best interests.</li> <li>c. Government needs to come up with a response (a position they advocate for) and then push for this response with the administration.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Tee: Acads cannot front this initiative, owing to conflicts of interest. Student orgs should head.</li> <li>7. Maria: it's not fundamentally an academics concern.</li> <li>8. Tee: More broadly, student grades are being affected. If we as a government judge this to be unfair, then our duty is to advocate for the students' interests.</li> <li>9. Dave: what's problematic about admin's response is that it appears to be a blanket response to a single event. This seems very arbitrary.</li> <li>10. Student Orgs will deal with larger policy on absences for student events.</li> <li>11. Tee: we should take a vote on government's action in the short term to deal with the effect to students. Either craft out how we're dealing with this now, or give IPA for some kind of action, then allow Acads/Orgs to deal with the issue further. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Speak to Dean of Faculty about this specific issue, and ask whether or not this is the correct way to deal with absences <b>incurred as a result of YMA</b>. Is it alright for professors to have a meeting and penalise students to whom they have already given prior consent to miss their class?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>absences due to student life.</p> <p><b>Student Orgs (Feroz) and Academics (Tee)</b> to discuss with FoS teaching team regarding YMA absences.</p>
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	<p>b. What about situations where a student misses many classes for ad-hoc reasons but is not penalised, but a student who misses a single class as a result of an event may be penalised.</p> <p>12. MOTION: The Student Government recommends that the FoS teaching team revert to their original decision of allowing <b>individual professors the autonomy to deal with absences</b> as a result of YMA. Where a professor has made a prior agreement with a student to excuse absences, the Government believes that they should honour that agreement.</p> <p>a. VOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Yes: Tee, Ami, Dave, Bing, Maria, Jared, Qis, Feroz</li> <li>ii. No:</li> <li>iii. Abstain: Yongzhi</li> </ul>	
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RC^3's spoons activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. It problematises consent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Since RC^3 entered suites without permission from those living in the space</li> <li>ii. It was a default opt-out game vs opt-in</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. NUS students using the YNC Library are disruptive and occupy spaces without being present.</li> <li>3. Infra entering into suites, and entering individual rooms without consent.</li> <li>4. Dining Hall hours - dinner and lunch. Dinner has already been clarified, lunch is still pending.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Living (Yongzhi)</b> to handle spoon : intrusion into privacy</p> <p><b>Community Living (Dave)</b> to handle question of NUS students in YNC library.</p> <p><b>Community Living</b></p>

		<b>(Yongzhi)</b> to handle Infra entering suites.
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**Agenda for our next meeting:**

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