



1. Overview

Rally Details	
Date	04 September 2019
Time	3 - 5.30pm
Venue	CSB Learning Studio

2. Attendance

Elections Committee: Total 3

Appointment	Name
Returning Officer	Lim Jun Heng
Elections Officers	Evan Tan, Joel Chan

Candidates: Total 7

Position	Name
President	Ashwin S/O Singaram (M4)
Vice-President	Zenneth Lim (M4)
Secretary	Ng Chen Lin (M2) Thirrish Murugan (M2)
Treasurer	Chan Jin Qi Valerie (M2)
Welfare Director	Christian James Lim (M4)
Programmes Director	Vemula Sri Sai Vishnu (M2)

3. Rally Timeline

Time	Activity	Action by
3.00-3.10	RO opens the rally and briefs the audience about the flow of events for the day	
3.10-3.20	Ashwin Speech for President 3.08: Ashwin begins his speech. Starts off with talking about his thought process. Centred around 3 questions.	Ashwin



	<p>What does Medsoc do? Many would answer as organising events eg surfs up and PBJ. However what he believes is it is for the students by the students, and the best way to serve their needs is to first know their needs. 3 big categories: academics, welfare & fun.</p> <p>Welfare can be subdivided into tangible (gym, house rooms, etc) and intangible (managing stress etc). However over the years the upkeep and standard of these tangibles is falling, and he would like to focus on the upkeep and maintenance of these facilities.</p> <p>Medsoc has provided many opportunities to have fun, artistic opportunities, sports etc. However, in the future, there will probably be more red tape and financial constraints. The MedSoc might not be able to carry out the events like it used to and it might need to consider scaling down certain events in order to achieve maximum happiness.</p> <p>Academics: Most subscribed attendance amongst these 3 areas. Careers and research also come under this category. Idea of “paying it forward” is passed down to us since day 1 (senior teachings etc). However it may be increasingly diluted as the batches rise in numbers. A priority will be to tapping into house family system and increase camaraderie etc</p> <p>3.15: Why me? Past 3 years of leadership positions gives sufficient experience with working with different stakeholders. Is a servant leader. Quote “boss might say go! but a leader says “Lets go!”. Deeply passionate about LKC, made many friendships that pushes him forward to serve the school.</p> <p>Ends of with “LKC medicine is family, and family means no one gets left behind”</p> <p>3.16: Ashwin ends speech</p>	
3.20-3.30	<p>Ashwin Q&A</p> <p>3.17: Do you have any specific goals for the next medsoc, particularly regarding the issues of interbatch cohesion as well as transparency?</p> <p>Ash: Will be his main goal to reinforce house fam. Aware of discrepancies between how each house families interact different, proposes to formalize a standard minimum. Also want to formalize assigning senior mentors to juniors to keep an eye out for them (house tutors only meet once every 3 months and might not be very personal). Good to have community spirit going amongst inter-batch interaction. Wishes to promote these inter batch interactions and hopes to provide funds for inter-batch bonding.</p> <p>Previous medsoc always releases meeting minutes with faculty etc, good job regarding transparency already. Going forward, he hopes the new medsoc will continue this good practice and does not see a big problem with transparency.</p>	Ashwin

	<p>3.20: There appears to be a general trend of lower student participation from the junior batches, especially for school organised events such as the recent LKC open day. How do you plan to address this issue?</p> <p>Ash: Depends on how the students view the school. As the batch numbers continually increase, less motivation for the students to feel ownership of the school. Leadership should be more on the ground and leaders to find out more from students as individuals. Medsoc should try their best to maintain school spirit.</p> <p>3.21: "Maintaining the student lounge refrigerator is an exercise in futility". Discuss this statement.</p> <p>Ash: Don't think it is a failure/ just requires the right management of manpower. More focus can be shifted to maintaining the schedule this term. Strict rules to be enforced regarding lounge and fridge usage.</p> <p>3.22: Q&A ends</p>	
<p>3.30-3.40</p>	<p>Zenneth (Zenn) Speech for Vice-President</p> <p>3.23: Zenn begins speech</p> <p>Hopes to strengthen the pioneering spirit. Why we do what we do etc.</p> <p>Suitable for vice-president position due to past experience.</p> <p>Past 3 years experience: 2021 acad core comm member</p> <p>Bridging Prog Core Comm- Co-Chair (Mentions pioneering spirit and contributing to juniors' learning)</p> <p>M2 Year Rep</p> <p>Treasurer for OCIP Songkeum AY16/17</p> <p>What does the bare minimum entail? Support President in his initiatives and actions. Believes he is the right fit for this job from past experiences talking to a wide range of people, interacting with juniors through his leadership roles.</p> <p>Core Curricular Cluster</p> <p>Academics: hope to streamline acad resources and providing effective feedback in light of changing curriculums. Hope to work with PnP to revamp wixsite. Hopes to foster strong senior junior teaching and mentorship, such as the success of the M2 to M3 bridging experience - feedback from the ground from M3s is positive so far from his Bridging program.</p> <p>Careers: LKC SIGs successful so far. Still room for new SIGs eg the new SIG recently this year. To let SIGs know that Medsoc is approachable for assistance anytime too.</p>	

	<p>States that there is limited research opportunities for M1 and M2, should be a great time to try research. Every year there is a surplus of available research projects in M4. Wishes to work with school to offer these surplus projects to M1 and M2s.</p> <p>Medsoc also requires greater exposure, thus should improve in disseminating information and being on the ground. Clinical and preclinical gap should be addressed, medsoc should be on the ground to find out each batch's problems and concerns (ICE)</p>	
<p>3.40-3.50</p>	<p>Zenn Q&A</p> <p>3.31: The goals you have outlined in your writeup are essentially an echo of the previous Acad, Careers and Research heads respectively. In what ways do you think they have fallen short in the last AY and how what would you do differently this year?</p> <p>Zenn: Goals closely echo because ultimately what a medical student does (core cluster) would not change much now and in the future. Want to formalize senior-junior mentorship. Previous medsocs have done, however believes that more can be done (not many knows of existing measures). Info and instructions should be more available to students (eg not under "others" section on wix). Publicity is the main issue to be resolved.</p> <p>3.33: Do you see the blatant nonchalance your batch has for medsoc as an issue and if so, what are you going to do about it?</p> <p>Zenn: Have to think why the batch is nonchalant. If the batch is unaware of what medsoc is doing, how can they be interested? Medsoc is really there to care for the student and for day to day events eg TBL, ICPs. For eg if M1 and 2s have problems with TBLs, are they aware of the existing channels to feedback? Feels that the batch may view medsoc as a blackhole and have a lack of awareness. Perception of medsoc would improve for the better once there is an awareness of what medsoc does</p> <p>3.35: There appears to be a general trend of lower student participation from the junior batches, especially for school organised events such as the recent LKC open day. How do you plan to address this issue?</p> <p>Zenn: Split into macro and micro side. Macro is as previously mentioned: should be addressed by medsoc going into the ground and let others know what medsoc is doing for the school. Help juniors with the work/problems they face, cleaning up lv8, committees and sub comms (should be more utilised for students to feel belonging to school). For systemic issues to be smaller, should start small and the qn to ask is "what makes LKC what it is"</p> <p>3.38: What can you do about the fact that SLS will no longer update our attendance if we forget to take it?</p>	<p>Zenneth</p>



	<p>Zenn: Should be answered seriously. LKC trains professionals. SLS has every right to deny people the attendance issue for professionalism. Middle ground can be made eg grace period, but school has its reason for changing the system. being on time for work in the future is essential.</p> <p>3.40: Q&A end</p>	
3.50-4.00	<p>Chen Lin (Chen) Speech for Secretary</p> <p>3.40: Chen begins speech</p> <p>Not many that joins med school runs for secretary. Furthermore, many leadership roles elsewhere eg halls, ocips etc. However, motivation by her experience in LKC last year, believes she is the right fit.</p> <p>As M1 LBK House Rep, empowered by role to actively shape a supportive and inclusive culture amongst the batch. Despite all differences of individuals in the house, batch comes together every once in a while. Not only her batch but also with seniors and juniors.</p> <p>Secretarial part of house rep’s job was a means to an end. Encouraged her to serve in a bigger capacity for the school. Working with Hse tutors and house reps from other houses, and senior batches, achieve welfare, support and bonding gave her exposure and familiarity with admin process, complements suitability for secretary.</p> <p>In her time in the SAF, being Midshipmen Education Officer Naval during her Foundation Term gave her admin skills. Role was to coordinate instructions from superiors to batch and to relay info in both directions to propose plans to satisfy everyone’s interest, to establish a culture of academic support. In the midst of intense studying/ tests, she started a culture of academic support amongst her peers to ensure everyone progresses through the course together. Would like to bring it on into the medsoc culture. As the education officer, communications with superiors via formal avenues gave her the necessary experience for a role as secretary (eg working with school)</p> <p>Understands that secretary has 3 roles: support exco, publicity and publications, and international relations. Secretary, out of the 6 exco roles, plays a big part about pulling everything together for the medsoc, has to be the one to keep everything in check and according to schedule. Hope to support this cause.</p> <p>PnP plays big role in helping Medsoc reach out to school. Commends previous medsoc’s PnP’s efforts which have greatly helped increase Medsoc presence. However further work can still be done to streamline and strengthen it.</p> <p>International Relations is another impt role for facilitating school’s overseas programmes. Similar to that of PnP, secretary job it to bridge IR comm and faculty.</p>	Chen Lin



	<p>Ideas for the year ahead is to build a stronger sense of community peer-teaching and peer-sharing. Inspiration came from senior holding an anki teaching session. Good direction forward for school's culture. Without initiative to share skills/knowledge/experiences, school would be very individualistic. Right now, many barriers for people to step up and share. Proposes to set up an avenue for more open sharing opportunities that are not limited to didactic style sharing but can explore more informal settings such as discussion and over meals as well. Topics can include OCIP, LCIP, overseas exchange programmes, electives. Presence of avenue can be a source of inspiration for students.</p> <p>Another idea: greater integration between school and faculty. Harnessing ilkc as a platform for integration. Dual campus etc makes seeing peers/ inter-batch friends hard. iLKC is a common and accessible platform to showcase/ update events for all to see. Merge Medsoc and school schedules > help to create a more cohesive structure (eg booking venues, timetables, for projects and events etc)</p> <p>3.55: Chen ends</p>	
4.00-4.10	<p>Thirrishia (TM) Speech for Secretary</p> <p>3.55 TM begins</p> <p>Why can't Siri/bixby replace a secretary? What exactly does a secretary exactly mean? Idea of secretary is 3 key things.</p> <p>More than just a middleman. Taking the extra step and seeing where their problems lie, upholding the name of LKC with external parties. International Relations, conferences etc. wise, more can be done to promote the school and increase partnership opportunities for the school.</p> <p>For students breaking new ground/ starting new initiatives, minimize inefficiency regarding faculty processes. Secretary position is essential to improve this.</p> <p>Purpleandsilver is a good channel where she learnt a lot about the school. Now reach a critical mass, so how next to expand on this? Emails from NTU, LKC and many random parties cause a messy inbox/ channel. Summary of events proposed, to be posted on IG for easier viewing at a glance. Proposes a Medsoc version of student voice, since the latter's official tone may be daunting. Telegram chat etc informalizes it so it is easier for students to give feedback in an established channel.</p> <p>Lack of information regarding how to go about setting up sharing/ events/ initiatives. Admin details and proposal forms information not readily available and currently students approach seniors that have previously done similar initiatives in order to start their own.</p>	Thirrishia



	<p>Small anecdote: anatomy workshop from NUS where information not conveyed properly that NUS Professor had wanted to invite NTU students. Wishes formalize process for external parties to collaborate in order to consistently get such opportunities in the future.</p> <p>Why stick through for secretary even though it is contested? Role she had held 3 years ago in council, debate CCA leadership role, gave experience liaising with external stakeholders. Felt most strongly about this role. Suggests that experience allows her to identify inefficiencies etc and what might work or will not</p> <p>Wants to push forward, take ownership of initiatives in the future. Quotes LKC carnival, where it was first proposed with many unknowns this year. Even when budget was cut in half close to the event, the team stick with the idea to provide fun for the students, even though it took place very close to Summs. Hope to carry this resilient attitude forward and constantly consider how she can give back in her capacity to the student body.</p> <p>4.06: TM ends</p>	
4.10-4.30	<p>Chen & TM Q&A</p> <p>4.07: What makes you more suitable for the role compared to your fellow competitor?</p> <p>TM: believes that competency between candidates are around the same. however, she believes in her own tenacity with seeing projects through. wishes to be given the chance to push through with initiatives she will spearhead in the future. "better" then depends on the voter</p> <p>Chen: similar views on competency. Not dominant, talks to everyone, get ideas from interactions with everyone else. Out of the box ideas, eg house meeting in m1 she proposed prata making workshop that attracted many m4s on top of the m1s. Catered to both juniors and seniors.</p> <p>4.10: Hi Thirrishia, this question may or may not be as relevant post your rally but you raised this idea that the secretary is more than just this person in charge of the boring admin work behind MedSoc and you spoke fondly of this experience of interacting with these foreign medical societies, just wondering if you can expound on those and how will you make them relevant in our local context.</p> <p>Understands that admin is a core part of the job. May be entertaining to even sort through. Part of SIMSA (along with Chen) where she worked with many other medical students and was inspired by their ownership regarding their own projects. Believes in a change in working dynamics with the school. Feels her experience is relevant.</p>	Chen Lin Thirrishia

4.12: The glimpse of work y'all would have done through being a house rep is just the tip of the iceberg, event organisation can still be considered the easy part of being a secretary tbh, just look at your presidential hopeful and ask if he necessarily enjoyed his term as a secretary. This job is thankless and sometimes you'd be bogged down by it more than normal, impairing your ability to expand your role to other things - how do you intend to overcome this or do you have any ideas in place that can help with that?.

TM : With everything time management is an issue. Cannot neglect responsibility. If the proposal is truly important, having core commitments should not be an excuse to disregard it. Besides time management and prioritizing, conduct a needs management to assess efforts.

Chen: Will consider the priorities of medsoc and if the task at hand is in line with it, will be worth pursuing.

4.16: If you were not elected as secretary, how would you continue to pursue your ideas for improving LKC?

Chen: talked with many peers/snrs/jnrs to get ideas on how to improve medsoc. More than happy to work with the comm in the future.

TM: feels that motivation still holds true. Will not see a problem with initiatives being worked out with the Pres etc in the future. Somethings can be done with or without secretary role. However with the role given to her, she will have platform to pursue it much further.

4.18: Both candidates have given great ideas, but thoughts about what the admin of a secretary truly entails in their perspective?

Chen: understanding is taking minutes, keeping track of schedules, seeing it to fruition, deadlines, liaising comms under her charge, taking on additional roles

TM: baseline of communicating with student pop, collating details of LCIPS, admin details of meeting minutes, seeing progress of deadlines, ensuring availability of info for midyear reports, international relations communication of details and timelines, accountancy of comm

4.21: Source for overseas opportunities, but school clamped down on possible locations to get exchanges etc. What do you perceive as job scope of IR comm and what you would like to do about it?

Chen: Aware that there were many roadblocks. Electives did not have any structured avenues for students to find out more, and relied on word of mouth. Advocates more senior-junior sharing, collate and document trips for future batches to refer to. Can



	<p>foster smaller scale info transfer for more effective sharing (as mentioned before in speech).</p> <p>TM: Aware of difficulties due to regulations and starting an exchange. Hopes to formalize exchange applications, a “reference sheet” would be good to document trips. SIMSA’s unconventional trips etc can cater to students needs past school exchanges</p> <p>4.25: Increasing presence of medsoc was a problem. PnP was worked with heavily. any plans for publicity?</p> <p>TM: similar situation in her time in students council. plan to expand the use of tele channels on top of only emails. Sense of ownership should be increased (get students to invite friends), eg by using more relevant channels such as telegram. Not the end goal though, even if people aren't aware the event was run by MedSoc, it is alright so long as they attend and appreciate it.</p> <p>Chen: Understands that there is a limit to how much usage of instagram/telegram can help, as it is not a 100% solution. In LKC/ university there is a lack of a common ground where students stay and hang out. ILKC then can be used as a common ground, could work with IT dept to incorporate medsoc and school calendars together. To make school feel like a more eventful place, updates should be made more often.</p> <p>4.31: Q&A end</p>	
4.30-4.40	<p>Valerie (Val) Speech for Treasurer</p> <p>4.32 Val begins</p> <p>I would like to share with you why I would like to be considered for this role and my plans for this academic year. I would also like to clarify why I didn’t apply for the role in the first nomination window as I’m sure some of you are wondering.</p> <p>I was the class vice chairperson in secondary school and class chairperson and treasurer in JC, where I collected funds from my classmates and used it to pay for notes for class events. This experience really taught me much about accountability especially when it comes to handling money. Right now I hold the role of programmes IC for Project Daya, ensuring that every programme that we plan and aim to deliver to our beneficiaries is effective , purposeful and safe.</p> <p>I’ve always been a very reliable person, and am frequently someone that comes to mind when electing for such roles that call for consistency, and I think treasurer is one of them. It is difficult to prove my credibility in the form of a speech, but I’m sure if you ask anyone who knows me they will attest to my character.</p>	Valerie

Should you allow me to serve you as treasurer, I do have such improvements that I hope to implement in my term. I would firstly like to thank my friends who have discussed these ideas with me and in doing so prompted me to think more about how a treasury can operate more efficiently.

For one, I would like to formalise the way transactions are carried out between MedSoc and the organising team. As a more established institution now, we are no longer a new medical school we were six years ago. I believe any established institution deserves a formal bank account to handle the transactions going through, especially when the treasurer changes each academic year. While there are discussions to be had with MedSoc and many details to be ironed out about this, this is an endeavour that I hope to pursue in my term as treasurer.

Furthermore, I strongly believe in transparency within MedSoc and the student body especially when it comes to funding. We know that resources are limited and have to be distributed across the various events and projects, which means that sometimes the budget for a certain programme is lowered, especially with the rise of many new initiatives. I believe that the student body should receive regular updates of the different areas in which the funds are being spent on and to be given the opportunity to understand and clarify the rationale behind the budget allocated for each event so as to avoid any disgruntlement or dissatisfaction.

I would like to provide the student body a platform to be heard with regards to financial matters. After all, the funding is meant for the student body so it would be counter productive to allocate funds for the student body without knowing what you want.

I may be inexperienced in official roles as compared to others but this leads me to why I only decided to run only after the first nomination window. This second part is more personal but I hope to share this with you so I can explain why I want to serve the school as treasurer and I hope that you will support me. While the idea of running for treasurer had crossed my mind before, I saw myself as less qualified than my peers and I never had the courage to even allow myself to consider running for the role and I convinced myself that someone more capable than me would do it. But it was only when the nomination window closed and with the position remaining vacant, I began to look at it from another perspective; that this was an opportunity that I could use to serve the school. There was no reason that I was any less capable than my peers; in fact my friends often say that I am one of the most responsible people they know. So with my meticulous and trustworthy nature, which are important traits for the role of treasurer, I feel that this is the way that I can serve the school in my capacity.

	<p>Even though it seems as if I am running for the role of treasurer as a personal challenge, to some extent it is but it is truly my desire to serve the student body in this capacity by taking on this task. I believe that my character and skill-sets are very much aligned to what is required of the role of treasurer, and I promise to do what is required of me to the best of my ability. Thank you.</p> <p>4.36 Val ends</p>	
<p>4.40-4.50</p>	<p>Val Q&A</p> <p>4.36: The role of treasurer for the incoming MedSoc in particular is very important; that being said, do you have the necessary confidence to hit the ground running?</p> <p>Val: I think that although I fail to be confident at times, when I believe in something I will pursue it. If it is something the entire MedSoc agrees on then surely I will pursue it to the end.</p> <p>4.37: Do you think the MedSoc should be more transparent in the use and allocation of their funds?</p> <p>Val: I mentioned in my speech that transparency is something that I believe in and there is no reason for MedSoc not to be transparent about the use of funds. I think that transparency is a good thing and will really help in solving miscommunications between Medsoc and student body as after all, MedSoc exists to serve the student body. There should not be a reason not to be transparent.</p> <p>4.37: Don't doubt yourself! After what you shared I'm sure you will fit the role very well and will have no issue handling the financial side of things. But one thing that we face over the past few years is that everytime we have DnD it will be very pricey to pay a downpayment to book a venue (e.g. CHIJMES \$3000). The DnD head should not be forking out from his own pocket to foot this downpayment. Usually how MedSoc works is that when you buy an item, you can claim the money back from the school. Now with the downpayment of \$3000, what would your suggestion be, as to how to fix this problem?</p> <p>Val: From my understanding there are no reserves for the MedSoc to tap on. It takes a while for the reimbursement to come in as well, so within the period the student will have to fork out the money. Does that mean you cannot apply for the booking in advance?</p> <p>4.39: We have tried, but we've failed. Usually we try to get it from Student Activities Office (SAO), where there are funds that can be used to pay in advance for events. But the application process takes very long and sometimes the timeframe to confirm the funds for payment is very short. How would you circumvent this? Not</p>	



	<p>necessarily how to fix the finance department side, but how do we overcome this issue?</p> <p>Val: The best idea I have at this moment is to perhaps work with SAO to try to arrange a system where MedSoc can hold reserves for cases such as these, where you can have a working reserves account to tap on.</p> <p>4.40: But this was tried and it failed.</p> <p>Val: Since this is something that MedSoc has already tried, this is all I can answer on the spot. Definitely we'll have to work on it in the term ahead.</p> <p>4.41: Just a clarification: MedSoc does send out the expenditures and allocation of the budget for each event at the end of every year. If you are interested you can take a look before you start your term. The question that I have is: for a treasurer, many qualities are important, but which do you think is the most important?</p> <p>Val: Most of all would be integrity and trustworthiness. Because the treasurer is entrusted with the funds of the school and money is a touchy subject, which is why this is the most important trait.</p> <p>Meticulousness is also very important because they handle the transactions in and out. If the person is not very organised about these sort of things then definitely money can get lost and things may not balance which might pose a big problem. Regarding the statement about transparency, I understand that MedSoc does send out the budget. But I was stating more along the lines of a platform for the student body to ask questions and even contribute to the allocations of resources.</p>	
4.50-5.00	<p>Christian (Chris) Speech for Welfare Director</p> <p>4.44 Christian begins</p> <p>As you can see I've been around the block. In Year 1 I was DnD treasurer, Year 2 I went on to Sports Head, Year 3 House Rep, in an SIG exco and also headed a CIP. Having been around the block and in a lot of positions and done a lot of different kinds of work, I think I'm ready and have the necessary experience and skills to step up to join the exco and be Welfare Director where I help other people to fulfil these roles.</p> <p>For this year, some areas of focus I have includes student facilities, houses and feedback processes. The reason why I have so few goals is because, as Ashwin mentioned, you only have one term; you can have a lot of goals but realistically, you can only fulfil A or B so it is better to focus on few goals and do them well.</p> <p>Most of my goals are fairly tangible, things you can see with regard to for example student facilities. Our CSB has been around for 4 years now, and some things are due for maintenance. Some house reps have raised the concern for the need for refurbishment. I cannot guarantee this, but this is something I am going to look to focus on. Please vote for me.</p> <p>4.46 Chris ends</p>	Christian

<p>5.00-5.10</p>	<p>Chris Q&A</p> <p>4.46: The previous welfare director focussed heavily on CIP. Some even say excessively so. What are your views on this and how would you approach the role differently, if at all?</p> <p>Christian: I am not going to say that there was excessive focus on CIP; difficult for me to judge because I was not in the committee or exco, but I'm sure he had his reasons for his focus.</p> <p>I want to focus on tangible things and improve on things we have already instead of coming up with new and innovative things. It is important, but every now and then we need to work on consolidation. For example, the food in the student lounge is a contentious subject, and the system did not quite work out, but we are going to look into all these things and I hope to come up with something that works and satisfies people. A lot of people have asked me about it so it is appropriate for me to think about it and work on it.</p> <p>4.47: There appears to be a general trend of lower student participation from the various batches, especially from school-organised events, such as the recent LKC Open Day. How do you plan to address this issue?</p> <p>Christian: From secondary school, I've always been in school with no graduation batch (pioneer schools); I have seen this in every single school, where as the batch gets larger and participation and pride for the school diminishes a little bit. Unfortunately I cannot say any solutions that work, but I think the thing that changes is a sense of ownership. When you are a small batch, like in my secondary school when I was the first batch, you know that "this is our school". This sense of ownership is great; everything you do matters and everyone wants to contribute and leave a legacy. But if you get bigger batches that tends to diminish.</p> <p>If you are the 7th batch that comes in and there's 150 of you, what does it matter what one person does? What might work is establishing a sense of ownership. So how would I do this? I am hoping to do it through the welfare comm and getting people more involved and giving people more responsibilities and leadership so they will have a greater sense of ownership. This is so that people will feel like LKC is their school, and what they do matters. You try to involve other people as well.</p> <p>It is impossible to have this solved at once to get everyone involved, but we can start with a few individuals, until it spreads further and further. So we have to change that by reaching out to a few people at a time.</p> <p>4.49: How do you plan to better utilise the welfare committee?</p> <p>Christian: Traditionally, the position of welfare director has always been seen as the "head" of the welfare committee. And that is a natural assumption. But while I was thinking about, I thought, perhaps what would work is instead of me leading the</p>	<p>Christian</p>
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committee, I appoint someone else to lead the committee. ExCo members should be attached to the committee, but not necessarily leading the committee and calling the shots within the committee. When I was the Sports Head, which is part of the Programmes Committee, I thought the system worked really well. The progs director sits on top and has independent sub-comms under him. He doesn't call the shots but just supports them. We can learn from that and try out that system within the welfare committee, where we have a committee just focuses on facilities or all aspects of Student's welfare; the welfare director will just support them and hopefully this gives them a greater sense of ownership as well which I was talking about previously.

4.51: Do you think welfare initiatives have been adequate? What initiatives are you going to introduce as Welfare Director and why are they necessary?

Christian: Initiatives from Welfare have certainly have been appreciated, but personally cannot really say if it's been adequate, because I don't see how everyone else reacts to it. But from a personal perspective it has been very much appreciated such as exam welfare and student lounge. It has been useful in some point or another. With regards to initiatives, I don't want anything new but I want to focus on what we already have as we have enough on our plate already.

4.52: For welfare director, I would argue that the welfare director's portfolio is one of the bigger ones in the ExCo: LCIP, OCIP, House, Exco commitments and welfare. I focussed excessively on CIP because that's where the work and structure was needed, whereas for house it is a self-sustaining system where you do work once in a while and then it would run by itself. I agree with your priorities, and it would be great if the incoming person would focus on them as well since I focussed on CIP there are systems in place to help with that already. I just want to find out what are your plans for the house system?

Christian: The house system functions by house reps. They are all mostly independent in the sense that they don't come together to discuss house things, only during some events, but they are not thought of as House Committee per se, but just individual House reps. From what I remember, we met the welfare director to discuss the direction for the year. Instead of the welfare director leading that again, since I'm thinking of this as a committee, I would also consider having a representative from the welfare committee to deal with the house reps, which is a new idea of a House Committee. Again, that's not me leading the committee, but rather they have a leader and they have their independent roles and I just support them as the exco member attached to them.

4.55: One of the biggest challenges I faced was the upkeep of Level 8; it was almost impossible to get people to clean up the student lounge and house rooms; someone



	<p>will come up and make a mess even if you clean it up. Have you thought of what you would do? There will be people who will also be texting you abt things like malfunctions in fridges etc.</p> <p>Christian: Last year we had a welfare comm to deal with the student lounge. I am hoping to do something similar and I want to hand the responsibility to them and let them function independently and find solutions while I support them. If they can devote their time to focussing on these issues and coming up with systems that work, then there's nothing to say that as welfare director I have the best ideas, and that he knows what to do; as you said it is a very big job scope and it is impossible for the welfare director to focus on these things. Since there are already people who stepped up to be part of the welfare comm, we should give them ownership of this and allow them to take the lead on this, let the welfare head get their initiatives or whatever they need help in..</p>	
5.10-5.20	<p>Vishnu Speech for Programmes Director</p> <p>4.58 Vishnu starts</p> <p>Before I begin, why make a speech so tense and so strict? After all I'm a student like you and me, there's no point being an enigma, so I thought here's a meme to start with.</p> <p>Programmes is the life blood for any kind of student life in the school because it gives you a break from the grind of studying. It is an important role and there are lots of things involved in it, and if I can come in to make an impact or change in it, that would be great.</p> <p>My experience is based on what I have read up on what I have received on programme directors. They help people achieve what they want to do and get things out to students on what they want. And that is what I seek to do. And before I go on, here's another one (meme).</p> <p>Just like what the meme shows (bus driver meme), it is easy to make up words and empty promises and phrase things in a way that can be sold. Ultimately it is about the situation at that point of time and how I can use it to effect the change that is required. I don't want to make empty promises. I want to learn the ropes on the job, because I understand it is a lot of things. From there, I want to understand the needs of it, and from there go on and effect what I can do.</p> <p>Ultimately, why choose me? I too was one that wanted to start a project. But due to series of unfortunate events and things out of my hand, things didn't go as planned and my project didn't come to fruition. Now that I look back, the reason for why it failed was not as relevant but I saw my dreams and goals be reduced to nothing. And that's why I can stand before you and say that I understand how important these</p>	Vishnu

	<p>goals and directions you set for your project and what you want to change and the kind of improvements you want to see for the school. I understand it is important to uphold in the face of red tape and bureaucracy that you will end up facing from the school.</p> <p>I want to open up my contact to anyone who wants to give me feedback and most importantly to tell me how I can help.</p>	
<p>5.20-5.30</p>	<p>Vishnu Q&A</p> <p>5.03: Being Programmes Director of MedSoc means you will be liaising with many external parties, especially SAO. There is also a need to be meticulous and well-organised particularly in the formatting of proposals. Share your experiences regarding this.</p> <p>Vishnu: Personally, I may not have worked on a lot of proposals, to be honest. But the thing is I am someone who looks at details because they paint the big picture. I look forward to working with the school bodies because what NTU and LKC want and what the student bodies want are conflicting and making them meet is a huge challenge. This is why I feel I need to learn and understand to understand what the current situation is before I bring up the things that I want to do.</p> <p>5.05: Your write-up said that your project never saw the light of day and having your goals and ambitions go unfulfilled because of school guidelines etc. What do you understand are certain boundaries you cannot cross and how do you intend to find this unique compromise given that your experiences in LKC are mostly that of a participant and not in an admin role in organising such events.</p> <p>Vishnu: All my experiences in LKC have been that of a participant, and I think the view of a participant is very different from what the ExCo can see, and that is why I have a lot to learn from the ExCo itself about the kind of restrictions the school imposes. Personally for my project, I couldn't find a solid mentor for my project, and there were other things like timing. I realised that the support network was not very strong for someone who wanted to start something new. If the guidelines were made clear to a common student, they will be better able to push their projects to initiate something.</p> <p>5.06: There appears to be a general trend of lower student participation from the various batches, especially from school-organised events, such as the recent LKC Open Day. How do you plan to address this issue?</p> <p>Vishnu: My take on it is that there is a human and non-human aspect to it. The view that as the batch grows bigger there will be lower participation has some validity to it. Another reason is: students will ask: what can I get out of this? I think this is the reason why people don't go for these events, as there is not much motivation to go out of their way to attend these events. A lot of things have been tried but it is human nature that keeps coming up. Inertia is also another reason, for example if the event is</p>	

very far away, or I have school, or I have a lot of studying to do. However, if the event in school after TBL, your inertia to not go for the event won't be that high, because your locale is already there. That can be one thing to look into for events that are feasible. For events held for the entire day, I'm sure there is a lot of looking into it and feedback to be garnered as to why students don't want to go for it. It is to make clear that it is not only about the school trying to advertise itself but also to show the school spirit.

5.09: What were the reasons behind your project's failure and how did you learn from them?

Vishnu: There were quite a few factors, not just one or two hurdles that ended up roadblocking. There was the issue of time constraints, and an issue of mentorship. There was a lot of going round and round to get mentors from the school. And this is with an external party. Two bodies coming together is an issue. My project was quite grand and ambitious, requiring two faculties to come together for a challenge. The PME professors were willing to sit down with me, but I couldn't get solidarity from my own school. My external mentor also pulled out because he couldn't make time for it. There were a lot of things that collapsed one after the other; after a certain point, I thought it was good to let go and learn from this experience and move forward, instead of wasting my time in futility.

5.11: If you had to rethink a particular programme, which programme and why? Going forward it is not possible to run all the activities we are running because of funding.

Vishnu: Tough one.

5.11: To make it easier, which event has room for improvement?

Vishnu: I'll talk about an event that left an impact on me: DnD. It was a solid time for me to bond with people and be with people that I enjoy being with. I realised throughout DnD that people wanted to spend time with their table but there were a lot of performances going on; although I understand the performances were for entertainment and keeping the mood going; but if had some time for interaction and fun with the people on our table it would be good, as after all we are there to enjoy with our friends. I felt the performance was dominating the conversation because it was quite loud. Maybe we can find a common point for this, where we have some performances to entertain people, but also have a time for people to come together just as a table and enjoy the time they have.

5.12: DnD has been a very M1-centric event, but takes up quite a bit of money from the MedSoc; also very expensive (\$75-85) per student. Do you think DnD can be held

in CSB MPH for eg and hold its clout? Or do you think this DnD should carry on as it is and we should still fork out the money as it is an important event in the calendar year.

Vishnu: Part of an event's charm is its locale. It is also an attractive factor for me. But if the meaning of the event is to be for a closing for the year with friends, and if we believe in that spirit and push that spirit forward, it is possible for it to be run in CSB. But there will definitely be opposition from students because they want to dress up and go to a nice fancy place and have a nice time with friends. So if we can pull off something in CSB to give it the same atmosphere as of another location, it would be of a cheaper cost. If we can pump it down to gain enough traction from the house, where people go together, it would be good. CSB is also a more accessible location, as I had difficulty getting to CHIJMES.

I feel there are plus points and oppositions, but believe it is about how we can pull it off and how we can sell it to the juniors, which is the important factor.

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