

RES02-2016/17

# A Resolution

to

## Pass & Exercise the Annual Budget

*in the fourteenth week of Student Government, 2016*

Sponsor(s): Aditya Karkera (Director of Finance)

1. **Pursuant** to Article III, Section 2, Clause 14 of the Constitution, this Council (AY2016/17) hereby employs its mandate and constitutional power to fulfill its constitutional duty to “*maintain and publish a budget containing all anticipated expenses during the Council’s term of office.*”;
2. **Observing** the Constitution’s budgetary provisions , this Council (AY2016/17) rejects the former Council’s (AY2015/16) budget (while gratefully acknowledging its timeliness in preparing the budget in time for the end of the previous fiscal year) for the present fiscal year (2016/17) on the following grounds:
  - a. The former Council’s budget for this present year is unconstitutional as that Council had no mandate or constitutional power to draft a budget for a Council term beyond its own term of office. (Article III, Section 2, Clause 14)
  - b. The former Council presented the budget, in unconstitutional form, to the Dean of Students Office (henceforth referred to as “DOS”) when the Constitution states clearly that a Council's budget must be presented to the DOS by its incumbent President (Article III, Section 8, Clause 5, Sub-clause a.);
3. **Having** proven the unconstitutionality of the former budget, this Council requests the DOS to only exercise recognition of the budget as described and passed by this resolution (RES02-2016/17), and seeks to make perfectly clear that it is both unconstitutional and unfair for the present Council to operate under a budget prepared without its knowledge,

and without consideration for the financial burdens and obstacles this Council will tangibly face in its term;

4. **Accepting** the fundamental value of the former Council's budget - **SS 8,011** - with no alterations, and having shown that the budget is unconstitutional for application to the present Council,
  - a. This Council seeks to finance any budgetary deficit—arising from a mismatch between a realistic budgetary assessment of its term of office and unrealistic projections by the former Council—through a *DOS Government Expansion Package* of a value and description defined in the annual budget and budgetary items of Schedule 1, respectively.
  - b. Else, in the event of a budgetary surplus, this Council will maintain a *Budget Surplus* of a value and description defined in the annual budget and budgetary items of Schedule 1, respectively.
  - c. Given the uniquely burdensome, unavoidable circumstances faced by the present Council, no future Council shall be permitted to request a *DOS Government Expansion Package* unless it faces the very same uniquely burdensome, unavoidable circumstances;
5. **Adhering** to Article III, Section 3, Clause 7 of the Constitution, this Council hereby exercises its right to disburse funds to the Committees under its charge (and hence the projects under them and the Directorships above them), as stated and described in the budgetary items of Schedule 1;
6. **Recognising** the exceedingly dynamic nature of government work, the vastly increased size of government (both in terms of elected Councilpersons and functioning Committees), the historical fact that this Council represents the first constitutionally legitimate and empowered government, and the heightened presence of the government on campus in line with the Presidential vision of a “culture of care”, this Council approves a **57% expansion** of government expenditure, as reflected in the expenditure budget, and as weighed against the average of former Council budgets;
7. **Adopting** the following schedule to be the sole authorised descriptor of budgetary items enclosed in the government budget, for use by all parties concerned with the budget, including but not limited to the Council, the Judiciary, the DOS, and the student body:

SCHEDULE 1: Items of the Annual budget of Student Government AY2016/17

#	ITEM (as stated in annual budget)	DETAILS & DESCRIPTION
	<b>EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>	The budget that details all items, avenues, and circumstances that shall see the government expend its procured finances; the budget concerned with outflow of finances.
I.	<b>SEMESTER 1 (AUG 2016 - NOV 2016)</b>	The first semester of the academic year (AY2016/17) and of the government's term.
II.	<b>SEMESTER 2 (JAN 2017 - APR 2017)</b>	The second semester of the academic year (AY2016/17) and of the government's term.
a.	<i>Assemblies &amp; Public Meetings</i>	These constitute the events and public meetings that the Constitution requires the government to execute to conduct formal business with the student body.
i.	Assembly I	Constitutionally-required meeting - two to be held every semester for a total of four per academic year. Example: Town Hall.
ii.	Assembly II	Refer above.
i.	Assembly III	Refer above.
ii.	Assembly IV	Refer above.
iii.	Special Assembly Allowance	Constitutionally-required allocation of finances for time-sensitive assemblies of a critical nature or importance.
b.	<i>Cohesion and Appreciation</i>	These constitute all expenditure on the internal cohesion of the government, and on appreciation for staff and faculty members of the college.
i.	Council cohesion	Expenditure on non-business functioning of the government that is oriented at serving the student body through the cohesion of the Council.
ii.	Staff/Faculty appreciation	Expenditure on any form of appreciation for any action (deemed appreciable) performed by any member of the college's staff and/or faculty.

c.	<i>Government Schemes and Projects</i>	These constitute all expenditure on government business not explicitly required by the constitution (i.e. beyond the bare constitutional minimum).
i.	UTown Halloween Celebration 2016	Annual celebration of Halloween at University Town (UTown), organised with NUS Residential Colleges in the vicinity.
i.	Student Body Welfare Packs	Welfare packs (consisting of a memento and accompanying tote bag) to be purchased for and distributed to all members of the student body as a token of engagement from the student government.
ii.	Government Project Funding	All government finances that are yet to be allocated to a specific project or scheme but earmarked for use by the same (usually arising due to the freeing up of funds by legislative action, judicial ruling, or both).  In the case of the annual budget AY2016/17, these free funds arise from <a href="#">RES03-2016/17</a> .
iii.	Miscellaneous Committee Expenses	Expenses (as part of government expenditure) to facilitate and manage the various functions of the various Committees under the charge of various Directorships of the government.
iv.	Student Body Welfare Event(s)	Events organised by the student government with the specific aim of fulfilling engagement with the student body
d.	Student community engagement	Internal funding for the various Directorships of the student government intended for use to undertake the constitutional duties and obligations assigned to each Directorship, along with any functions not already undertaken in all other government schemes/projects.
i.	Directorship of Student Life	Funding for the Directorship of Student Life
ii.	Directorship of External Communication	Funding for the Directorship of External Communication
iii.	Directorship of Student Organisations	Funding for the Directorship of Student Organisations
iv.	Directorship of Athletics	Funding for the Directorship of Athletics
v.	Directorship of Academics	Funding for the Directorship of Academics

	<b>RECEIPT BUDGET</b>	The budget that details all items, avenues, and circumstances that shall see the government procure its required finances; the budget concerned with inflow of finances.
I.	<b>GOVERNMENT FINANCES (as at ratification)</b>	These constitute all sources of finances that are <i>de facto</i> under government control, and so represent finances whose deployment and disbursement are entirely reliant on the government's discretion.
a.	<i>Bank</i>	Finances that are and will be held in the government's WBS account (A/C) (including transactions that have already affected or will affect the A/C amount)
i.	Government A/C Balance	The amount of government finances fit for budgetary deployment (after reflecting retrospective/prospective changes); the government's "cash-in-hand" as at the time of the ratification of the budget.
N/A	RFP Payments	<p><b>All</b> transactions already made by government members before the ratification of the annual budget must be accounted for by deducting the total of said transactions from the government A/C prospectively (regardless of status of payment in the Transaction Register).</p> <p>This, then, constitutes that part of the expenditure budget which has <b>already</b> been realised at the time of ratification, and is thus a retrospective accounting tool of the budget.</p>
ii.	Budget Surplus	<p>The surplus of the government's receipt budget over its expenditure budget, expressed as a negative value due to the following reasons -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will (and should) be consumed in government expenditure, and the budgetary allocations for expenditure have no room for the surplus to be employed at the time of ratification; it is an asset that is expected to be depleted - gradually but certainly - throughout the fiscal year.</li> <li>2. The Budget Surplus is subtracted from government finances because it is a part (significantly, an <i>invisible</i> part) of government finances but cannot be listed under government</li> </ol>

		<p>finances as, at the time of ratification, it merely exists as an accounting figure; it is not a realised asset of the government.</p> <p>A numerically accurate figure for government receipts would thus be arrived at by adding the <b>absolute value of the budget surplus</b> to the <b>gross of the receipts budget</b>.</p> <p>Numerical accuracy and budgetary accuracy are not one and the same, and budgetary accuracy is found in the fact that the expenditure and receipt budgets <b>balance</b> (i.e. are of equal value).</p> <p><i>NOTE:</i> The annual budget of AY2016/17 <b>does</b> display a Budget Surplus because a surplus exists.</p>
II.	<b>NON-GOVERNMENT FINANCES</b>	These constitute all sources of finances that are not under government control, and so represent finances whose deployment and disbursement are entirely reliant on the providers of the said finance.
a.	<i>Dean of Students Office (DOS) Funding</i>	Finances derived from the Dean of Students Office (DOS) of Yale-NUS College
i.	DOS Event Funding	Funding received from DOS for the express purpose of undertaking a specific event.
ii.	Community Event Funding	Funding received from DOS in the form of Community Event Funding - for the purpose of undertaking events that are open to and encourage the participation of all members of the college community - particularly the student body of the college.
N/A	DOS Government Expansion Package	<p>The deficit of the government's receipt budget under its expenditure budget, to be financed by requesting a financial package from DOS, is expressed as a positive value due to the following reasons -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. It will (and should) be consumed in government expenditure, and the budgetary allocations for expenditure have room for the deficit to be filled by DOS funding at the time of ratification.</li> <li>4. The DOS Government Expansion Package is</li> </ol>

		<p>added to non-government finances because it is a part (significantly, an <i>invisible</i> part) of government finances but cannot be listed under government finances as, at the time of ratification, it merely exists as an accounting figure; it is not a realised asset of the government.</p> <p>A numerically accurate figure for government receipts would thus be arrived at by adding the <b>absolute value of the DOS Government Expansion Package</b> to the <b>gross of the receipts budget</b>.</p> <p>Numerical accuracy and budgetary accuracy are not one and the same, and budgetary accuracy is found in the fact that the expenditure and receipt budgets <b>balance</b> (i.e. are of equal value).</p> <p><i>NOTE:</i> The annual budget of AY2016/17 <b>does not</b> display a DOS Government Expansion Package because a deficit does not exist.</p>
b.	<i>Non-DOS Funding (if any)</i>	All finances not derived from the Dean of Students Office (DOS) of Yale-NUS College
i.	Artslab funding	Funding from Artslab to undertake the UTown Halloween Celebration, 2016

8. **Acknowledging** the importance of maintaining a budget surplus, and encouraging future Councils and governments to strive for the same financial goal;
9. **Designating** the following as **free funds** of the budget whose dispersal and deployment is to be supervised by the Director of Finance, in consultation with the President:
  - a. Government Project Funding
  - b. Budget Surplus;
10. **Requiring** all branches of the government and all Directorships of the Student Council to adhere to the annual budget as the sole authority for the use of government finances, with any and all financial planning of government events/schemes/projects to be done within the framework and figures prescribed by the annual budget;

11. **Confirming** the following salient figures of the annual budget of AY2016/17 to stand as valid for all overarching financial purposes of the government, with immediate effect **upon ratification** of this resolution and the budget it supports:

- a. Total Government Finances = **SS\$11,000.00**
  - i. Inclusive of Budget Surplus = S\$103.31
  
- b. Total Government Expenditure = **SS\$11,000.00**
  - i. Exclusive of RFP Payments = S\$1,685.24;

---

*This Council, by the powers afforded to it and by the will of the President, hereby **moves to pass this resolution as it stands and the budget it supports**, and*

---

1. **Instructs** the Council in general and the Directorship of External Communications in particular, to disseminate information of the annual budget and this resolution to all members of the student body, while encouraging feedback;
  
2. **Directs** the Council to adhere to the budget's prescribed allocations, figures, and upper limits, but provides for the following mechanism by which members of government may seek to infuse funding that is additional and external to their budgetary allocation:
  - a. The concerned member of government may only seek to expand their budgetary allotment by procuring funds from the **free funds** as designated by this resolution.
  
  - b. As stated above, all dispersal and deployment of free funds is to be supervised by the Director of Finance, condition to the following:
    - i. The Director of Finance must consult with the President before taking a the decision to disperse the requested amount from the free funds.
  
    - ii. If a request for free fund allocation exceeds **SS\$500**, the Director of Finance must present the request before the Financial Committee, and a majority decision by the Committee shall authorise dispersal;
  
3. **Compels** all future Councils to refer to this resolution, and particularly Schedule 1, while planning and drafting their budgets, and requires all future Councils to pass budget resolutions that are moulded around this resolution as the standard to be replicated;

4. **Requires** the Council to investigate the causes of the present budget's conflict with the former Council's unconstitutional budget, and, upon having deduced the said causes, instructs the Director of Finance to work with the Council and DOS to amend and/or reform the government financial system in operation to prevent any future conflicts.

---

IN FAVOUR: Aditya, Karkera, Anandita Sabherwal, Avery Simmons, Brandon Lee Bing Xiang, Hebe Hilhorst, Izzah Haziqah Haris, Logan Ye, Michael Moyer, Nirali Desai, Saza Fadilla, Scott Chua, Sunwoo Nam

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN ABSTENTION: None

HENCE, ***PASSED***