

# Tuition Grant Scheme Notes

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**Students in attendance:** David Chia, Jessica Teng, Saza Faradilla, Aditya Karkera, Raeden Richardson, Avery Simmons, Rohan Naidu

**Governing Board Members:** [Linda Lorimer](#), [Catherine “Cappy” Bond Hill](#)

## Summary

1. Financial aid resources are finite; if the TGS is eliminated, the College’s financial aid budget would not be able to fund as many students as can now be supported. If the funds from the TGS were to go away, there currently are not enough resources available to fill that gap.
2. The 3 years you spend working directly after graduation in a job that may not be your long-term career goal can still offer important learning opportunities.
3. Yale University, when the College was in its planning phase, insisted for there be a loan provision whereby students who signed the bond in the early years when precedents were not well known had an option if they changed their minds and regretted taking the bond. Thus, there is an \$80,000 loan which students can use to “break their bond” and so pursue divergent career paths or graduate school if they so wish (Details here:  
<http://admissions.yale-nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/5a-Yale-NUS-Supplementary-Fee-Loan2.pdf>)
4. The Governing Board members appreciated the thoughtfulness of the students’ presentations and agree to ask the administration to review several of the issues raised:
  - **On deferring the bond for students going to graduate school.** Checking if it’s possible to defer the 3-year service so students can come back to Singapore to serve their bond after graduate studies
  - **On supplementary loan.** Clarifying that any Class of 2017 student who signed the Bond and now wishes to transfer and take the loan obligation can do so

Note from Linda Lorimer:

*The President’s Office confirmed that any one who signed the bond can apply for the loan under the terms noted on the website. Note: there are some limitations on those who have no financial need as described*

- **On exploring fellowship arrangements.** Considering if there might be a “sponsorship” program or Fellowship arrangement where

companies/individuals can “top-up” for students to hit the salary requirements of the work passes if they are working in a non-profit or start-up.

- **On obtaining work visas.** Considering if there is a way for those who want to create start-ups get arrangements where those enterprises qualify for the work visas, even if the monthly salaries do not meet the regular threshold.
- **On broadening career options.** Investigating what is keeping smaller non-profit organizations and start-ups from going through the paperwork to get work visas and see if there is something that Yale-NUS (or the College with NUS) can do to facilitate those non-profits and start-ups getting the work visas. For example, is there a way for Yale-NUS to help with the paperwork to assist companies, NGOs, start-ups, etc to apply for visas for students so that they need not deal with the bureaucracies?
- **On ensuring transparency.** Making sure that the TGS is very clearly explained not only on the website but during the Experience Yale-NUS weekend. Consider if there are ways to reinforce that the TGS is an OPTION for students, but not an expectation that students need to take it.

## Detailed Meeting Breakdown

Topic	Discussion
Introductions	
Framing	<p>David Chia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are all coming from a place of good intentions and because we love Yale-NUS</li> <li>- Concerns of TGS and long-term impact on Yale-NUS</li> <li>- Fraction of student body-- about 124 students have signed this petition (The petition was emailed to the Governing Board members by David earlier today and printed and handed to them when they entered the meeting)</li> </ul>
Personal experiences	<p>Raeden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benefitted from Yale-NUS' generosity</li> <li>- Study abroad during summer and for a semester</li> <li>- Personal experience: Developing as a writer</li> <li>- Aspirations- go to graduate school to be a writer</li> <li>- School has built me into a certain kind of student, TGS may prevent me from fulfilling that</li> <li>- There were issues with freshman year expectations and marketing</li> </ul> <p>Rohan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interest in astrophysics because of Yale-NUS and the opportunities the College offers</li> <li>- Plans are to go to graduate school and already has offers</li> <li>- Would not have been able to attend Yale-NUS without such generous financial aid</li> <li>- But in order to attend graduate school next year, have to put down \$80,000 SGD to get a deferment for TGS</li> <li>- Or obtain a loan from Yale-NUS to pay off the TGS, owe the school money</li> <li>- So still doable, but this loan is only available for the first four classes of Yale-NUS --&gt; what comes after?</li> </ul> <p>Note from Linda Lorimer:  <i>President Lewis reported after the meeting that the loan arrangement was always intended to persist beyond the first four years.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerned that this freedom is at threat because of these financial barriers which exist as we near graduation</li> <li>- Jobs that do not pay enough to satisfy the TGS (Ex: artists, NGO jobs, startup jobs)--&gt; There are serious concerns for</li> </ul>

	<p>future and ability of students to really pursue their passions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Care about the long-term future of the school, account for people who may not make a lot of money right after graduation, but who still provide social and leadership value in society</li> </ul>
<p>Acknowledge that TGS is a legal contract</p>	<p>Raeden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wants Yale-NUS to be a bold and experimental school, afraid that this will be limiting</li> </ul>
<p>Responses</p>	<p>Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liberal arts colleges in the US: Reality in the US is that there are very few schools (less than 5) which are need-blind for international students</li> <li>- Most colleges only have 10% of student body international, very small share of those get financial aid</li> <li>- Want to maintain the international ratio of Yale-NUS college</li> <li>- TGS as a “fantastic deal” because of the short bond obligation, even if there are certain limitations</li> <li>- Shared the experience of someone she knows who went on to pursue his passion after a few years of work experience elsewhere. Mentioned that the gap after university may be a good thing because you can really figure out what you want to do and decide if you are committed to it</li> </ul> <p>Lorimer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerned about the issue of TGS when creating the school</li> <li>- Didn't want international students to have no choice</li> <li>- Insisted on the loan arrangement--&gt; don't have to pay it back until after graduate school finishes (6 months)</li> <li>- So there is a way out of the TGS</li> <li>- This has been a concern, we want Yale-NUS students to reach their full potential</li> <li>- So what happens if we get rid of the TGS? What do we do instead?</li> <li>- Only full-pay international students? Distribute financial aid amongst fewer students?</li> <li>- Working hard to raise more money for financial aid</li> <li>- Dedicated scholarships for international students?</li> <li>- 42 people on the senior class on TGS --&gt; this would amount to an estimated \$3 360 000 debt</li> <li>- Antithetical to the liberal arts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At Yale University in New Haven, we don't feel that it is</li> <li>- International students at Yale (even Singaporean students on the President's Scholarship, South Korean scholars, military scholars) have to return to their home countries after graduation</li> <li>- Three years is not a long time in the context of one's</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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entire career. Could gain perspective. Shared a story about how she was interested in working as a non-profit lawyer, but took on a corporate job for a few years to pay off her student debt.

- In short, don't think it is inconsistent with liberal arts.
- But this is still a significant amount of money

Hill

- If this is affecting the curriculum, that is a serious concern
- Can we do more for placing students in jobs within Singapore?

Raeden/David/Rohan

- Secure the work visa
  - S-pass: \$2200
  - E-pass- \$3600
- Must get a job with a company which has applied or can apply for these work visas
- Salary requirement prevents working at startups

Lorimer

- Would think that Singapore's interest in design would facilitate this best

Hill

- Create/sponsor a company which sponsors the visas for start-ups, for writers?

Rohan

- Sponsors enough to meet the quota to get the work visa
- For instance, if a student is hired by design company, this new company helps to "top-up" as a means of achieving the salary guidelines set out by the work visas

Lorimer

- Find a company which already exists to help these fellowships/mini-residencies?

Rohan

- Support for reaching this threshold

Hill

- Could Yale-NUS help non-profits or arts organizations apply for these visas?

Rohan

- Currently, CIPE helps you write a letter that you send to an employer, who then applies for a work permit from the MoM
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	<p>Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help these employers apply for a work permit</li> <li>- Be the clearing house, help with the paperwork for getting the talented Yale-NUS graduate</li> <li>- Try to work with the Singaporean government to convince them that lower-paying but socially relevant jobs are important to society</li> <li>- Seems like a much longer route...could take a decade...</li> </ul>
<p>Imperfect information conveyance</p>	<p>David Chia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find ways to better disseminate information on TGS</li> <li>- More transparency</li> </ul> <p>Raeden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For Class of 2017: clear that after senior year we could easily defer the work bond until after graduate school</li> <li>- But it turns out that we have to put down \$80,000</li> <li>- This was poorly communicated</li> </ul> <p>Rohan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loan from the college breaks the bond</li> </ul> <p>Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That seems odd</li> </ul> <p>Lorimer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is it clear online now?</li> <li>- To what extent do you think you and your classmates understood the TGS?</li> </ul> <p>Aditya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3-year service was clear</li> <li>- Conditions are well put by the government online</li> <li>- But incentive to jump onto TGS bandwagon was quite strong</li> <li>- Idea of banker's guarantee of \$80,000...was not clear to freshmen</li> <li>- Heard from senior</li> </ul> <p>Rohan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Details of supplementary fee loan were only made clear at the beginning of this semester</li> </ul> <p>Raeden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Still lingering concern for Supplementary Fee Loan- at discretion, case-by-case applicant</li> <li>- Based on future earnings? Based on academic standing?</li> <li>- Confusion on 1) the loan 2) deferring</li> </ul>

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Lorimer

- If you want to get out of TGS, you can get out of it; the loan will be there (is the intention)
- Will get confirmation on that
- Is there transparency on TGS at EYW?

Aditya

- Not at EYW, but Orientation Week
- Information existed, but not conveyed properly

Rohan

- Misconceptions perpetuated because the senior students were misinformed as well

Lorimer

- Switch the current advertising
- It costs \$46,000 USD to come here
- If can be *even cheaper* if you choose the TGS
- Advertise the full tuition, then have TGS --> it is still cheaper to come to Yale-NUS than many US colleges
- Want both need-based and merit scholars

Hill

- Communication issues, but still a good deal

Lorimer

- You've given us some good ideas!
- Look into S-pass issue: Start-up
- Increased transparency, make it clearer to students before they show up

Hill

- If you go to grad school, and came back and worked, then the government would have to release the bond
- Would that really matter to the Singapore government?

Raeden

- Use the loan as collateral

Rohan

- The Yale-NUS loan cannot be used to be the banker's guarantee for you to come back to Singapore

Hill

- It would be a better deal if the Yale-NUS loan would count as the \$80,000 to put down as collateral to prove you are coming
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back

- Then the College would get \$80,000 back from the Singaporean government because of the bond, when the student comes back

Rohan

- Currently, no incentive to return

Lorimer and Hill: Very positive about getting the Yale-NUS college loan to apply to defer the bond, not just breaking it

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