



RES02-2017/18

# *A Resolution to Pass & Exercise the Annual Budget*

Author: Aditya Karkera (Director of Finance)

Sponsor(s):

## **Whereas the Council**

1. **Employing** 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.*” pursuant to Article III, Section 2, Clause 14 of the Yale-NUS College Student Government Constitution (henceforth “Constitution”). ;
2. **Accepts** the fundamental value of the Council’s budget - **S\$ 15,000** - and the fundamental value of total Government finances - **S\$ 208,625** - with no alterations,
  - a. This Council seeks to finance any budgetary shortfall—arising from a mismatch between a realistic budgetary assessment of its term of office

and unrealistic projections by the former Council—through a *DOS Transitional Budget Buffer* 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 Transitional Budget Buffer* unless it faces the very same uniquely burdensome, unavoidable circumstances;
3. **Adheres** 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;
  4. **Recognizes** the exceedingly dynamic nature of government work, the vastly increased size of government (both in terms of elected Councilpersons and functioning Committees), and the heightened presence of the government on campus in line with the Presidential vision, this Council approves a **~150% expansion** of government expenditure, as reflected in the expenditure budget, and as weighed against the average of former Council budgets;
  5. **Adopts** 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:

SCCHEDULE 1: Items of the Annual General Budget (AGB) of Student Government AY2017/18



#	ITEM (as stated in AGB)	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 2017 - NOV 2017)</b>	The first semester of the academic year (AY2017/18) and of the government's term.
II.	<b>SEMESTER 2 (JAN 2018 - APR 2018)</b>	The second semester of the academic year (AY2017/18) 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 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 2017	Annual celebration of Halloween at University Town (UTown), organised with NUS Residential Colleges in the vicinity.
ii.	Student Body Welfare Event(s)	Welfare events are defined as those events not required by the Constitution but executed as a means of enhancing student experience on campus and boosting Government engagement with the student body
iii.	Government 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.	Travel Funding Allocations	Funding allocations made by FINCOM towards overseas travel co-pays for operations/events/projects related to student organisations
v.	Organisations Incubator Allocations	Funding allocations made by FINCOM to newly-recognised organisations in an effort to seed their development on campus and start their operations
vi.	Student Body Welfare Project(s)	Welfare projects are defined as those projects not required by the Constitution but executed as a means of enhancing student experience on campus and boosting Government engagement with the student body
vii.	Student Government Grant Initiative	A funding (and, optionally, mentorship) grant proposed and administered by the Directorship of Finance to support student endeavours on

		campus that benefit the entire student community and enhance government's presence and engagement on campus
viii.	Student Organisations Budget Allocation	Funding for all student organisations on campus as allocated by FINCOM and awarded by the Director of Student Organisations
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 Communications	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
vi.	Directorship of Finance	Funding for the Directorship of Finance
	<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 and authority.
a.	<i>Treasury</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) as well as finances that are disbursed by FINCOM
i.	Government Fund	The amount of government finances fit for budgetary deployment for Government purposes (after reflecting retrospective/prospective changes); the government's "cash-in-hand" as at the time of the ratification of the budget.
N/ A	Government Savings (accumulated)	The amount of Government finances carried over from prior Governments and/or via windfall gains/non-budgeted receipts from prior years
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> </ol>

		<p>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 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>
iii.	Student Organisations Fund	The fund of finances available to be allocated by FINCOM towards the funding for all student organisations on campus
N/A	Organisations Incubator Fund	The fund of finances available to be allocated by FINCOM towards newly-recognised organisations in an effort to seed their development on campus and start their operations
iv.	Travel Funding Fund	The fund of finances available to be allocated by FINCOM towards overseas travel co-pays for operations/events/projects related to student organisations
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 Transitional Budget Buffer	Funding received from DOS for the express purpose of accounting for expenses carried over from the previous Government due to fiscal year-academic year mismatch
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.
b.	<i>Non-DOS Funding (if any)</i>	All finances not derived from the Dean of Students Office (DOS) of Yale-NUS College
i.	Strategic Partner Initiative	Funding from any major external partners in the form of a strategic partnership with Student Government for the execution of an event/project
ii.	Miscellaneous project/event partners	Funding from any and all non-DOS and non-strategic partners for events/projects on campus

6. **Acknowledges** the importance of maintaining a budget surplus, and encouraging future Councils and governments to strive for the same financial goal;

7. **Designates** 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 Finance Committee:

a. Any and all finances not explicitly earmarked for Directorships

8. **Requires** all branches of the government and all Directorships of the Student Council to adhere to the annual general budget as the sole document 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 general budget;

11. **Confirms** the following salient figures of the annual budget of AY2017/18 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 = **S\$208,625.00**
  - i. of which Government Council finances = **S\$15,000.00**
  - ii. of which Student Organisations Fund = **S\$140,000.00**
    - 1. including Organisations Incubator Fund = **S\$15,000.00**
  - iii. of which Travel Funding Fund = **S\$50,000.00**
  - iv. subject to a Budget Surplus = S\$(- **7,375.00**)
  
- b. Total Government Expenditure = **S\$208,625.00**
  - i. of which Government Council expenditure = **S\$15,000.00**
  - ii. of which Student Organisations allocations = **S\$140,000.00**
    - 1. including Organisations Incubator allocations = **S\$15,000.00**
  - iii. of which Travel Funding allocations = **S\$50,000.00**

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*Therefore, be it resolved by the Council that the budget resolution be adopted; and,*

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- 1. The Council in general and the Directorship of External Communications in particular, are instructed to disseminate information of the annual budget

and this resolution to all members of the student body, while encouraging feedback;

2. The Council is directed 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 Finance Committee before taking the decision to disperse the requested amount from the free funds; the decision must reflect majority approval by the Finance Committee
3. All future Councils and FINCOMs are compelled 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;

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The following Council members voted for this resolution:  
Scott Chua, Aditya Karkera, Averyn Thng, Annabelle Ho, Haroun Chahed,  
Sowmya, Madeline Tan, Kalla Sy, Brandon Lee

The following Council members voted against this resolution:

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The following Council members abstained from this vote:

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The President did not choose to exercise his veto power.



*Jay Lusk*  
*Speaker*



*Brandon Lee*  
*President*