



- Directorship of Finance -
Finance Committee

REPORT
of the Finance Committee on
THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT RETREAT

ISSUED IN THE INTEREST OF THE STUDENT BODY
by request of the Yale-NUS Student Government Judiciary



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I. **OBJECTS AND REASONS**

1. The following report has been produced by the Yale-NUS Student Government Finance Committee (henceforth “Committee”) of the Directorship of Finance to highlight and state the financial aspects and summary of the recently-held retreat of the Yale-NUS Student Government Council (henceforth, “Council”).
1. This report has been produced at the request of the Yale-NUS Student Government Judiciary (henceforth, “Judiciary”) and seeks to provide transparent information to both the Judiciary and the student body on a not-insignificant use of Council finances for non-business purposes (as defined in [RES02-2016/17](#)).
2.
 - a. While the Committee acknowledges that the aforementioned Judicial review request was [made by the Judiciary several weeks ago](#) and that the Judiciary sees a delay in providing this report as alarming, it must state that the existence of this Committee—and so the ability to produce this report—was confirmed by the Council through a constitutional amendment far later.
 - b. The nature of the document that the Judiciary has requested and this Committee has produced—a financial summary—meant that no office or constitutional capacity existed within Student Government to provide an unbiased and accountable report before the establishment of this Committee and the allotment of its powers and responsibilities.
 - c. While this Committee applauds the Judiciary’s diligence in seeking to accelerate its judicial review in the interest of the student body, it must state that there is no expectation of the Judiciary to invent a capacity or ability—in this case, the capacity to produce financial summaries—that is **not constitutionally supported**, even if in the interest of the student body. **Article V, Section 4, Clause 5.b** allows the Judiciary to instruct the Council to perform a duty which is currently not being performed by it, but only “after completing investigations and proceedings.” That the Judiciary failed to exercise its constitutional power and left the task of making



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FINCOM constitutional to the Director of Finance through weeks of Council debate is not a fault that may be attributed to the Director or FINCOM.

- d. **Student Government is presently and must continue to be obedient to established, constitutional protocol**, and a casual request—which, the Committee notes, was not formally issued by the Judiciary in written form along with a rationale for the request and merely verbally requested—for the financial information of the Student Government cannot be entertained by a singular individual—i.e. The Director of Finance.
3. Henceforth, this Committee seeks to clear the air of any misconceptions regarding the production of this document, wishes to rationalise (but not write-off) the delay in the production of this report, and wishes to set a precedent for the production of all documents of this nature—that is, documents which summarise the financial status of Student Government, either in whole or part, and explicate financial information concerning but not limited to budgeting, resources, and event funding.

II. **DESCRIPTION OF THE RETREAT AND BUDGETARY DETAILS**

1. The Council retreat was held on **January 21, 2017**, in a block of time between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM, with the Council off-campus in a significant portion of this block.
2. The retreat, being a use of Government finances for a non-business event, fell under the charge of the **Director of Events**—Nirali Desai '20. Director Desai informed the **Director of Finance**—Aditya Karkera '20—of the expected levels and avenues of government expenditure several weeks before the execution of the event.
3. The central activity of the Council retreat was a trip to the **Water Sports Center of the Singapore Sports Hub** for a cordial afternoon of Kayaking and other retreat activities. Further activities included buying ice cream and enjoying a tight-knit, light-hearted group session on-campus towards the close of the retreat.
4. In attendance of the retreat were the following **eleven** Members of Government:
 - a. Saza Faradilla '18 (President),



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- b. Avery Simmons (Vice-President),
 - c. Scott Chua '20 (Speaker),
 - d. Matthew Ware '17 (Co-Director of Academics),
 - e. Clin Lai '17 (Co-Director of Academics),
 - f. Hebe Hilhorst '20 (Director of External Communications),
 - g. Shardul Sapkota '20 (Deputy Director of Academics at time of event),
 - h. Nirali Desai '20 (Director of Events),
 - i. Izzah Haziqah '20 (Deputy Director of External Communications)
 - j. Anandita Sabherwal '19 (Director of Student Organisations), and
 - k. Shi Ting Stinson '20 (Unassigned at time of event).
5. The following are the budgetary allocations for events of this nature (that is, non-business events for the cohesion of the Student Council) for the present term of Student Government (2016/17), as defined and delimited in and by the contents and attached budget of [RES02-2016/17](#) (“The budget resolution”):
- a. For all “[e]xpenditure on non-business functioning of the government that is oriented at serving the student body through the cohesion of the Council” the annual Student Government budget assigns an amount of **SGD 400** for the term of the Council’s office (2016/17).
 - b. This amount is spread over two semesters equally (that is, **SGD 200 per semester**), but, given low Council cohesion expenditures in Semester 1 of 2016/17 and an expansion request by the Director of Events, the Director of Finance saw it as prudent to move leftover Council cohesion funds from Semester 1 to Semester 2, in anticipation of the Council retreat.
 - c. Therefore, the budget allocation proper for this Council retreat is found by this Committee to be **SGD 350**, whose breakdown is as follows:
 - i. **SGD 200** budgetary allocation for Semester 2
 - ii. **SGD 150** budgetary allocation remainder from Semester 1



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III. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT EXPENSES

1. The expenditure of the Council on the Council retreat amounts to a grand total of SGD **306.18**, the breakdown of which is as follows:

#	PAYING PARTY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (in SGD)
1.	Izzah Haziqah '20	Fare for two (2) Grab cars	36.92
2.	Nirali Desai '20	Kayak rental expenses for nine (9) kayaks at the Water Sports Center	121
3.	Nirali Desai '20	Fare for two (2) UBER cars	44.10
4.	Saza Faradilla '18	Fare for two (2) UBER cars	37.66
5.	Saza Faradilla '18	Ten (10) artisanal ice creams	66.50
		TOTAL	<u>306.18</u>

2. The Committee must state that all paying parties will be reimbursed by the Student Government's finances via the Request-for-Payment (RFP) forms submitted by them to the Directorship of Finance, which have, in turn, been forwarded to the Dean of Students (DOS) office for approval.
3. Regardless of which paying parties have been reimbursed at the time of the production of this report and which parties have not, the sum total—SGD 306.18—stands as an expense which will be borne by the Student Government in entirety, with no amount of money left unaccounted for.
4. The Committee implores all parties interested in keeping a closer track of transactions that employ Government finances, as well as the reimbursement



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status of those transactions, to do so by referring to the [Student Government Transaction Register](#), created by the Directorship of Finance in the interest of the financial transparency of Student Government.

5. In conclusion, the Committee wishes to highlight the fact that the Council retreat was executed well within budgetary allocations, with a **surplus of SGD 43.82**, and commends the relevant Director(s) for their efforts towards the same.

On behalf of the Directorship of Finance,

The Yale-NUS Student Government Finance Committee (FINCOM)

1. Aditya Karkera '20 (Director of Finance)
2. Shardul Sapkota '20 (Deputy Director of Academics)
3. Marcus Chua '20 (Public Member)
4. Clin Lai '17 (Co-director of Academics)