

FAQ on the Event Committee Policy

These questions are representative of the concerns raised by students to the Student Government regarding the new Event Committee Policy. They have been condensed: where a similar question or type of concern has been raised multiple times, we have made a single point dedicated to it here.

The process of creating the document

1. Aside from those on the Event Committee itself, who contributed to and provided input for the policy?
2. While the Event Committee was formed in September, the student body was not informed about it until February. What were the reasons for this?
3. Why was the policy made effective immediately, rather than providing for a transition period or advance notice?
4. Why were students not consulted until the policy was already finalized and made effective?
5. Did the Committee consider events policies at peer institutions or other liberal arts colleges? Have other liberal arts colleges implemented policies which have similar restrictions?

Logistics and practicalities

1. How does this policy affect students who have already booked a “large space” for events due to take place before the next meeting of the Event Committee?
2. How does this policy affect students who wish to book a “large space” for events due to take place before the next meeting of the Event Committee?
3. When is the next meeting of the Event Committee? By what date must applications be submitted in order for them to be reviewed at the next meeting?
4. Considering the policy is primarily intended to regulate the use of Yale-NUS spaces by external parties such as businesses or organisations wishing to hold events on campus unrelated to any student organisation, why were student organisations not exempted from the policy by listing their events as “business as usual”?
5. Under what circumstances would a student organisation need to pay booking costs for rooms on the Yale-NUS campus which they were previously able to use without charge? When would receipt of external funds be considered a “grant” and thus require the student organisation to pay booking costs?
6. Who is an “external party”?
7. What types of engagements with “external” parties would require student organisations to go through the Event Committee, and what types would not?

8. Since student organisations will sometimes need to pay booking costs to use spaces which were previously available free of charge, will student organisation funding be increased or restructured to account for this?
9. How did the Event Committee determine the amounts which will be charged for booking fees?

Burdens placed on student organisations

1. The lead time to book “large spaces” has increased significantly, from a couple of days using the booking portal to between 1 and 2 months with the Event Committee. Why is this so?
2. Why are student organisations required to seek the approval of both their advisor and the Dean of Students’ Office Student Life staff before submitting an application? If the advisor or DOS staff decline to sign off on the form, is the student organisation prohibited from submitting the form to the larger committee?
3. Why does it require unanimous approval from every single member of the Event Approval Committee, and not perhaps a majority vote?

Free expression and assembly

1. Why does the policy prohibit any events which would require a police permit under the Public Entertainments and Meetings Act or the Public Order Act, especially considering that NUS allows these events on its campus?
2. What safeguards are put in place to make sure an event will never be denied for ideological reasons or because of its content, in line with our College’s principle that “There are no questions that cannot be asked, no answers that cannot be discussed and debated” ?
3. What types of events does the Event Committee consider to be “undesirable” and what types of events does the Event Committee consider to be “desirable”?
4. Why is the Event Committee not required to disclose the reasons why it has rejected an event, not only to external parties but also to students and student organisations?
5. What grounds will be used to determine if an event should be approved or rejected?