

Date: 2 Nov 2015

Time: 6.30PM-8.30PM

Venue: Elm Dining Hall Anteroom

Note-Taker: Yongzhi

Presiding Officer: Tee

Attendance: Bing, Zach, Qis, Dave, Yongzhi, Feroz, Tee, Maria, Ami, Jay, Jared

Present: Ami, Bing, Dave, Feroz, Jared (late), Maria (late: CIPE), Qis, Tee, Yongzhi

Absent: Jay (personal reasons), Zach (Writing Conference)

Agenda:

- Committee Update
 - Identity/Mascot Update
- Constitution Review Contingency
- GSpot Sexual Assault Policy Update

Summary: At this meeting, student government shared updates ranging from feedback from halloween events and GSpot's upcoming Sexual Assault Forum to continued security issues in our residential spaces. The government also voted on amendments to the current constitution as failsafes should the new constitution not be ratified: 1) that our government will remain in power until the new government is elected to ensure a smooth and effective transition and 2) a by-law will be added to stipulate that there will be a total of 3 class representatives on the new government, one per class, to ensure equal representation across classes. This will reduce the membership of government to 10.

Agenda	Discussion Points	Action
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<p>Committee Updates</p>	<p><u>Committee Updates</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Living Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Library lamp lighting is too dim. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. There will be an update about this after their next meeting. b. There should not be separate RC end-of-semester dinners but rather one as a school. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. It was decided a long time ago by school administration that this was not feasible with current school facilities. c. Halloween decorations were not well-received by members of the community. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. DoS' view: the lifts are a controversial space where freedom of speech should be preserved but parts of the decorations should be removed for reasons of safety e.g. the red film over the lights in case any individuals maybe trapped in the lift ii. The film was removed by an individual before the DoS decided to do so. 2. Communications Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Feedback <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Library situation with NUS students' crowding the space has not eased. ii. NUS students were found in Cendana's common lounge which is delineated as a private residential space. They had initially refused to leave. b. Yongzhi has made an avenue for student government to claim reimbursements for printing. 3. Constitution Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This Sunday, the constitution review board will be having a marathon to review and refine existing clauses/ sections for dissemination on Monday (in print to suites and online). 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. MOTION: Request for welfare funding i.e. food and drinks for Constitutional Amendment on 8 November 2015. Government present has given In-Principle Agreement to do so. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES: 9 in favour ii. MOTION: Request for government to allow budgeting for printing of Constitution for all suites in Yale-NUS College. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES: 9 in favour. <p>b. Meeting times for this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Wednesday, 8pm, ii. Thursday, 9pm, iii. Sunday, 10/11am. <p>4. Identity update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Mascot Survey has been launched last night. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reception has been very good with 102 responses today. ii. MOTION: Dave to be given permission to disseminate the identity survey link via email to entire student body. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES: 9 in favour. iii. Approval for mascots through PA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No precedent for cabinet and governing board to reject a unanimous decision by the Cabinet. There is disagreement about vetoing ideas. 2. PA has suggested instead (i) a system of weighted votes with student votes and cabinet votes given a weight OR (ii) the Government presents Cabinet with top three options. 3. There will be a ratification process at the end of it that could possibly overturn the cabinet's decision. iv. Yongzhi, Tee, Maria, and Dave express preference for option B: simpler, will be less problematic with equating many student 	
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	<p>votes with single Cabinet vote, does not subtract from student agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. Feroz and Dave note that option A has the strength in that students can have a say compared to Cabinet veto. vi. MOTION: Government to present the Cabinet with the top three options from the Identity survey for them to pick from. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES: 8 2. NO: Jared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Having a weighted system was more transparent and student voices had equal representation to that of administration. vii. Results visible in Identity folder, Dave has a list of the matriculation numbers of people who have already voted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There will be a system to remove duplicate votes and fake matriculation numbers. <p>b. Inter-Varsity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Basketball (M), Tchoukball, Wakeboarding, Tennis, Netball, and Soccer (M) have been interviewed and indicated interest ii. The committee will need to schedule meetings with Floorball and MMA. iii. Recommendation from Student Organisations committee to ensure the athletics department is kept in the loop such that their views on feasibility and other administrative matters are considered. <p>5. Student Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. PS We Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There has been a petition to lift the openness clause temporarily for recruitment purposes, i.e. they are registered as a student 	
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	<p>organisation but need to have a review of applicants for positions as counsellors by the wellness centre for safety of the applicants and for those seeking counselling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Student Organisations Recognition has a few cardinal principles, including the “Openness Principle,” wherein every student organisation should be accessible to any student in Yale-NUS College. iii. Student Organisations has decided to allow a stay until the end of AY2015/2016, but the case must be reviewed at the end of the academic year. If they remain non-open, they should be de-recognised. iv. Question from Tee: the next Government may have different principles and policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response from Yongzhi: the next Government could re-recognise it if they choose to do so, even if we de-recognise it. v. Question from Dave: should we retain the openness principle? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response from Yongzhi: The rationale for the openness clause is that funding is given to student organisations for the use of students and there should not be any barrier to students accessing these resources. However, the special case of PS We Care and their student-led peer counselling sessions require screening processes for the consideration of the mental and emotional health for all students involved. In this case, there will be qualified psychologists to give their professional opinions on the suitability of an applicant for the role of counsellor. <p>b. Arts Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. IPA from Prof Mark Joyce and Gurjeet Singh 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Meetings are student-led and the council will meet as and when necessary. 	
<p>Constitution Review Contingency</p>	<p><u>Constitution Review Contingency</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possibility of non-ratification of the amendments in constitution review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If we fall back on old constitution it won't work anymore because there will be 4 classes b. Jay suggested that for all government members to look at full and provide any amendments that we want, as part of our internal amendment mechanism. Following this, we release a statement of confidence as endorsement. c. If new constitution is not ratified we will continue to be in power ad infinitum d. Options : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cut-off date and state of no government, ii. Indefinite extension of government. e. Maria, Feroz, Tee, Yongzhi: not ratify implies no go for the new Constitution. f. Amendment of present Constitution. Question of when the government should end, question of class representatives. g. In terms of old constitution, two things to amend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cut-off date ii. Class representatives h. Yongzhi expresses that other than the choices of voting for new constitution and reverting to the old constitution, there should be a third option of voting for no constitution. 2. Amendment of Present Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Possible Dates for cut-off: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 4th December ii. 31st December 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. 31st January b. Maria: there is little difference between the December end dates given that there is typically little done over the break. c. Feroz: We should not step down before the new government is elected as it is our responsibility to ensure a smooth and effective transition d. Yongzhi agrees with Feroz on the condition that the student body has ratified the need for a constitution. If the student body votes against the need for a new Constitution (and government), then the present government should stand down following e. Jared: There should not at all be a need to gather no votes to this constitution. f. MOTION: There should be an option for the student body to reject the existence of a constitution, in the Ratification process for a new Constitution to be held by the end of the Academic year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. YES: Yongzhi (rights) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In this milestone for the ratification of a new constitution at the end of the inaugural Student Government, the Yale-NUS student body has the right to decide on whether there should still exist a Student Government. This option should not be taken away from the student body by the present Student Government, which has a conflict of interest in the matter. The democratic process must be respected. ii. NO: Bing, Feroz, Jared, Tee iii. Abstain: Ami, Dave, Maria, Qistina g. Tee: The point of the sunset clause is to refresh the constitution rather than question the need for a government. h. Yongzhi: What I understood when we ratified the constitution was that the sunset clause existed as a fail-safe against the current constitution. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dave: I understood it in that way as well but I understood it as a chance to refresh the constitution rather than eliminate government entirely j. Yongzhi: I think that the student body should have the autonomy to decide whether they want a student government. In the case that students believe that neither constitution functions, they have the chance to say so. k. Dave: There is already an existing mechanism for students to petition against this current constitution but I have not heard any dissatisfaction about the existence of student government. l. Dave: I can publicise Direct Democracy so that the student body does get a say on the decision, meaning that the decision is not made solely by us, reducing conflict of interest problem. m. IPA has been given by present government to extend the constitution until 31st January until smooth transition into the new government (IPA: 8) n. How will we ensure equal representation across classes given this extension? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Yongzhi: It is important to have at least 2 representatives given that the current government is too small a size for what we'd like to achieve. ii. Dave: It would be good to also have 2 RC representatives per RC. iii. Tee: Let us have 3 representatives per class as a simplest change to the constitution. No political considerations, just mathematics! o. MOTION: To add a by-law that the number of class representatives will be 3, to represent the existence of three classes in Yale-NUS College, in line with the letter of the existing Constitution (which states one representative per class). There will be a total of 10 Government members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. YES: Ami, Bing, Dave, Feroz, Jared, Maria, Qistina, Tee, Yongzhi 	
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	ii. NO: iii. ABSTAIN:	
GSpot	<p><u>GSpot Sexual Assault Policy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The GSpot has invited government members to the Sexual Assault Forum happening this Wednesday, 9 Nov, 7.30-9pm. 2. Daryl also asked if government will assist in the process of building our sexual assault policies should there be a need to collect student feedback for GSpot on sexual assault, as an unbiased party. 	

Agenda for our next meeting:

- Jay's Exhortation
- Committee and Government Structure Review (Tabled)
 - Committees
 - Admin liaisons
- Credit to Government members (Tabled)

Reminders/ Updates