



ADM Student Club
Election Rally – Union Elections 2019
Minutes of Rally

Venue ADM Lounge, ART-01
Date Thursday, 05 September 2019
Present Returning Officer – Quek Pin Yi (ADM/4)
Election Officers – Nicholas Oen (ADM/3), Clemens Tan (ADM/3)
Candidates – Cheng Si Min (ADM/3), Elicia Chong Yee Ling (ADM/2), Ong You Ling, Desiree (ADM/2), Ng Shin Yi (ADM/2), Joy Sim Kia Him (ADM/3), Maryam Binte Muhd Hamim (ADM/2), Cheng Boon Ruan, Clara (ADM/3)
Constituents – ADM students

Opening

The rally meeting was called to order at 11:45.

Cheng Si Min
Candidate for Union Representative

Si Min is a Year 3 Media Art student, re-running for the position of Union Representative.

Speech:

Si Min explained that the role of the NTU Students' Union is to serve as the main communications platform between students and the university management. The Union also has a say in the management of the university.

As a Union Representative in the term of AY18/19, Si Min stated she was in constant contact with the Club President of ADM Student Club, Desmond to work on various programmes to improve the experience of ADM students. Various issues were discussed, such as campus bus services and overseas exchange programmes amongst others. With regards to overseas exchange, Si Min stated that they had discussed how to maximise opportunities for ADM students abroad, especially due to our specialised needs as art, design and media students.

Si Min also mentioned that it was this co-operation that brought an additional campus bus service to ADM, which is the Yunnan-Novena intercampus shuttle.

Si Min ended her speech by reminding students that the Union Representative helps to bring the student body closer to the university and proposed some possible ideas about what she would do as Union Representative – such as improvements to internship opportunities, securing better funding support for student projects and for the annual Freshmen Orientation programmes as well.

Si Min called on students to vote for their representatives and mentioned that the Union Representative role helps to provide better representation for ADM students.

Questions from the floor:

- A constituent queried Si Min on the rumour of the cancellation of Welfare Pack events; she answered in the negative – that there are no changes to Welfare Pack events, but merely a removal of the provision of bags to encourage greater eco awareness.



Elicia Chong Yee Ling
Candidate for Honorary General Secretary

Elicia is a Year 2 Design Art student, running for the position of Honorary General Secretary.

Speech:

Elicia mentioned that she had been a part of the 14th Management Committee as its financial controller and wishes to give back to the Student Club, as the previous management committee was of great assistance to her. Elicia stated that she enjoys administrative work despite it being stressful and mundane; she finds it enjoyable and therapeutic.

Elicia stated that her previous experiences helped her in a lot of ways; she stated she was an administrative assistant for the National University Health System, which required accurate data entry that had to be given to doctors and upper management. She mentioned that she had the chance to learn how to organise her work and had received compliments from her director in this position.

Elicia said that in her role as Financial Controller for the 14th Management Committee, she handled a lot of data entry which must be detailed and organised as it has to be given to ADM management for their use. This demands neat and tidy arrangement and has helped prepare her for this role and she feels prepared for it.

Elicia ended her speech by calling on constituents to vote for her as Honorary General Secretary for the 15th Management Committee.

Questions from the floor:

A constituent asked her to identify one issue that she felt the 14th Management Committee, of which she was a part of, could have done better and how she would improve it.

- Elicia replied that when the committee provided suggestions on things to improve, these were not implemented quickly or were even not implemented. She suggested that initiatives can be more efficiently implemented, giving the example that the additional power points located in the ADM basement open area took some time to be done. She reiterated that initiatives should be implemented more rapidly.

Another constituent asked her of her opinion of what the Honorary General Secretary's role is, and what she felt could be improved with regards to the Honorary General Secretary's job scope.

- Elicia said that the main role of the Honorary General Secretary would be to record minutes for Management Committee meetings and to work on backend communication and record keeping. She feels that the outgoing Honorary General Secretary did a good job and there is nothing much to improve on. For herself, however, she stated that prompt communication with stakeholders such as the school's management is important.



Ong You Ling, Desiree
Candidate for Welfare Officer

Desiree is a Year 2 Design Art student, running for the position of Welfare Officer.

Speech:

Desiree stated that she wants to run for this position as she cares about mental health, and wants to give ADM a more inclusive and supportive environment. She mentioned that she did a survey before the rally amongst ADM students, asking them about their comfort, support and how they feel as part of the community.

Desiree stated that students surveyed feel that a majority felt that there were not enough study spaces in ADM, and spaces such as the ADM Lounge should be more inclusive. She feels that the top things to be improved are - more spaces for working in, and improved food variety and accessibility. Desiree also mentioned that surprisingly, the majority of ADM students feel that they are well supported in terms of their mental health. However, there is still the minority who face challenges and may need more support, especially freshmen who are still adapting to ADM's rigorous foundation programme.

She mentioned that some students found the ADM Lounge was sometimes too crowded and was not as welcoming as it should be, but also stated that students liked the bean bags in the Lounge, but there is more that can be done to make the space more inclusive.

She stated that she would like to focus on a few priorities:

- Student-led mental health support group
- She feels that freshmen might need some help adapting and this would be useful for them
- Pantry food
- She would like to look into a wider variety of vending machines, such as for hot meals, and also to provide more pantry items for students in the lounge
- Revamping of the lounge
- She proposed that the Lounge could be redesigned to be more open, and activities such as board games and movie screenings could be held in the Lounge which could foster bonding between various cohorts.

Desiree ended her speech by calling on students to vote for her for the position of Welfare Officer.

Questions from the floor:

A constituent mentioned that he is new to the school as a freshman and would like to find out what events are planned by the Welfare Officer.

- Desiree stated that most of the events brought up by the constituent, such as Halloween, are handled by the Social Directors of the Management Committee. However, the Welfare Officer would focus on caring for the school community.

The same constituent asked the candidate about what extras she would push for to care for the community.

- Desiree emphasised her plans to provide more food items for the ADM Lounge pantry and mentioned the Welfare Pack events as well.

Another constituent asked, what would be her plans to revamp the Lounge

- Due to the likely funding cut, Desiree stated that the purchase of new furniture for the Lounge is uncertain. However, she plans to make the Lounge more open by rearranging the furniture in the Lounge.



Ng Shin Yi
Candidate for Financial Controller

Shin Yi is a Year 2 Design Art student, running for the role of Financial Controller.

Speech:

Shin Yi began her speech by explaining that she wants to run for Financial Controller as she feels this would allow her to engage with the different committee roles, and she could help to foster team dynamics based on her character. Shin Yi mentioned that this would enable the team to reach greater heights, and bring better events to the school.

Shin Yi stated that she feels the Financial Controller role has to be flexible in thinking for budgeting.

Explaining that this is an improvement she wants to make, Shin Yi proposed to come up with a better system to help reimburse students so that they would receive their money earlier.

Shin Yi ended her speech by encouraging constituents to vote for her at the elections.

Questions from the floor:

A constituent mentioned the upcoming budget cut and asked her which event she would choose to remove from the Club event calendar, or how she would allocate the budget properly.

Shin Yi stated that she would try not to take out events first as every event is important for the school and these are part of the annual calendar. She would try to minimise expenditure first, before considering removing events as a last resort.



Joy Sim Kia Him
Candidate for Welfare Officer

Joy is a Year 3 Media Art student, running for the role of Welfare Officer.

Speech:

She mentioned that when she looks back at her past experiences, she does not have much but was a sub-committee member for ADM Student Club and her hall's Welfare committees. She stated that she was a Group Leader at both ADM's and Student Union's freshmen orientation events, which means that she knows how to care for others to a certain extent.

Joy explained that her reason for running for this position is that after spending most of her time in ADM, she finds ADM a homely environment. However, she feels that when ADM students are too busy with their projects, they get too cluttered and her friends have been falling ill due to late nights. Thus, she would like to provide a better environment for students as it can be a stressful environment.

Joy said that she likes how ADM is a small community, so familiar faces are always around. Hence, she would like to reach out and provide better welfare for the community. She brought up the Lounge as an example and stated that whilst the Lounge is a nice place, she sometimes feels that there is a potential hygiene issue as many activities go on at the Lounge, and the venue is a little cluttered and could be cleaner. She reiterated that she wishes to provide better welfare.

Questions from the floor:

A constituent asked how she could do better compared to the outgoing Welfare Officer.

- Joy stated that she feels the outgoing Welfare Officer did a good job in catering to the welfare of the student community. However, some of his proposals were not approved and she hopes to work towards completing these proposals. She would seek her predecessor's guidance on how to make proposals that can be approved to cater to the student body. Joy mentioned initiatives brought up by her predecessor, such as the provision of a coffee machine, but this was not realised. Thus, she hopes to provide more food or provide for a food vending machine due to a lack of a food outlet in ADM.

Another constituent asked if she had any other plans, as what she had mentioned was also previously proposed by the outgoing Welfare Officer.

- Joy stated that she has no concrete plans thus far as she is still unsure of the proposal process. If she has the budget, she would provide for a pantry to cater to the students. However, she is unsure if this is viable due to financial matters.
- Otherwise, she would opt for providing utensils. She mentioned that students discard their unused disposable utensils and would want to collate these in a proper, hygienic place for students to use.



Maryam Binte Muhamad Hamim
Candidate for Vice President

Maryam is a Year 2 Media Art student running for the role of Vice President.

Speech:

Maryam mentioned that she has been involved in outside commitments; such as: a family band, and the Orkestra Melayu Singapura (Singapore Malay Orchestra), whereby she is a part of its leadership.

Maryam stated that her reason for taking up the challenge of being the Vice President is as follows: she feels that she will be a good leader due to her experience as the Head of Logistics for the ADM 19/20 Freshmen Orientation Programme. Moreover, she has observed that students tend to care more about work than themselves, a worrying trend that she wishes to rectify. She hopes to be able to encourage students to adopt a better work life balance and to be able to care for the main committee of the Student Club as well.

Maryam said that she plans to do so by organising bi-weekly events to help students destress. Examples of such events would be recreational games such as Uno. She would also support her committee's initiatives.

Questions from the floor:

A constituent asked her how she thinks she could improve based on the outgoing Vice President.

- She thinks that the previous VP was a good and capable person. She even worked closely with him during the Freshmen Orientation under the logistics departments. She has felt inspired by him to take better care of the school. And she feels like he is a mentor whom she could always seek help from and learn from to better her own ways. She feels that she should be there to ensure everybody does their work; to keep on task. Yet at the same time, she wants to ensure that the workload is evenly spread and have a better manage over discipline of the committee members.

Another constituent asked her, knowing the people she might be working with, what does she think is the best way to suit their working dynamics?

- Maryam believes that due to Project based schoolwork, there may be times whereby people cannot match in terms of scheduling. She suggests the option of separately communicating instructions to the members who have missed the meetings. However, she would still try her best to get everyone together, as she strongly believes in face to face communication for clarification of things. She also notes that she should not drag meetings late into the night because everyone needs to rest

Another constituent asked her, with SAO cutting down the funding, how can SC handle this issue?

- Maryam suggested the possibility of cutting down on ADM activities. But she would like to minimise that as she feels that all events are important. Instead, she would suggest trying to be thrifter, because, as much as budget cut affects the Student Club, she would rather remain positive. Even if events get cut, the club may be able to depend on students to give a helping hand such as donating. Overall, she feels that an event is primarily for the school, not just for themselves.



Cheng Boon Ruan, Clara Candidate for President

Speech:

Clara is a Year 3 Design Art student who is running for President.

Clara has lived abroad for half her life. She left Singapore at Primary 3, went to Australia and subsequently moved to Shanghai. She started off with this short excerpt about her life as she believes in sharing about herself so that people would know who they are voting for. Moreover, she feels that having lived half her life overseas, she has been allowed to meet different people and situations. These experiences have taught her to be ready on her feet, hence she feels like she is versatile enough for the role.

Clara believes that everyone can work together to make the best of themselves. She values authenticity and wishes to use the authority to impact the new team in a positive manner.

Clara understands that communicating values requires words and actions and that there are many things to consider before running for President.

She feels that her experience from high school in Shanghai, being highly involved in many extracurricular activities, has given her the necessary experience to be a good leader. These activities included being part of her high school track team, and Vice President of her high school's Art Honors Society.

Clara mentioned that she will utilise her understanding of what the organisation is like, and the people that make it the way it is, to run her term as President. She will pay attention to the committee's ideas in order to achieve greater balance of wellness amongst all stakeholders. Even when something seems off, she will be on the ground to understand the situation before making her judgement.

Being Creative Director of the 14th Management Committee, Clara stated that she understands the requirements of the workload. Hence, she can empathise with incoming co-opted members.

Clara ended her speech by reminding constituents to vote for their nominees on the coming Voting Day.

Questions from the floor:

A constituent asked her as President, what is one big change she would foresee.

- She believes that the importance of having basic communication is often overlooked. The major change she hopes to bring forth would be the ability to keep everyone updated. She believes this will help to provide better outcomes. As for the rest, she has yet to make any big plans. However, she is confident in being the type of leader that would want to hear opinions from the committee, before diving into making her own decision.

Another constituent asked her, what is one thing that could be improved from the previous committee.

- Clara believes that that her committee should have more consistent meetings, in order to keep everyone up to date. She felt that not everyone was collaboratively included and would like to improve on that through more frequent meetings as it would be better for everyone to communicate.

Another constituent raised the issue about how she would carry out conflict management within committee.

- Clara thought about how when rendered unable to do anything, what she would do. She decided that sitting down with the people to talk things out would be the best course of action. She is unafraid of harsh criticisms as harsh feedback are part of the learning curve for her. She would internalise these lessons and grow from them.

Another constituent asked her how she would prioritise her time between all the tasks she had to handle.

- Clara believes in being organised by taking note of all tasks. A clear plan will help her to manage her time. She considers herself as a sub-commer to the main committee, equal to all the main committee members and would help support them in their tasks. She also finds it easier to relate to them in that way.



Another constituent raised the issue about Committee members who don't show up. How would she make a judgement after weighing the effect on the club that the absence had caused; and how would she talk to person or approach them.

- Clara thinks that if it comes to that situation, she would approach them on friendly terms first. She wants to understand the person's situation before saying there is a problem, to see from their perspectives.

Another constituent asked the candidate why she chose the role of the President and not another role.

- Based from experience, Clara feels like she can empathise and understand others better. Moreover, she cares about wellbeing and sees the role as an opportunity to oversee everything in general to ensure the best for everyone involved.

Another constituent asked the candidate how she felt she could improve on from the previous President.

- Clara felt that she understood that he was busy with external affairs. She felt that he believed in the fact that internal main comm can handle their tasks enough, even without him being in school all the time. However, she felt that as president, she could do better by keeping her main committee updated on everything, in order to avoid confusion and dissatisfaction.

Closing

The rally meeting was closed at 13:30.

Verified by candidates:

Cheng Si Min
 Candidate for Union Representative

Joy Sim/Kia Him
 Candidate for Welfare Officer

Ong You Ling, Desiree
 Candidate for Welfare Officer

Ng Shin Yi
 Candidate for Financial Controller

Elicia Chong Yee Ling
 Candidate for Honorary General Secretary

Maryam Bte Muhd Hamim
 Candidate for Vice President

Cheng Boon Ruan, Clara
 Candidate for President

Vetted by:

Quek Pin Yi
 Returning Officer