

# Yale-NUS College

## Election Code

2016 - 2017 Term

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# Election Code

## Article I: Purpose

The Election Committee was convened pursuant to Article VI of the Yale-NUS College Student Government Constitution. The Constitution compels the Election Committee to “hold, coordinate, and facilitate the election process of the Council and the President in a clear, fair, transparent, and efficient manner.”<sup>1</sup> The following Election Code has been created to fulfill this mandate and “secure for ourselves and all who come after us representation, autonomy, and community.”<sup>2</sup> Recognizing the centrality of free and fair elections to a democratic society and robust Student Government, this Committee shall do whatever is in its power to ensure that this election, and all subsequent ones, will be conducted with integrity, honesty, and transparency.

## Article II: Duties and Powers of the Election Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Yale-NUS College Student Government Constitution, pg. 13

<sup>2</sup> Yale-NUS College Student Government Constitution, pg. 3

- A. The Committee shall execute its Constitutional obligations by considering and implementing the following:
1. Specific timing of nominations as stipulated in Article VI, Section 3 of the Constitution,
  2. Specific timing of elections as stipulated in Article VI, Section 3 of the Constitution,
  3. Process of elections, including reservation of physical spaces, presence of witnesses and tabulation of online votes.
  4. Alter the elections timeline should the need arise, as allowed by Article VI, Section 3 of the Constitution
- B. The Election Committee will disband after the President is officially elected.
- C. The Election Committee comprises the following:
1. Seven impartial arbiters from the student body chosen from a pool of applicants using quotas on RC and class,
  2. Two outgoing Council members acting as committee conveners,
  3. Non-candidate, non-decision making volunteers solicited and delegated by the Election Committee arbiters responsible for the logistical execution of the elections.
- D. The Election Committee meetings will be closed. After meetings, the Election Committee shall publicize all decisions reached, including considerations and rationales that are not tied to the names of members in the meeting.

- E. The Election Committee shall facilitate the formation of the Judiciary simultaneously with the formation of the Council, before the President is elected.
- F. The Election Committee reserves the right to:
  - 1. Sanction candidates for breaches of this Code, including but not limited to:
    - a) Private warnings to candidates,
    - b) Publicly issued warnings naming candidates who have committed breaches,
    - c) Complete removal of a candidate from the ballot for the election,
    - d) Referring a student to the Dean of Students' office for disciplinary action.
  - 2. Alter the composition of, and individuals within the election committee.

### Article III: Nomination and Confirmation of Candidacy

#### A. Nomination

- 1. The nomination period shall be carried out from 12.00 p.m. on the 6th of May 2016 to 11.59 p.m. on the 21st of August 2016.
- 2. All nominations are submitted anonymously.

3. All nominees will be notified of their nomination via e-mail, and their names will be publicized on Facebook and the government website throughout the nomination period.
4. A final list of students nominated for Student Council, together with this Election Code, will be made available to the entire student body after the end of the nomination period.
5. All nominees will also be contacted separately following the end of the nomination period with relevant details, procedures and information for accepting or declining their nomination.

#### B. Confirming Candidacy

1. All nominees who wish to confirm their candidacy must do so by 11.59 p.m. on the 22nd of August 2016.
2. In order to confirm their candidacy, nominees must e-mail the Election Committee stating clearly and unequivocally that they wish to be considered as a candidate for the Election.
  - a) The e-mail address of the Election Committee is [yncelectionscomm@gmail.com](mailto:yncelectionscomm@gmail.com).
3. Candidates must also attach the signed and completed acceptance form, with the following requirements:
  - a) The candidate must place a checkmark next to the clause that states that candidates “have read and agree to all of the terms contained within the Election Code”.
  - b) Any candidate who does not sign and accept the terms of the Election will not be included in the ballot.

4. Candidates may only begin campaigning after they have officially confirmed their candidacy.

## Article IV: Campaign Rules and Regulations

### A. Campaign Period

1. The 2016 Election Campaign shall officially begin at 12:00 a.m. on the 23rd of August 2016. It shall end at 11.59 p.m. on 31st August 2016. However, all expenditure summaries must be submitted by 11.59 p.m. on the 29th August 2016, and thus no more expenditure can occur on campaigning after this point.
2. Candidates may not begin campaigning until after they've accepted their nomination. This includes but is not limited to posters, mass-emailing, and public declarations of candidacy by any means. Note that this period may be before the official campaign period, but is still subject to the same sanctions and scrutiny.
3. No campaigning may take place after 11.59 p.m. on 31st of August 2016.
4. Campaigning material must be removed from polling locations before the start of elections (11.59 p.m. on the 28th of August 2016). Campaign materials must be removed from all other physical locations by 11.59 p.m. on 31st August 2016. Polling locations are specified in Article 5, Section C. Digital campaigning materials needn't be taken down.

5. Offline campaigning (e.g. pinning up posters) is restricted to public spaces. Additionally, candidates may not actively campaign in the dining halls, classrooms, and the inside of butteries.

## B. Resources

### 1. Posters, Posting and Further Campaign Guidelines

- a) All posters in public areas must adhere to the Dean of Students Office (DoS) posting guidelines specifying the restrictions on posting of material<sup>3</sup>.
- b) Candidates are reminded not to enter suites uninvited, as per DoS housing regulations.
- c) All candidates must not tamper with another candidate's material, such as posting on top of another candidate's posters, vandalizing another candidate's posters, and disposing another candidate's posters without their approval. Moving posters within the same vicinity is also not allowed.

### 2. Funding and Expenditure

- a) Candidates must keep a clear, detailed account of their campaign expenditures (including all original receipt copies), and are expected to hand in a summary of their expenditures to the Election Committee by the end of the campaign period.
- b) These accounts will be made publicly available for the student body's perusal.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/policies/student-organisation-policies/>

- c) Failure to submit accounts will result in sanctions, up to and including complete removal of a candidate from the ballot.
- d) The spending limit is restricted to SGD\$50, including printing and event costs. No budget will be provided by the Election Committee.
- e) Candidates must not use the money allocated to any student organizations or other school funds (e.g. from events funding or community budgets) to fund their campaign.
- f) Expenditure summaries must be submitted by 11.59 p.m. on the 29th August 2016.

### C. Restrictions

#### 1. Social media regulations

- a) Candidates have the autonomy to make use of their personal social media profiles as they see fit. Online campaigning can include, and is not limited to, posting videos, text, pictures, bumping posts and sharing posts.
- b) However, candidates are not allowed to abuse their administrator privileges on Facebook groups or pages (e.g. Yale-NUS College Students) to pin their posts or to delete posts made by other candidates.

#### 2. Prohibited Forms of Campaigning

- a) Candidates may not violate or promote any violation of the Yale-NUS Statement on Free Speech and Non-Discrimination.<sup>4</sup>
  - (1) Any campaign that violates the above will face sanctions.
  - (2) Violations include (but are not limited to) campaigns that target race, religion, nationality, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation or socio-economic class.
- b) No person may personally, or through an agent, bribe, intimidate, harass, use or threaten the use of force, violence or restraint in order to influence a person to vote or the individual/s a person votes for.

#### D. Campaign Forum

##### 1. Purpose

- a) In order to facilitate public awareness and knowledge about the candidates, the Election Committee will host a forum where candidates may make speeches, debate issues and respond to questions.

##### 2. Attendance

- a) All candidates are strongly encouraged to attend this event, as it will offer them a chance to present their candidacy to the student body.
  - (1) Candidates are also encouraged to host their own events such as teas or group discussions outside of this forum.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/policies/free-speech-and-non-discrimination/>

- b) All staff, faculty, and students at Yale-NUS College are able to attend the forum.
  - c) The attendance of any other party shall be at the discretion of the Election Committee.
3. Format, Venue and Logistics
- a) The Election Committee shall publicize logistical details of the forum separately.
  - b) The forum will include time for candidates to give individual speeches, which may be prepared prior to the event.
  - c) Two members of the Election Committee will also serve as moderators for the forum. Moderators will field questions from students to candidates, and have the authority to call candidates to order or move the debate along as they see fit.

## Article V: Voting

### A. Voter Eligibility

- 1. All matriculated students of Yale-NUS College are eligible to vote.
- 2. Students studying abroad during the election period are also eligible to vote and will have their vote counted towards quorum, as per Article VI.3.6 of the Student Government Constitution.
  - a) Details for voting while abroad are specified in Section D, Voting Procedure, of this Article.

3. Students on a College-approved Leave of Absence during this election are exempted from voting.

#### B. Voting Period

1. Voting will take place from the 29th to the 31st of August 2016. Specific start and end times are as follows:
  - a) Start Time: 11.30 a.m. on the 29th of August 2016
  - b) End Time: 11.59 p.m. on the 31st of August 2016
2. Vote counting will begin at 12 a.m. on the 1st of September 2016, immediately following the end of voting period.

#### C. Voting Methodology

1. Voting booths will be set up during the voting period at various locations, depending on the time of day.
  - a) The dining hall anterooms at all three Colleges will each host a voting booth that will operate during some lunch and dinner times.
  - b) Another voting booth will be located at the Kewalram Chanrai Room (Classroom 10) or Classroom 3, and will be kept open from 8:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
2. Canvas voting
  - a) Every eligible voter will be able to vote using Canvas during the Election period.
  - b) Individuals that have technical difficulties are able to directly contact the Election Committee to vote directly, so long as initial contact is made within the Election period.

### 3. Voting paraphernalia

- c) No form of voting paraphernalia is currently planned.

### D. Voting Procedure

1. As detailed in the Yale-NUS College Student Government Constitution, the Council will be voted in by the student body using runoff voting. Votes are tabulated using the instant run-off method as defined in Article X, Section 3.
2. Students studying on campus will vote using closed, secured computer stations.
3. Students studying abroad will email their vote to the Election Committee using the email provided by Yale-NUS College. The contents of such emails will be kept confidential.
4. In the event that fewer than 23 students run for office, a minimum of 10 people will be sufficient to form a government. These 10 people shall be the President, Vice President, Speaker of the Council, and the seven directors outlined in Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution.

### E. Computer terminals

1. Voting will be conducted via iPads and/or laptops loaned from the Educational Resources and Technology (ERT) office.
2. Votes are secret and will require a Canvas log-in from each student; students should therefore be ready to present their Yale-NUS Student ID upon voting.

### F. Counting votes

1. Vote counts shall be done using the instant run-off method.
2. Public witnesses will be present throughout the counting, to affirm that the results of the algorithm have not been tampered with and that the counting was done in a fair and transparent manner.

#### G. Quorum

1. The quorum for the Council, Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections shall be 50% of the student body.

#### H. Declaring results

1. Results shall be announced by the Election Committee by the morning of September 2nd.

## Article VI: Presidential Race

#### A. Candidate Eligibility

1. Only candidates who have already been voted in as members of the Council are eligible to run for President, Vice-President or both.
2. All candidates for President and Vice-President must commit to serve in the Council of the Student Government for a full term of two (2) semesters, as outlined in the Student Government Constitution, Article VI, Section 4, Clause 2.

#### B. Procedure

1. The campaign and voting procedures for the Council Election shall also apply to the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections.

#### C. Timeline

1. Presidential candidates shall inform the Election Committee of their intention to run by September 4, 11:59 p.m.;
2. The Presidential and Vice-Presidential campaign period shall be from 11:30 a.m. on the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to 11:59 p.m. on the 6th of September, 2016;
3. The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election shall take place from 5th to 6th of September 2016, and results for President and Vice-President shall be released by 8th September 2016.

## Article VII: Judiciary Appointment

### A. Background

1. With reference to Student Government Constitution Article V.2, the Judiciary, comprising 7 members, shall be randomly selected from a pool of interested applicants.

### B. Eligibility

1. Any matriculated student of Yale-NUS College may apply to be a member of the Judiciary.

### C. Timeline

- a) Applications for the Judiciary shall open at 11.59 p.m. on the 28th of August 2016 in conjunction with the start of the Council Election Period.
2. Applications for the Judiciary shall close at 11.59 p.m. on the 6th of September 2016.

#### D. Process

1. Applications are composed of a one-sentence e-mail, to the Election Committee (yncelectionscomm@gmail.com), stating the student's name and clearly indicating that they wish to be included in the ballot for the Judiciary.
2. The Judiciary shall be randomly selected from the pool of applicants and controlled for demographics, as specified in the Constitution.
3. The control for demographics shall proceed as follows:
  - a) Candidates shall first be sorted by Class (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior) and one member per class shall be randomly selected, for a total of three members.
  - b) Candidates shall then be sorted by Residential College, and one member per Residential College shall be randomly selected, for a total of three members.
  - c) The last three delegates shall be chosen completely at random the first six having been selected during the Class and Residential College rounds of random selection.

### Article VIII: Amendment of Election Code

- A. This Code may be amended at any time by a simple majority vote of the Election Committee.

- B. Candidates and the student body will be notified of any amendments through Facebook and the Yale-NUS Student Government website.
- C. Amendments will take effect immediately once notice has been served.