



Hong Kong University Students' Union
Council, Session 2013
14th Council Meeting [CM14]
Minutes

Date: 4/1/2014 (Sat)

Time: 19:30 -

Venue: Council Chamber, 2/F Union Building

Attendance:

CC, HS, P, IVP, GS, EAS1, EAS2, PPS, AS, ICAP, RICA1, RICA2, RCA1, LLHHR, LHTHR, LSKHR, RCLHR, SCSHR, SJCR, SKYLHR, STHR, UHR, WLHR, ASR, BEAR, DSR (early leave with apology), ENSR, LAR, MSR, SSR, SSSR, ECU, PC4 (early leave with apology)

Late:

FS (with apology), UAS1 (with apology), CAS (with apology), RHR (with apology), EDSR (with apology), PC2 (with apology), PC5 (with apology)

Absent:

EVP(with apology), SWS (with apology), SS (with apology), SAP (with apology), CAP (with apology), RSA1 (with apology), RSA2 (without apology), RCA2 (with apology), HHR* (with apology), LCHHR (with apology), MHR* (with apology), SWHR (with apology), AAR (with apology), PP(without apology), CTVC(with apology), PC1 (without apology)

Section A

1. To read out the correspondences

Absent

- EVP was absent due to meeting with representatives from other universities' students' union so as to settle the detail of the conference for referendum motion the following day.
- SWS was not in HK.
- SS was not in HK.
- SAP was absent due to training camp.
- CAP was not in HK.
- RSA1 was absent due to competition.
- RCA2 was not in HK.
- HHR was not in HK.
- MHR was absent due to exam in early January.

- LCHHR was absent due to trip in Cambodia.
- SWHR was not in HK.
- AAR was not in HK.
- CTVC was not in HK.

Late

- UAS would arrive at 00:00 due to scheduled annual dinner.
- CAS would arrive at 20:00 due to Traffic jam.
- RHR would arrive at 21:00 due to work.
- EDSR would arrive at 22:00 due to church gathering.
- PC2 would arrive at 20:30 due to important family matters.
- PC5 would arrive at 20:00 and leave early at 23:45 due to personal matters.

Early Leave

- RCA1 would leave at 02:00 due to part time job in the next morning.
- SCSHR would leave at 23:45 due to meeting with the ex-co of SCSHSA in the next session.
- DSR would leave at 23:00 due to examination scheduled on 6/1 morning.
- ECU would leave at 00:00 due to church meeting the next morning.
- PC4 would leave at 23:45 due to sickness.

2. To receive the maiden speech of new councillor(s)

- MSR introduced herself as Dorothy. She wished to be the communication bridge between members of MS and the Students' Union.

3. To report the motion(s) carried by circulation

4. To receive and adopt the agenda

- CC pointed out that agenda B1-3 remain unchanged. Agendum B3 would be present due to the fact that SS could not be in the committee due to conflict of interest. Agendum B4 would be deleted, since his withdrawal from Annual Election had been received. The optimistic prediction of the meeting would be 6 hours.

Motion 1

To receive and adopt the agenda of CM14.

Proposer: WONG Yee Man (IVP)

Seconder: CHAU Dickson Ka Faat (GS)

Time Received: 19:59

No objection.

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 19:59

5. To receive and adopt the minutes of CM13

Motion 2

To receive the minutes of CM13.

Proposer: CHAU Dickson Ka Faat (GS)

Seconder: WONG Yee Man (IVP)

Time Received: 20:00

No objection.

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 20:00

Section B

1. To report and discuss the subsequent action on political reform based on the opinion/ result of the 1013 deliberation day

- P reported that this agendum should be in charged by EVP, yet he was in another meeting with other universities on the same issue, so it would be presented by P. There were 10 groups on deliberation day, they tried to reach consensus on different issues.
The number of groups attained consensus:
Universal right to nomination→ 9 groups
Universal right to stand for election→ 9 groups
Universal right to vote→ 10 groups
Existence of civil nomination→ 8 groups
Existence of nomination committee→ 8 groups
Use of civil disobedience if necessary→ 6 groups
He introduced the aim of the Joint-University Referendum to be synchronizing all views of various universities. The drafting of motions had been discussed in Political Reform Concern Group. The social consensus usually preferred adopting double rail system of nomination committee and civil nomination. The 3 motions in 1.1 were criticized as tautological. That was once discussed in Deliberation day, and basically had attained consensus, thus it would be easier for other universities to adopt similar motions.
- CC pointed out that it had been discussed in ECM9 on whether or not it would be a suitable time point to introduce GP in February, due to the worry of mess and too many motions. It could be held after Annual Election, but there would be a new session of executive committee and council.

- LAR asked if it would be feasible for all universities to hold in the same month/ same week, or else it would not be significant.
- CAS pointed out that it would be impossible to be held in the same week. If the aim was to raise as much concern as possible, different students' Union should try to pack them as near as possible.
- ASR asked whether or not 8 institutes would vote on the same motions.
- CAS stated that it would be decided the next day, on whether the same motions would be used and which would be those motions.
- CC concluded the concerns of councillors:
 - 1) Too many motions in the GP in February;
 - 2) Insufficient preparation.
- ASR asked if it would be practically feasible that all institutes have their GPs held in the same ½ weeks.
- CAS pointed out that it would be hard to confirm the dates, conclusion would be attained after the whole process.
- WLHR asked when the other universities would hold theirs.
- EAS2 pointed out it had not been confirmed yet, but confirmation would still be needed.
- P asked how the dates other universities would hold the referendum affect the decision in HKU.
- LAR agreed that there would be more coverage if the GPs could be held more tightly together, she was just asking for feasibility, yet she could understand the practical concerns and difficulty.
- No response from the floor.
- CC suggested having an ECM on 7/1, to compromise once again on the issue.
- ECU pointed out that in 2009, there had already been a motion passed on the need to have universal suffrage in 2012, so independently HKU should also pass a motion on the demand towards universal suffrage. Academically, deliberative activity should not have the process of reaching consensus. He talked with CAS, the conclusion was to lead the focus back to party nomination/ legislative nomination directly if that was the thing to be discussed.
- CAS thought of defeating words like 四大界別/機構提名, etc., but actually Motion 1 alone had defeated all these.
- P pointed out that with the existence of Functional Constituency, legislative nomination could not be held if motion 1 is passed anyway, so it tried to ban all elements other than 普及而平等.
- CAS pointed out that the only way to have legislative nomination would be a legislative council with universal suffrage, which would be pinpointing the destination also.
- ECU pointed out there would be a logical mess, the motions would be framing everything into one person one vote, one vote one value already, but not really shortlisting the options. The development of HKUSU political reform should not be led by a referendum, HKU Students might not be that familiar with the background of the political structure. There should be a balance between practicality and sound bite, the students would not discuss on details by GM, thus it should not be eliminative, but only passing a vague stance.
- P concluded that the 1st one was more on principle, but 2nd was more eliminative.

- LAR speculated that for Motion 1, a nomination committee must be elected, if a person prefers party nomination/ legislative nomination, he must vote against the motion. it would be very narrow as a motion.
- CAS did not wish to draft the motion out of nth, so he made reference to the result of deliberation.
- ECU gave the last piece of advice since not all councillors were familiar with the issues, so the several councillors who were should not spend too much time on them. Ex-cos should hold a series of deliberative series, avoiding technical stuffs, like not to frame all options into just one thing.
- PC5 pointed out it would just be repeating the results of the 1.1 referendum and re-stressing the ICCPR.

2. To appoint members of Council standing committees

- SSR pointed out that AAR wished to be appointed, he asked whether he should submit motion.
- EAS1 preferred waiting for next CM, since the council should try to consult for his political stance and knowledge.
- CC suggested that the remaining member could directly be appointed in next session, AAR would come back on 10/1, but there would be no CM before semester break, so maybe making the appointment directly in next session would be better.
- CAS suggested that in the coming month he would cooperate closely with Political Reform Concern group on the referendum issue, thus it would be acceptable to have one less member in CAC.
- CC decided to appoint in the CM after the next.

3. To appoint members to the Assessment Panel of Campus Internationalization and Integration Funding Scheme

Motion 3

To appoint Leung Ching Him (UID: 3035074309) as the member of the Assessment Panel of Campus Internationalization and Integration Funding Scheme.

Proposer: WONG Zoi Lam (EAS2)

Seconder: CHAU Dickson Ka Faat (GS)

Time Received: 21:12

No objection.

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 21:13

4. To discuss the Union Finance on the application of Union Development Fund by

Union Executive Committee for the characters to be put on Union Building

- P reported that the application for Union Development Fund had been passed in UFC. In 2012, the Composite building was given to the Union, yet there were no significant sign to show that the building belongs to the Union. In the past, Hsu Long Sing Amenities Centre got the words of "The Hong Kong University Students' Union". He would try to look for better calligraphy and delete the word of "building".
The details of the 2 quotations would be:
Kam Hing→ only producing the words and less durable→ \$35160
Grand Design→ with installation→ \$56610
He believed that cancelling the words "building" might lead to a decrease in cost by several thousands.
- LSKHR asked when the construction would start.
- P reported that the construction needed to go through application in Accommodation Committee, last session the ex-co also applied, but was rejected with the reason that there are no buildings in HKU with such big words. Actually there were a lot of buildings with such big words, and the chairman of the committee has been changed, so there would be a significant chance that the construction would be permitted.
- SKYLHR asked how the passenger way being narrowed down would be settled.
- LSKHR would like the construction to wait for the end of semester 2, when there would be less students in campus. He asked if there would be any insurance bought for the words.
- P ensured that all facilities in the University had their guarantee and insurance cost born by the school.

Motion 4

To approve the application of Union Development Fund by Union Executive Committee for the characters to be put on Union Building.

Proposer: TANG Yat Long (P)

Seconder: YIP Kwan Kit (CAS)

Time Received: 21:31

No objection.

Resolution: Motion Carried

Time Resolved: 21:32

5. To receive and adopt the Estimated Union Budget 2014

- FS reported that the estimated Union Budget had been discussed in UFC.
 - 1) SA, CA, ICA & Media Fund Expenses \$913000
 - 2) For Booth and Rental Income, there could be more income after signing contract with Helix

3) For Profit of Students' Co-operative Store excluding Staff Cost, the estimation was quite conservative, there might be further increase.

The overall increase of expenditure would be around 10%. He hoped to make the distribution done earlier, so that 3As could draw up their budgets earlier, not to repeat CA's example of delaying budget (still haven't received by now)

4) For Academic Fund Expenses, the upper limit was increased, so that the application would not be that trivial

There had been 70000 dollars added back for subsidies to Presidents.

- SSSR asked what the use of subsidies to Presidents would be.
- FS referred to Union Financial Regulation Section III Article 8. For item 11, the presidential subsidy for P would be \$5000, and \$2500 for IVP/EVP. For item 13, an extra \$40000 would be given to P, since he was deferred for 2 semesters, together with the original \$10000 that must be given (\$5000+\$2500x2).

Motion 5

To receive and adopt the Estimated Union Budget 2014.

Proposer: HSU Yin Man (FS)

Second: 鄧日朗 (P)

Time Received: 21:51

No objection

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 21:52

- EDSR wished to add back tendering process into Union Financial Regulation.
- FS pointed out if it involved more than \$50000, tendering would be needed, but sometimes it would be about feasibility of attracting contractors.

6. To appoint the acting Financial Secretary in the absence of the Financial Secretary, HSU Yin Man starting from 14th January, 2014

- FS explained that he had planned for exchange before taking office, a pity that he could not finish the whole office period, but most of the financial problems had been tackled. P could take the post up if nobody wished to do so, as UFC member and familiar with auditing issue.
- ECU queried if there would be problems for P to be acting a lot of ex-co members, he would recommend finding somebody in UFC instead of appointing P.
- PC5 agreed with ECU, and P might be busy on other stuffs.
- CC quoted Section VIII of constitution which stipulated duties of acting ex-co, the highlight would be on the absence of voting rights.

The following needed to be considered:

- 1) whether or not he needed to be a member of UFC.
- 2) whether he must be familiar with SU finance.

Councillors needed to consider thoroughly.

- ASR asked what the remaining work would be for the acting FS would be.
- FS stated that it would be Annual Election subsidies to candidates, which would not be very complicated. Other issues would be passed to FS'14.
- LSKHR agreed that P would be the most suitable, council can act as a door gate so that appointing ex-co as acting ex-co would not lead to power abuse.
- PC2 pointed out that it might not give members good impression for P to act FS, even if there would only be 1 month left.
- ENSR pointed out that practically acting FS should be somebody more familiar with the work of FS, especially when there was only about 1 month left. As acting UFC chairperson, he must report to UFC anyway.

Motion 6

To appoint WONG WING LONG LEO (UID: 3035055511) as the acting Financial Secretary, HKUSU, Session 2013.

Proposer: SO Cheuk Yiu (PC4)

Seconder: KUANG Kai Shan (PC2)

Time Received: 22:16

Vote by Simple Majority

Total Vote: 36

For: 2

Against: 21

Abstain: 13

Resolution: Motion Defeated

- PC4(Proposer) stated that PC5 was also a member of UFC, but not an ex-co, would be suitable since he is in the middle.
- GS pointed out that FS needed to communicate with staff often, like Sylvia or Honorary Treasurer, P would be more familiar with all these, time would be needed for learning, yet the session would be ending soon.
- FS supplemented that in the auditing issue, the Honorary Treasurer, P and FS were following up together, he wished to finish compromising on the details before the end of session.
- PC5 pointed out that FS had settled a lot of work already, indeed ex-cos might be more familiar with the issue, yet in the past quite a number of Acting still finished their duties well.

Motion 7

To appoint Mr. Tang Laurence Yat Long (UID: 2010033861) as the acting Financial Secretary for the Union, Session 2013, starting from 14th February, 2014.

Proposer: CHAU Dickson Ka Faat (GS)

Seconder: HSU Yin Man (FS)

Time Received: 22:23

Vote by Simple Majority

Total Vote: 36

For: 29

Against: 2

Abstain: 5

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 22:31

- LAR supported this motion only due to administrative measure and practical concern. She suggested that if signature was needed in handling the work, the cosign of CC should be needed.
- ECU believed it would not be a good idea to give him some power, but limit to some Council approval, not a good practice.
- PC5 stated that it would be a bit weird if CC cosigned also, in last session incident, it had been decided that CC should have no position in financial matters. He asked how much P wanted to act FS.
- P agreed with the impression issue, yet he was always the person handling auditing stuffs with FS and Hon Treasurer, so he must handle those issues anyway. All documents need 2 ex-cos and Hon Treasurer's signature, so even if he is also acting FS, he need to find another ex-co and Hon Treasurer to sign.
- PC5 pointed out that there should be no reason to justify an ex-co being an acting ex-co, P had loads of work to do already, he could not be persuaded still.

22:33 recess

23:01 resume

Motion 8

To move Agendum 8 before Agendum 7.

Proposer: LI Chee Wing (LAR)

Seconder: TANG Laurence Yat Long (P)

Time Received: 23:03

No objection

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 23:03

7. To review the advise from Constitution Review Committee on the amendments of Union Constitution

Motion 9

To vacate Ms. Li Wai Yan Vivian from the chairmanship and appoint Mr. Yip Kwan Kit as the acting Chairperson of the Union Council Meeting 14 for agendum B7 and B8.

Proposer: CHAU Dickson Ka Faat (GS)

Seconder: WONG Zoi Lam (EAS2)

Time Received: 23:06

No objection

Resolution: Motion Carried.

Time Resolved: 23:07

- CC suggested that amendments would be on 3 aspects.
 - 1) voting methods in Annual Election
 - 2) CRWG restructuring plan
 - 3) Financial issues
 - 1) would be on p.10, c) , the change of preference showing into block voting when there are more than 1 candidate
 - 2) would be skipped first, and go back to CRWG
 - 3) p.25, the UFC composition would be changed into each faculty sending a representative, not necessarily FS, and could have substitute in specific meetings. The consideration was on where the appointment should be made, it was finalized to be in UC as standing committee members. There would be representatives from Undergrad or CTV also, in order to increase the bargaining power for media in UFC.
- ASR asked if it would be enough for only 1 representative representing both campus media.
- CC pointed out that there were already 20 persons in UFC. If add one more person was added, the quorum would change from 10 to 11.
- ECU wished to ensure the information flow to be transparent, he agreed that 2 representatives should be separated.
- FS pointed out if there were issues related to campus media, the representative for respective media could be present on issue base. It would allow them more freedom to choose, but not forced to attend meeting.
- CC explained that since faculty societies more often apply for funding, and member base in total would represent all full members, they should have representatives in UFC.
- SSSR asked if there is a substitute system in the current UFC, whether simply adding such a system would solve the problem.
- CC explained that the case would be just the same to sub-organization FS as ex-co in Union Council, he could not be substituted. For some faculties which do not have faculty council, they might choose to appoint the person in GM/GP.
- GS asked whether changing from time to time is acceptable.

- CC pointed out that representative from council might be changed every time, but Union Council appointment might be used to fix the certain representative, it could be clarified in the articles.
- ASR asked if substitutes were allowed in meeting of standing committees.
- CC pointed out that this would just be an exceptional case, financial secretaries might not be appointed into UFC as their constitutional duties. In 2011 GP1,2, by-laws was not changed but Union Constitution was, in by-laws it was still "representative from faculty society council". The council could discuss on whether or not the representatives could be substituted.
- ASR pointed out that appointing a certain body to standing committee, would be based on the name of the individual.
- GS stated that substitution in standing committees were not stated in the attendance section.
- CC suggested leaving substitution behind, a representative could be removed if he performed badly, but not on a FS not appointed by the Union Council.
- EDSR believed it would be the same principle on EV, which substitution in CM should not be allowed. The change should just be used to let faculty society choose someone interested to get into the committee.
- SSR asked what would be meant by removing the representative.
- CC explained that it would just be revoking the council existing resolution. After consideration, she realized that faculty council might be a better way to tackle, since the representative could be held accountable.
- LSKHR pointed out that UFC tackled also Union finance, will be better if councillors all are notified who the representatives would be.
- ECU raised 2 points: 1) constitution should be the bone, while by-laws are the flesh, appointed by whom might be excluded from constitution; 2) cannot see the necessity to let UC appoint, UFC would be a standing com, and limiting it to FS could help info flow from one section to another.
- EDSR pointed out that the intention was to make somebody interested being able to get in.
- ASR pointed out that if it is not stated in constitution, nobody would make it.
- ENSR accepted the change in this way, it should be stated clearly how to make substitution. It should be the faculty societies' duties to decide how to send representatives.
- CC would stipulate it in by-laws, CRC was working on that.

8. To review the advice from Council Restructuring Working Group on the Council restructuring

- CC pointed out that if consensus could not be reached one week before semester starts, there would not be nothing changed, this year CRWG would have failed. Once a motion was passed that by 2015 balance of power shall be attained. She introduced the changes and concerns.
 - 1) monopoly of certain halls: proposed all halls to become hall community, there would be an election with constituency as all hall residents
 - 2) session passing system: there must be changes if amendment was to be made

She invited hall councillors to attend CRWG before, and suggested that actually council was not a place to do this type of discussion.

- STHR asked why halls and 3As seat would be linked up.
- CC clarified that they need not be bound, but needed to attain balance in percentage. She reminded the councillors that consensus had been attained on cutting places on hall representatives. The problem would be on how to elect hall reps and 3A reps, thus the discussion should be focused on that.
- PC2 asked how to tackle the problems vested in various member base.
- CC pointed out that mechanism would take care of this, each person has 9 votes, so apart from the core, there would also be other votes and preference.
- LHHR pointed out that core problem still exist, like LHH got 300 ppl and UH get 100 as base.
- LSKHR asked if it would be a PC election in hall community, whether or not the candidates needed to promote oneself in other halls, which some halls with smaller number of hall reps still need to try harder.

00:34 recess

01:25 resume

- CC wished the progress could be publicized by media, so that consultation could be done at the same time. 15 seats changing to 9 seats would not be a problem, but how these 9 people would be chosen would be
 - 1) Block Voting: Some halls would have more core votes
 - 2) Preference Showing: Even less popular could get a chance to be elected
 - 3) Hall rep meeting: Similar to the PC meeting, appointing people in and elect Councillors among themselves.
- ENSR asked how the 15 people would choose 9 among themselves.
- CC agreed that an official step would be needed. The mechanism in PC would be taken as reference, within 2 weeks after PC are elected, CC shall call a meeting and elect a coordinator among them.
- ECU suggested setting up a standing committee as joint hall committee, CC as chair, ensuring all hall reps could be in touch with each other.
- EDSR raised that it was discussed in CRWG, how the problem of indirect election could be tackled. He believed that standing committee would be inappropriate, should be hall community internal affairs.
- ECU believed that a councillor must have a body to be officially accountable to, something similar to hall council would be needed.
- UHR believed the discussion would not need to proceed that far, the consensus was not even attained on how to elect among each other.
- CC would call meetings on the following days: 6/1 CRWG, 7/1-8/1 CRC, 9/1 ECM.
- ECU pointed out that the election methods could be simplified into 2: If it was block voting, it would be shown directly how many people were supporting that candidate. If it was preference showing, it would be more like a community, fairer even under being isolated by certain halls. He suggested directly adopting preference showing.

- LAR agreed that the preference voting nowadays would be the only one not dividing by base.
- GS pointed out that for block voting and preference showing, both would not have overriding benefit.
- ECU wished to do preference showing on 2 choices: direct or indirect election.
- STHR pointed out that all 3 methods have their problems, adding option 4- solving the problem Union faces with other method.
- CC pointed out that there must be one party sacrificing, the conclusion attained at this stage was not an immediate resolution.

Total votes: 31

Direct Election: 10

Indirect Election: 18

Abstain: 3

9. A.O.B.

- GS reported on the process of election preparation. 11 nominations had been received, and so as the withdrawal from proposed CAS and proposed EAS last midnight and this evening respectively. If no nomination was received, there should be re-opened nomination. Yet, UEC had interpreted it as, if the whole election did not receive any nomination, but not only on a single post, so no reopening was made.
- The meeting ended at 02:11 on 5/1.

Prepared by,

Approved by,

Leung Lai Kwok Yvonne
Honorary Secretary
HKUSU Council, Session 2013

Li Wai Yan, Vivian
Council Chairperson
HKUSU Council, Session 2013