

Date: 12 Oct 2015

Time: 2.00PM-3.00PM

Venue: Kewalram Chanrai Dining

Hall

Note-Taker: Dave

Presiding Officer: Tee

Attendance: Dave, Tee, Adila, Anandita, Tamara, Jay (leaves early), Sara, Qi Siang, Avery, Daniel Silverman, Feroz, Yongzhi, Maria

Absent: Subhas, Isabel, Matthew, Swarnima,

Agenda:

- Articles discussion
 - Pre-Amble
 - Duties and Powers
 - Structure
 - Roles

Summary:

Agenda	Discussion Points	Action
Articles	<p>Background:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tee: current articles are<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Preambleb. Duties/Powersc. Structured. Rolese. Elections (including bi-elections)f. Judiciary	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Removal from Office h. Petitions i. Amendment Procedures j. Ratification Procedures k. Meeting and Voting Procedures l. Dissolution m. Definitions <p>2. Tee: We shall go article by article and seek comments</p>	
Preamble	<p>Preamble</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qi Siang: Should have aspirational qualities, give higher principles that can be used to interpret the constitution. (e.g. values) 2. Avery: Someone should just draft this and then we can comment 3. Feroz: Do we include this information later? 4. Avery: Most other student constitution have something similar 	
Duties and Powers	<p>Duties/Powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tee: Need to distinguish between powers and duty. Welcome for current government to discuss current powers and duty 2. Feroz: What is the current student organisation funding solution? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dave: Not discussed but Dean McAdoo says DOS is interested in dissolving this to students 3. Yongzhi: Could leave this decision to government or student body 4. Five options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Student Government do none of it b. Student Government does all of it 	

- c. Student Government and DOS collaborate
- d. Student Government just take over funding
- e. Student Government just take over recognition

- 5. Feroz: The case for making the government doing it is that a separate body of students is going to be less transparent and less accountable. These committees are not done by election. Having the government do all of this circumvents this problem.
- 6. Avery: With this the students would know who to be angry with
- 7. Maria: Another pro for having the student government do it, is that it will be much more representative
- 8. Sara: At the bare minimum recognition and budget should be joint, so that there is overlap
- 9. Tee: My feeling is that money is power, so that is power

Straw Poll:

- a. Student Government do none of it
 - i. 0/5
- b. Student Government does all of it
 - i. 5/5
- c. Student Government and DOS collaborate
 - i. 3/5
- d. Student Government just take over funding
 - i. 0/5
- e. Student Government just take over recognition
 - i. 0/5

	<p>10. Maria: can reinforce key values from preamble (accountability , transparency etc.) can be reinforced as a duty</p> <p>11. Qi Siang: Should we add a sub-clause to suggest powers to legislate and arbitrate disputes</p> <p>12. Anandita: We should differentiate duties between executive, judiciary and legislature</p> <p>13. Qi Siang: We could alternatively split these into three sections and then have a universal duties/powers section.</p> <p>14. Devil’s Advocate: May be worth splitting duties and powers, with duties as general and powers as specific</p> <p>15. Maria: Doesn’t think relationship and collaboration with NUS and Yale should be written into the constitution. I don’t think it needs to be taken up by government as a specific duty</p> <p>16. Dave: Could make it a more general duty to do with liaising with external parties on behalf of student body</p> <p>17. Qi Siang: General assemblies can invest new powers into student government</p> <p>18. Dave: General assemblies are low attendance. Perhaps this belongs in the amendment procedure</p>	
Structure	Structure	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tee: What is the purpose of an article that deals with structure? 2. Maria: Some purpose to having a standardised structure but there's also some benefit in having team dynamics dictate the structure. 3. Tee: For the benefit of the government members, we have chosen to go for a hierarchical structure 4. Qi Siang: Personally I think this article is necessary to delineate powers and make it clear to the student body 5. Tee: with that in mind, should we merge structure and roles 6. Avery: They seem similar, but structure is a simple cheat shee method 7. Tee: Yongzhi mentioned a diagram 8. Dave: Structure outlines relationship with judiciary and the committee structure 9. Dave proposes purpose: "deliniate relationships between individual bodies of the government" <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Avery seconds 	
Roles	<p>Name of chief-executive</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tee: Do we need to change this? I like it but could bring in connotations with corporations 2. Daniel: Perhaps change the names to councillor? Makes the roles clearer 3. Devil's Advocate: Prime-minister and president are not that loaded. There are some associations (e.g. chancellor has associations in academia, chairman maybe has communist associations and president perhaps has connotations with more power) 	

4. Daniel: suggest chief councillor
5. Qi Siang: suggests Chief councillor

Options:

1. Chief executive
 - a. 0
2. Prime minister
 - a. 0
3. President
 - a. 4
4. First minister
 - a. 2
5. Chairman
 - a. 0
6. Chief minister
 - a. 1
7. Chancellor
 - a. 0
8. First director
 - a. 3
9. Chief councillor
 - a. 0
10. First councillor
 - a. 0

President wins

Powers and roles of President

1. Avery: do we need keeping on task? Similar to meeting structure
2. Sara: Yes, as it is needed to ensure they are handling their project

3. Qi Siang: Perhaps delegate powers to anyone, not just vice-chief executive
4. Tee: No mention of long-term direction?
5. Tamara: Should they have to review reports?
6. Qi Siang: We should say that they are the final point of accountability in the student body

Vice-President

1. Tee: any problems?
2. Avery: Do we want to have anything that the vice-president does that is unique?
3. Devil's Advocate: Gives them a unique perspective. But what happens if they come into conflict?
4. Qi Siang: Says could be symptomatic of the current structure
5. Anandita: Could be a problem of the chief-executive delegating duties to anyone, because then they may delegate them all to someone that isn't the vice-president
6. Qi Siang: Do we even need a vice-president?
7. Anandita: Having one allows for two different opinions, but to do that we would need to give them powers
8. Yongzhi: There is use to them even if you don't have powers. Also, there are plenty of checks and balances to deal with disagreements

Secretary

1. Tee: Do we need a secretary
2. Daniel: Should we put secretary and treasurer under directors?

Meeting closed

Agenda for our next meeting:

- Amendments
- Article Discussion Continued

Reminders/ Updates