

Date: 12 Aug 2016

Time: 6:15-8pm

Venue: Classroom 14

Note-Taker: Annette

Speaker: Meredith (Skype)/Ross

Attendance: Aadit, Ross, Adam (left 7.15pm), Annette, Meredith (Skype), Scott, Regina

Observers: Sunwoo Nam, Chen Pei, Ryan, Nirali, Michael

Absent: Dee (Sick), Izzy (Full House Concert), Isaac (Full House Concert), Joceline (Full House Concert), Keith (Alumni Concert Prac)

1. Administrative Things (5 minutes)

a. Welcome back!

b. Meredith is skyping, if this fails or skype communication is deemed not adequate to run a meeting, deputy speaker will take over (Ross)

a. Logistics

b. External Communications

2. Presidential (Pericles not Regina) things (35 minutes)

a. Meeting with governing board members Tan Chorh Chuan and Linda Lorimer 14 August

i. Questions to discuss now: (10 minutes each)

1. What do you think are the key challenges that the next President needs to address?

2. What are the key opportunities that should be seized in the next five years to make Yale-NUS College even more successful?

3. What are the attributes we should be looking for in the next President?

ii. Attendance of council members at the meeting (5 minutes)

3. Project/Portfolio updates (40 minutes)

a. President (15 minutes)

i. Updates, reminders, looking ahead

b. Vice President (6 minutes)

- i. Need-based stipend implementation and formalization
 - ii. Other updates, if any
 - c. Academics** (3 minutes)
 - i. Updates, if any
 - d. Student life** (3 minutes)
 - i. Updates, if any
 - e. Events** (3 minutes)
 - i. Updates, if any
 - f. Budget** (3 minutes)
 - i. Updates, if any
 - g. Student orgs** (3 minutes)
 - i. Updates, if any
 - h. Athletics** (3 minutes)
 - i. Updates, if any
- 4. Other (25 minutes)
 - a. CIPE feedback
 - b. SORB transfer to new government
 - c. Elections Committee
 - i. Elections publicity
 - d. Graduation Committee
 - e. Yale ivy leadership conference
 - f. Barney Bate (August 26, 6-7 pm Performance Hall)
 - g. Cat?
- 5. Feedback updates (News around campus, new projects) (10-20 minutes)
 - a. by portfolio when necessary
- 6. Next Agenda (5 minutes)
 - a. Date: August 19

Summary:

In this meeting, the Council discussed pertinent issues to raise at the meeting with Governing Board members for the Presidential Search, such as the key challenges of building an alumni network and ensuring Yale-NUS graduates are ready for post-graduation opportunities, links with other institutions and continuing a strong liberal arts education tradition. The Council also received updates on publicity plans from the Elections Committee, namely an info session for students to find out more about Government and the elections process. Updates on issues such as CIPE feedback, Internet access, feedback about science majors, bins, and the school cat were also discussed. The Government will also be postponing its meeting on Aug 26 by an hour, so Government members can attend the memorial for the late Professor Barney Bate.

Agenda	Discussion Point	Actions taken
	<p>Meeting with governing board members Tan Chorh Chuan and Linda Lorimer 14 August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Ross: What exactly does the president do currently.b. Regina: from what we now he is spending this year trying to secure finance, come up with a budgetc. Scott: organizing stuff, raising funds, looking at options for funding, reconnoitering with NUS and Yale, interacting with various Singaporean government people.b. What do we think are the key challenges that the next president needs to address?<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adam: the next president will have alumni in the school so they will need to help make sure that they can go to grad school...● Scott: they should have a strong background in the liberal arts● Regina: someone with a stronger awareness of Singapore job market● Adam, Scott: That's more to do with CIPE● Regina: But how well is CIPE doing that?● Scott: I think Tan Tai Yong has a good grasp of that but I see why as he might leave in a few years	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Regina: yeah, sometimes who understands in the EVP/P circle at least● Aadit: now that we've moved away from the set up phase, our institutional links with Yale, why is it we have such strong links with Sciences Po but not with our mother institution, like going to Yale on exchange for a year, and not just a semester. Yale-summer session slots – we were provided with none and it was a really last minute thing for us to be given an opportunity to go. Someone equally comfortable with Yale as Pericles.● Ross: it's hard to tell if this is a trend as we have only been here for 4 years, I wonder if staff retention and administration might be an issue to deal with, there seems to be a lot of moving around.● Regina: For the Deans, it did feel this way, but they all left around the same time as their contracts ended at the same time● Scott: This is also true in majors like anthro● Ross: Like Austin● Michael: is it necessarily a bad thing that we have such a high turnover?● Ross: I was speaking more of the administration● Adam: MCS should stand for computational and statistics but there are no statistics professors in this school.● Michael: IDECO was mentioning the lack of movement on the food waste issue. But I felt like that would be a simple thing to do and it wasn't simple and I think that is a problem of the administration.● Regina: From what I know about that issue, it's a more national issue where there is a lack of food waste processing plants nearby? Something that we as a small school would not be able to solve● Scott: President Lewis has always been great at bringing people together, building school identity and residential college identity | |
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- Regina: I think branding is another important thing the new President should work on. Most of the news about Yale-NUS is negative in the mainstream media, and we need stronger comms
- Aadit: Do we still not know who runs the elevators?
- Regina: Elevator policy was decided by the gov board in the building plans for the school if I'm not wrong. So that may be why the current office will not deviate from that policy.
- Aadit: Oh I see. I was going to talk about policy and streamlining. We are a small school we should realistically be able to get things done.
- Regina: maybe some offices are not used to using student feedback, especially if they haven't been used to working in higher education. Something we could try to change.

What key opportunities are there in the next 5 years to make YNC education more successful?

- Michael: resources, so we know how to utilize CIPE to make sure our resumes are really good, we have resources that are unique like going to Malaysia and learning across borders.
- Scott: Asia is only looking better as time passes
- Regina: our smart nation push, there is a lot of money involved in that smart nation push and we could capitalise on that in some way
- Aadit: using this as a point of departure. I feel Pres. Lewis was a genuinely amazing human being, he demonstrated this through things like literature and this shone through. The vibe our school has is very non-technical, it is difficult to even consider this place for some technical students and I think this is damaging in the 21st Century, down to our woeful internet policy. We just don't have opportunities at CIPE from Tech students, we are expected to go find our own opportunities, I

think the new President needs to be more attuned to this – tech, science, maths, all.

- Aadit: NUS is one of the world’s best, in terms of tech education
- Michael: Can you take classes at NUS?
- Aadit: yes
- Adam: Many MCS majors take classes there because there aren’t enough here
- Meredith: do we believe that the opportunities lie in the current student body, or externally?
- Annette: Internally, our alumni network presents an opportunity for growth. Because we the class of 2017 are going to be gone and we won’t meet the future president but I would very much appreciate still having a link to someone who is symbolically very important to our connection to this college. Just supporting and also caring about building up an alumni network and there continued connection to the growing school.
- Regina: if Austin is gone, who is heading alumni affairs?
- Scott: Probably falls back to the EVP Office under Doris
- Scott: it would be useful for us to clarify to the search committee about what we think the new President’s responsibilities are.

What are the attributes we should be looking for in the new President?

- Michael: a question on prestige over attributes. Do we want a President with many titles so our school gains prestige or cares about the school students. Do those go hand in hand or is one more important than the other?
- Scott: No one seems to know or care who the president of Harvard and Stanford is.
- Adam: I think that what the President represents is really important. Like Singaporean or International

- Regina: What about a Singaporean academic with a lot of experience in the Liberal Arts
- Adam: If we had a Singaporean professor, would it make the school seem less internationally focused?
- Scott: Someone with a very calm temperament who can talk to everyone and smooth things over. By and large we've been pretty good.
- Adam: the controversy also comes from Yale, so perhaps having a leader who is authoritarian isn't so good, but especially bad for this particular school
- Scott: I second Adam's point
- Annette: I hope the new president makes an effort to increase dialogue platforms addressing questions with the student body. Platforms addressing issues about the school etc. that involves alumni. Especially when they need to be integrated into the community very quickly. Our closed door dialogue with Ambassador Chan was really great and enlightening and took us to new levels of discussion within the school community. Reducing that power distance and improving communication and learning about the administration would be a really great opportunity of growth for our integrated community that is growing together.
- Scott: We are going to have alumni here for the next three years at least.
- Regina: I think he moved to Presidential receptions instead of town halls
- Regina: I think they should care for the community. Genuinely care and not just be a bureaucrat.
- Aadit: The Maurice Cheung factor
- Scott: New president should be able to at least keep up with President Lewis' running speed
- Ross: Let's move on

Portfolio Updates:

Regina: We have three more meetings before our term ends, and nominations for the next Council end next Sunday. We might have more people interested in joining us next week to find out more about govt. The new council is announced at the end of week 4. Then we will start with the handover. The maximum size of government is 23 and the minimum is ten. Can we discuss holding an info session. Can we have a publicity video?

Scott: We traditionally have a voting process where we log on to canvas from an ipad. Can someone remind me why we don't just ask everyone to vote on canvas?

- o Ryan: is it to create some social pressure to vote?

Sunny: I've never heard about this, how are these nominations happening, it all seems very obscure.

- o Scott: look at the email and the Yale-NUS students page. Isaac and I have yet to sit down and talk about this.

Sunny: how does the campaigning work?

- o Scott: A document explaining this will occur soon, once you are a candidate.

Academics:

Ross: Should I meet with Prof Bernasek, new Dean of Faculty, or leave that to the next government

- o Scott: I think it's okay to leave it...
- o Regina: yeah it is a few weeks...

Ross: I'm going to get back started on the CIPE survey as I couldn't do it during the summer, it was very hectic

Ross: I received a question from 2020 on majors. They were concerned about the way majors are titled, this person was very interested in Chemistry and want their degree to reflect on the fact they did Chemistry and not just 'physical sciences'

- Scott: I get that but one advantage is that a broad degree gives you choices in that way...he is getting a bachelor of science anyway...I was in a similar position....there is a way to work around it (not taken verbatim)

Ross: Will reply him and KIV if more people feel this way

Regina: post summer, does the CIPE feedback we collected still hold?

- Ross: then we could put out another survey. I'd be fine working with someone from the next government to continue it. Regina: It's up to you, we could also just give what we have now so we can conclude it in our term. Worry about whether our feedback will be received well though.

- Scott: The important part is presenting the feedback, if it is not received well we can take it up to a higher level.

Regina: so are we presenting it to Dean Craig?

- Ross: Let's do that

Student life had random feedback from someone who thought we needed more bins around the school

- Aadit: I think the cleanest places on earth are the ones with least bins.
- Scott: They might be concerned about bins on each residential floor. But do they not know about the garbage chute?

○ Aadit: The internet. Ken Panko is apparently leaving. I started the discussion with him and nothing has changed. Usage and access policy, removing ourselves from NUS so we can make our own access policy. They have the right to take away internet access from students, although I'm not sure this has happened. institutional control over access point to information is a big issue elsewhere, even if this is not a problem in the immediate future. Ken Panko said we can buy a bandwidth through NUS, which leaves me to believe it isn't so difficult to get that changed. He's leaving in September and we don't know who is replacing him.

○ Aadit: that's a plea for help. I don't know what to do.

Regina: Follow up with someone below him?

○ Ross: Ken Panko was in ERT stuff and not so much in IT...

○ Aadit: I think it is a larger institutional problem

○ Regina: That no one really cares about?

Ross: it's an issue for any professor who wants to do any big data work

○ Scott: in all seriousness, write an Octant article about it. It's something that not many people know about.

Regina: What about the cat that Infra apparently wants to remove? Isaac asked to put this on the agenda. The students behind the petition seem quite organised already though.

○ Scott: There is a student group for this, YAPAC, so we don't need to intervene

Events

Annette: The handover process. What is our responsibility? Should we be there for the first meeting?

Scott: I don't think this is a bad idea. At least a few people.

Regina: We should introduce the new Council members to members in the administration and faculty we have worked with - because not all may be familiar or have ties with them, and such ties are needed to get things done

Scott: just make sure everything shifts over smoothly

Regina: the info session for the government will be very important, explain the structure, timeline, how the speaker works, sometime before the next week. Non-portfolio specific stuff.

Scott: I'm meeting Isaac on Monday, so we can do it on Thursday? 6:30pm. And we should get those churros.

Regina: So people will come and they will like us.

Ross: it is a way to draw people in

Annette: I see issues here with food culture and the lack of interest in actual events the government does. I'd rather see a small budget going to helping the student government celebrate their work together and having most of the budget going to skills training to improve work in the school government and to people interested in serving government.

Meredith: I agree with Annette. But I think that have having a budget for food here inside (within government) but not food outside (to the school) is not okay. We should probably buy our own. If we don't buy food for our own events is what everyone hates about government in general.

Ross: I don't really feel like this is our fight, we don't have that much time left.

Scott: one, the food culture and people coming to events just for food and that SATS is robbing us blind. I suggest addressing one of those and not both. I'm more than happy to go for cheaper food.

Regina: I see where you're coming from. I'm rather not take the chance on elections info session. But we can choose moderately priced food options.

Annette: okay, we can all negotiate.

Scott: We'll catch up

Regina: Got info about this Ivy Leadership Summit thing. Anyone interested? Also, we keep getting asked to promote stuff to the student body and I think we need a better mechanism for these sorts of things.

Annette: either this or we make a new portfolio or ask someone better suited, like in CIPE to do this.

Regina: True, a lot of these invitations can be sent to CIPE and ask them to promote it. I'll do that.

Action Plan:

Regina: move the Aug 28 meeting by an hour, for Barney Bate's memorial.