

Date: 21 Oct 2015

Time: 20.00PM-22.00PM

Venue: KC Room

Note-Taker: Dave

Presiding Officer: Tee

Attendance: Dave, Tee, Adila, Anandita, Avery, Swarnima, Jay, Sara (late), Isabel, Matthew (late), Qi Siang (late)

Absent: Tamara

Agenda:

- Release articles first for public comment when they're done - discussion
- Budget concerns for gov term + seniors can't run? (Dave to raise Yale model of election)
- Feroz and maria - concern about constituency (Classes)
- Consider remaining sections of constitution

Summary:

The Constitution Review Committee discussed the process for article drafting and release and decided to release the articles as and when they were done, with rationale. The committee then discussed the recent concerns raised by the DOS about the budget allocation and how that ties in with the financial year. The committee decided to not change the election timing, but to instead create a separate budget committee, which could be comprised of both incoming and outgoing members of government during the transition, before the start of the next financial year. The committee then went on to discuss a concern raised about class representation, but decided that they felt it was suitably addressed in the status quo. The committee ended by discussing the judiciary and deciding on a chief-justice who would be appointed by an election within the judiciary.

| Agenda | Discussion Points | Action |
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| <p>Release articles first for public comment when they're done - discussion</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tee: Yes? 2. Everyone present: Yes 3. Avery: Can I also do a reasons you should care about the constitutio poster? 4. Tee: Yes that's good! | <p>Publicitytrinity to come out with reasons campaign</p> |
| <p>Budget concerns for gov term + seniors can't run?</p> | <p><u>Budget Timing Concerns</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tee: DOS is ok for government to handle the money. Our meeting with DOS raised a concern about the financial year and the effects this would have on our current election timings. 2. Dave: There are other ways to deal with it like a separate committee, but you then have the issue of legitimacy 3. Swarnima: Also the issue that people may not be experienced with finances. If you have a committee you could have some handover 4. Avery: The only way you could do this is by literally syncing up the elections with the election timings. You could also have a committee of students where the director changes, as the government changes. 5. Tee: Sentiment is that we don't want to change but should have some check and balance <p><u>Seniors can't run</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Dave: Have we considered that seniors won't be able to run in the current model. Could make byelections normalised 7. Avery: Issue with that is that the byelection people wouldn't have the ability to run for president. Could have 1 sem long terms? 8. Ananditta: Then there will be no stability. 9. Devil's Advocate: Possibility of Oxford model¹. Election model really difficult due to need for stability and need to include | |

¹ The Oxford Model refers to... <insert filler here> pls explain dis british method of gov

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| | <p>Dave: Yale model</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Run at end of academic year. 2. Handover doesn't occur until the end of second semester - allowing the incoming government members to prep over the summer 3. Stops first years from running until the very end of the academic year 4. New government works over the summer 5. Prevents losing interest over the summer 6. Modification: First years run once we start? 7. Jay: Exacerbate the study abroad term. Can't run for entire academic year. 8. Dave: Bad for first years and rising juniors 9. Matthew: might not work 10. Avery: Proposes a mixed system, where some people run for just one term and others run for two. 11. Tee: let's just think of as many suggestions as possible 12. Dave's Mixed System Suggestions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Just chief executive and vice-chief executive serve for two semesters, everyone else serves for one b. Officers serve for one term, Directors/VP/P for two? 13. Tee: Commitment tied to rank 14. Devil's Advocate: This system brings in electoral accountability. Now there isn't any. 15. Sara: Might be a good system but we did allow the President to choose whichever method they want, so they could be drawing names out of a hat. 16. Dave: Flexibility for officer appointment means that they could just make everyone directors 17. Devil's Advocate: You could have a vote of confidence system² | |
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² Incumbent President stays on unless there is a challenger

18. Matthew: You could do this as either an external or internal vote. This could address the issue that the President and Vice-President would be the most experienced members.
19. Avery: Is that a bad thing?
20. Adila: What if they don't want to stay on?
21. Avery: Then they can resign.
22. Devil's Advocate: Let's do a pros and cons of the semester-long vs year long for President. What are the outcomes for the government in executing its job?

| | Semester-Long | Year-Long |
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| Pros | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accountability 2. Flexibility | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long-term plans 2. Less voter fatigue 3. Better timed elections 4. Stable 5. Adjustment period |
| Cons | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjustment period 2. Stability Problem 3. Time of Elections 4. Voter fatigue 5. No long-term plan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less accountable 2. Less flexible |

23. Devil's Advocate: What about the mixed systems? Issues is that we run into lots of problems with the year-long system based on the current government structure. The question is whether or not mixed or semester-long system can solve these?
24. Avery: Having the two tiered system makes byelections expected.
25. Tee: We also need to consider whether or not seniors want to run, given cap-stone.

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| | <p>26. Matthew: Doesn't concern me as much, since seniors will get to serve for an amount of time.</p> <p>27. Devil's Advocate: Pressing concern is whether it is valuable to have second semester senior represented in the government.</p> <p>28. Sara: Given the current composition of the student body, I think it would be valuable to have them.</p> <p>29. Avery: If seniors leave after their semester, would the first years then get to run in Semester?</p> <p>30. Anandita: I think this is a pro</p> <p>31. Swarnima: Issue is it could become a popularity contest.</p> <p>32. Avery: But there probably won't be many seniors, plus the first years can learn</p> <p>33. Sara: I would have thought you just have that as first years, so as to give them some representation</p> <p>34. Matthew: Are you comfortable with a campaign that won't have much campaigns relating to issues? Are you comfortable with fast tracking incumbency.</p> <p>35. Devil's Advocate: Is our current election issues based?</p> <p>36. Tee: There are many other ways to get representation</p> <p>37. Isabel: Could be a senior committee.</p> <p>38. Tee: Let's do a straw poll on whether we should change the current election clause significantly?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Yes: 1b. No: 5 <p>39. Tee: Then let's act on the assumption that we won't change the election clause significantly.</p> <p>40. Dave: I think we can deal with the issues with other suggestions.</p> <p>41. Tee: Let's look at these one at a time (budget issue, senior representation and study abroad). How do we address the budget issue?</p> | |
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- a. Set up a budget committee?
 - i. Qi Siang: Lacks legitimacy
 - b. Could use the outgoing government members?
 - i. Anandita: Takes care of accountability
 - ii. Dave: This can give some training time
 - iii. Sara: How would this work?
 - 1. Tee: Can have it just be a changing director position
 - c. Could just ignore the financial year
 - i. Dave: causes problems for legitimacy and student organisations
 - ii. Matthew: What about NUS finance?
 - iii. Tee: Could well end up with these issues. However, DOS might deal with some of these.
 - iv. Sara: Would this change with the new Dean?
 - v. Dave: Possibly but they would have to actively take it back
 - d. Could have outgoing members and not-elected members on the committee. A mixed system
 - i. Qi Siang: Allows for collaboration between new and old government. Also gives the new government a check and balance system
42. Tee: Need to consider which is best for the student organisations. In separate committee you can force representation from the public. This could be worth considering.
43. Sara: Could force representation from the officers and directors from different areas of student life
44. Tee: Let's do a straw poll on these options
- a. Separate budget committee independent of government
 - i. Yes: 0

b. Outgoing government members handle finance until end of the financial year

i. Yes: 6

c. Status Quo

i. Yes: 0

d. Mixed System of outgoing and new government members

i. Yes: 7

45. Tee: Going for mixed system

46. Matthew: What about this term?

47. Tee: We need to specify that for this specific term the current budget committee will continue to exercise its duties until the end of the financial year.

48. Tee: We need to come up with bylaws that the government can come up with at a meeting.

49. Devil's Advocate: We need to specify in the bylaws when this term should end.

50. Tee: What about the seniors problem and study abroad?

a. Avery: Have the status quo where people can run (but not for president) and leave, triggering a byelection, which can then be held the next year. These people would not be able to be president.

(Tee leaves and hands over convening power to Isabel)

b. Matthew: I see the problem you're trying to fix, but is it ok to stop these people from running for President. Creates more complication.

c. Anandita: Doesn't show the commitment necessary

d. Qi Siang: Not necessarily the case, it might be that they lost the initial election

e. Sara: What's the problem with this?

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Qi Siang: Just contest the idea that they didn't have the commitment g. Matthew: Just realised, this is not an issue, due to the two stage process. h. Qi Siang: What if the president wants to resign? i. Dave: Hold a byelection. j. Devil's Advocate: Can put in a recall clause. <p>51. Isabel: Let's hold a straw poll on this issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are we ok with the status quo to address this issue? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Yes: 8 ii. No: 0 | |
| <p>Feroz and maria - concern about constituency (Classes)</p> | <p><u>Background</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Devil's Advocate: Push back from members of the government (Feroz and Maria) about class constituencies. No one concerned about RC constituencies. Their concerns were that under the current system the entire government would be first years. <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Sara: You could have officers for each class 3. Anandita: We also talked about committee representation 4. Tee: How many people think that we have adequately considered this? - 5 people raise hands - Do you think the government has raised any new concerns? 5. Devil's Advocate: It is worth noting that if the government doesn't support the new constitution then it is likely it won't get ratified. | |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Tee: Don't dwell on this too much however, since the members are just two of 500. I suspect we will also run through each clause with the government 7. Matthew: Considering this, I think we have already discussed whether upper classes will be represented. Feroz and Maria seem concerned around election representation, but I suspect we will likely get equal vote share for the upper class candidates. Issue could be with how many candidates run, but by having forced representation won't force that. 8. Devil's Advocate: They were concerned that there will be more first years so they will be able to overpower it 9. Dave: Anyone want to motion to change it in light of this? 10. Tee: No one has so lets move on | |
| Voters Perspective | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Devil's Advocate: I haven't raised this yet. What will it be like as a voter to have to choose between so many candidates? 2. Tee: Already discussed with the ranking system. We can choose an number for ranking 3. Devil's Advocate: Options are letting them ranking as many people as they want or having an arbitrary number 4. Tee: Didn't we agree on letting them rank as many as they want. | |
| Remaining Constitution Clauses | <p><u>Judiciary</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avery: Do we want a chief justice? How would they be appointed? Their role would be to ensure that the judiciary stay on task. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Avery: Could be elected from the selected judiciary members? | |

- b. Sara: Could be elected separately by the student body and serve as a member of the government as an ex-officio (no voting power).
2. Tee: Do we want a chief justice?
 - a. Motion by acclaim
3. Tee: Sara's method suggests they have more than convening powers
4. Sara: They wouldn't have more powers or say
5. Avery: Would be both convener and point person
6. Anandita: Would they contest separately as chief justice or would they be from the judiciary?
7. Matthew: By having elections for the judiciary, means it would be different from current procedure
8. Avery: Problems with elections are talent pool dilution, all the issues we raised with the previous discussion on elections and the mandate could give them more dominating power.
9. Tee: Everyone is ok with them just being a convener?
10. Qi Siang: Extra powers could be used for breaking deadlock but by having 9 that should address that.
11. Anandita: Why do you want them to be elected by the student body?
12. Sara: Because the extra responsibility of attending government meetings might mean they aren't interested.
13. Avery: I think that by having them volunteer they are already showing interest.
14. Qi Siang: I don't think going to the government meeting is that much of an extra responsibility.
15. Matthew: Currently the chief justice and all members of the judiciary have that power, unless we modify them. Government has to make meetings open to public.
16. Sara: I think someone elected is more accountable for doing this.

17. Avery: We could have a clause that a member of the judiciary shall attend every government meeting. I think this is a big responsibility to put on just the chief justice.
18. Tee: Any other appointment options? If not we will do a poll between the two of them?
- a. Matthew: Could have consensus
 - b. Tee: Anointed by God?
 - c. Dave: Meritocracy?
 - d. Matthew: Could have acclimation for consensus
 - i. Devil's Advocate: Consensus usually is that you do blind balloting until someone reaches consensus. We would need to lock them in a room for this.
19. Options:
- a. Formal election within judiciary
 - i. Yes: 6
 - b. Formal election within student body
 - i. Yes: 1
 - c. Consensus
 - i. Yes: 4
 - d. Consensus by acclamation
 - i. Yes: 0
20. Tee: We are going for formal election within judiciary.

Procedure

- 1. Devil's Advocate: Can I say that we don't recreate procedures as it takes so long. Could force a specific type of procedure or let it be up to their decision. Can force specific procedures in constitution.

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| Need for Meetings | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sara: Is everyone ok with Sunday nights 2. Tee: OK we have an 8-10pm on Sunday night 3. Avery: Are we continuing Monday meetings? 4. Tee: I am sensing that people aren't keen to attend Monday meeting 5. Dave: But we have gotten stuff done. <p>Tee will decide on Monday meeting</p> | |
| To do before next meeting | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comment on all the articles before the next meeting. | |

Agenda for our next meeting:

- Vote on articles

Reminders/ Updates