



Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club

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25nd Executive Committee

Election Rally
NTU LT4
3rd September 2019
1900 hours

Minutes

ITEM		ACTION BY
	The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs.	
1	<p>Regular Service Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurhidayah Bte Yazid is running for the position of RSP (Deaf Community) Chairperson. • Good evening everyone. Thank you all for taking the time to come down and listen. My name is Nurhidayah and I will be running for the position of Chairperson for the Regular Services Project Deaf Community. So over the past year in DC, I have learned and benefited a lot from the hard work of my seniors especially the committee members. They welcomed me into the DC family and helped us forging lasting friendships not only between us volunteers, but also our service users, the Deaf Community. Their passion ignited my passion for DC and the Deaf community. So, with this position I wish to be able make an even better experience for our volunteers and our community. • In the past and present, volunteering has always been a significant part of my life. So, I would like to share my learning points from two impactful service-learning projects. First, was my two-week Youth Expedition Trip to Smile Village in Cambodia. I was exposed to the concept of community mapping which involved cooperating with the village residents to identify the unique assets, needs, and perspectives within their community. Consequently, this knowledge enabled us to start a collaboration project that gave a sense of ownership to the village residents themselves and would continue to be led by them even after our departure, hence ensuring sustainability. 	

esprit de volontaires

WINNER OF THE PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL SERVICE AWARD 2008 (INFORMAL CATEGORY)
RECIPIENT OF THE SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2006 (MEDAL OF COMMENDATION)
RECIPIENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GOLD AWARD 2004
WINNER OF SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 1999- COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES (TEAM)

- The second project was during my 1.5-month attachment at Beyond Social Services. Once again, I conducted community mapping to collect data about the needs, priorities, assets and aspirations of local residents living in blocks for low-income families. However, this time the focus of the project was on asset-based community development (ABCD) which aims to use the data collected to deepen the understanding of various stakeholders in the community, including residents themselves, in order to stimulate local response via collective action.
- Hence, both these projects taught me that it is important to truly know and understand the community, in order to bring about any sustainable change within that community. Thus, in line with this, my future plan in DC is to increase our members proficiency in sign language and awareness of the deaf community. I plan to do so by increasing our exposure to the deaf community. We will attend and organise more events where our volunteers can interact and actively practise sign language at events involving the Deaf Community. These face-to-face interactions with the Deaf Community will provide them opportunities not only to get to know the community better but also know one another better.
- Thus, to conclude, I want to foster stronger bonds, as well as foster greater awareness and understanding between our volunteers and the Deaf community by increasing their interaction opportunities and join.
- I would like to end off with a quote, “At the end of the day it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished... it’s about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back.”
- To me, DC is about instilling the spirit of compassion, understanding and volunteering to the next generation. So, everyone continues to make a difference, no matter how small.

How do you plan to increase volunteers understanding about the Deaf community?

I plan to collaborate with the Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) to conduct Deaf Awareness workshops for our members at the end of their sign language lessons. Additionally, I intend to have volunteers attend more public events involving the Deaf Community such as Deaf Hangouts, Deaf Café by Etch Empathy or Hush Tea Bar and join more public events involving the Deaf Community.

What is one of the challenges you think you will face as a Chairperson and how do you plan to overcome it?

One of the challenges I think I will face is the declining commitment of volunteers. So, I plan to increase volunteer appreciation and bonding through events such as Chinese New Year Appreciation Dinner, and Annual Appreciation Dinner to mark their one year of service. So, I hope that by fostering stronger bonds between our members, they will feel more committed to DC.

The main issue with DC is that volunteers often stop volunteering after 4 years despite a lot of effort that went into teaching them. So, what are some longer term goals that you might have to make them want to stay after post-graduation?

They can actually sign up with Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) for a course as community interpreters. It is an option that is open for them if they want to continue after graduation.

- **Chua Shu Fen is running for the position of RSP (Elders) Chairperson.**
- Good Evening everyone. My name is Shu Fen and I'm a final year student from Biological Sciences. I am here today running for the position of Chairperson for Regular Service Project - Elders.
- I've always felt that it is through community service that I learned the most. My community service journey started off in Polytechnic where I worked mostly with children aged from 5 to 12 years old, in both hospitals and social service agencies. I first started my journey with WSC as the Liaison Officer and subsequently, as a Publicity Officer in Special Project Challenge Ur Limits. Both positions involved me being part of the VoKational carnival which aims to reach out to children with special needs, giving them an opportunity to explore and learn more about different career paths. It was an insightful experience that has equipped me with valuable interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to work in both teams and as an individual.
- Nonetheless, I've always been curious about the other side of the spectrum. Instead of little kids, what about the Elderly? Having hardly any experience with the elderly was rather daunting when I first decided to join Elders. I struggled with both my dialects and starting a simple conversation with the elderly alone was a problem. Thankfully, I met really patient senior volunteers and fellow peers who had prior volunteering experiences with the elderly. They guided me step by step from approaching the different elderly to giving me a chance to speak to the elderly on my own. Additionally, the self-initiated



performance along with my fellow peers at one of our festive celebrations was one of the most cherished moments I had, where we brought joy to many of the elderly.

- These experiences have inspired me to take a step further and to step up as the chairperson of RSP elders. As the Chairperson, I hope to create an environment where everyone engages in learning together as a family.
- For volunteers, I hope to introduce new subcommittee roles that will offer them the opportunity to initiate activities or events that will be meaningful to the elderly. The subcommittee can comprise of both freshmen as well as seniors who may or may not have experience in planning. This allows for the leveraging of each other's strengths while empowering mutual learning.
- For my main-committee, I hope to create an environment where everyone has a say and are free to express their thoughts. Together, we can work towards a common goal - bringing joy and companionship to the elderly while bridging the generation gap.
- Should I be fortunate enough to be elected, I will give my utmost dedication and I am ready for the challenge. Thank you.

What are some of the challenges RSP Elders faced last year and how do you plan to overcome them?

One challenge RSP elders faced last year was volunteer retention. I believe that inculcating a sense of belonging plays an important role in retaining volunteers. One solution would be having in place subcommittee roles where volunteers will be given the chance to lead events of their own. I believe that their efforts, alongside with guidance by my team, from planning to the final execution of the event would bring about great fulfilment in their volunteering journey with RSP Elders. Additionally, the welfare of our volunteers is very important throughout this volunteering journey.

What do you foresee being your biggest challenge during your term of office and how will you go about solving it?

The biggest challenge I foresee is having a new center onboard with us. However, I believe that my team and I will have pockets of experiences to tap on and that this is not a solo journey. Instead, we will be working together to bring out the best in RSP (Elders). Having said that, we should also take into account that we should not be too fixated on our past experiences. Instead, we should leverage on these experiences and make the best of them. Most importantly, we should not be too restricted and should keep an

open mind to what the future entails.

What do you hope will be the greatest takeaway for RSP Elders volunteers during this academic year?

I hope that our volunteers will be able to witness the impact that they have on the service users no matter how small it may be. to really appreciate the little things they have changed for the service user, eventually to be able to help people in need in the future.

The reality of volunteering with the elders is that there are 2 main subsets - one that is outgoing, and one that may not be as outgoing. Volunteers often gravitate towards the elderly who are outgoing.

Personally, this is something I have gone through. It is through time and with patience that the elderly who are less outgoing will be able to open up to the volunteers.

RSP(Elders) is different from other portfolios in that the sense of belonging may not be as strong given how the sessions take place at different centers every week. Do you think this is one of the reasons why people are not that connected to RSP(Elders)?

Well, of course the dynamics are different in each centre. However, it is valuable to the volunteers that they are given exposure to different centers before settling down on one. It should after all be a free-will thing – whether they prefer to meet the same elderly or different elderly every week. It should depend on the volunteer's preference.

- **Alexis Ong En Na is running for the position of RSP (Friends of Children) Chairperson**
- Good evening everyone, my name is Alexis Ong En Na, a final year student at the School of Biological Sciences. Before I start my speech tonight, let me ask you a question. What do you feel when you think of a child? Some might feel happiness, some might feel annoyance, and some might be wondering – *why children?* Personally, I think it's easy to love a child, but less so to have a heart for them. And it's because of this reason that I am running for the position of Chairperson for RSP (Friends of Children) for this coming academic year.
- I am one of the many who can have the privilege of saying they've been part of FoC for the entirety of their university life. I started as a regular member in year 1, became an assistant centre head in year 2, centre head in year 3 and now, in my



final year of university, I'm running as Chairperson. Having been in this portfolio for 3 years to this date, I've had a first-hand view of how FoC has grown and changed over the past 3 years. With this experience, I believe that I am capable of helping a stronger, more cohesive FoC grow, over the course of this coming academic year.

- Through my different years of experience, I understood the perspective of a freshman, the desire and struggle to both find fulfillment as a volunteer, and also as a student, wanting to fit in. When I became a centre head, I learnt to understand my volunteers, and still remember the responsibilities and the needs I had at that point in time. And now, if I become Chairperson, I hope to use these experiences I had to effectively help my committee in their growth to become their best selves.
- Over all, though, as the saying goes, we must first take care of the little things, and the big things will take care of themselves. Throughout all these observations in my three years, I have learnt one main thing, in order to reach our end goal of serving our service users well, we must first ensure that our volunteers are managed well. My objective this year is to ensure that we bond all the FoC members together through our events and our sessions, as 14 centres, one FoC.
- I have many treasured memories from my experience when I was a centre head in my 3rd year, everyone can relate to this experience where we had a very tiring week with exams and mid-terms piling up. As centre head at that time, I was worried about floor operations. I had a lot on my mind. When I sat down with my tutee, all I could think about was I want this session to over. At the end, my tutee asked me, "sometimes you are so happy and sometimes you are so sad". I realized that the entire session, I was thinking about my problems. I realised that it's important to serve with your own heart, and only then, not only will you be the reason for them to smile, but that they will be the reason for you to smile as well.
- With that, I hope that I have persuaded you to vote for me as the Chairperson for Regular Service Project (Friends of Children). To those still wondering, "*why children?*", as the saying goes, we must first take care of the little things, and everything else will take care of itself.

You mentioned bonding the volunteers. FoC has a lot of members. How do you intend to bond all of them?

It is true that FoC has a lot of members. Each centre is like a family. The centres, together form a society, which is FoC. Since,

the family is the building block of the society, each centre is important. It is difficult for any policy or policymaker to reach the entirety of the society by focusing on any one individual. As such, I would focus on the family, focus on the centre heads, and strengthen their centres. I will initiate more focused sessions with the centre heads with 1-1 catch up sessions to enable more frequent bonding with the centre heads and to bond as one FoC.

What are the plans you have for FoC this year? For both the volunteers and the service users?

For volunteers, we aim to promote a sense of togetherness that goes beyond the centre, outwards into the portfolio. So we may be different centres, serving different groups of service users, but we're all bound by our common love for our children. For the service-users, I feel like the previous committee has done a great job of ensuring that they had fun during our biannual event: December and June event. They also benefit from our weekly sessions, be it tutoring, lifeskills or Kidsread. This year, in a changing world and economy, we hope to still provide our service users with the same necessities and little joys that we have provided for them in the past during our events, such as stationery and snacks.

FoC has been giving out a lot of goodie bags for your events. With the new direction of SAO, how would you counter this problem?

It will be good to counter the problem by rebranding. The goodie bag could be rebranded to be a back-to-school pack with all the essentials. These are not frivolous items for them to have fun with but items necessary for their growth and development as children. I believe that all the things we do/give to the children are not really for the sake of doing it, it's to help them become the best self of them selves

FoC is the biggest portfolio in WSC. As Chairperson of the biggest portfolio in WSC, what is the value that you should have to be Chairperson?

Personally, I don't think this is exclusive to FoC, but this can be applied to all Chairpersons even throughout the schools – all leaders should have a moral compass. When approaching a situation, it is easy to stay we have a standard operating procedure but life often throws us situations that throw us off. As such, there are a lot of things that can go wrong. In more high stakes situations, it is therefore always good to have a moral compass and to surround yourself with like-minded people.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ong Ren Xian is running for the position of RSP (Intellectually Disabled) Chairperson. ● Hello everyone, I am Ren Xian, a Year 2 Chemical Engineering student and I am running for the Chairperson position for Regular Service Project – Intellectually Disabled, or RSPID for short. ● Before joining RSPID, honestly, I did not have the best perception of People with intellectual disability, or PwID for short. I thought that they would be violent, and that it would be hard to control them. This changed when I went for the RSPID exposure session. I realized that the service users were just like us. They can dance, sing, do art and craft and some could even take public transport by themselves which is quite interesting to see. The bad image I had of them was gone and I wanted to learn more about them. That made me take the first step to start volunteering and brought me to the position I am in today. ● Over the past year being in RSPID, I have become more patient, understanding and more knowledgeable about the PwID. However, this one year stay made me realise some of the issues faced by RSPID as well. ● The first problem would be the drop in volunteer retention rate. Over the years, there has been a decrease in the number of committed volunteers in RSPID. This is an important problem to address. Volunteer numbers are really important to RSPID as sessions run every Saturday without fail. Volunteers in RSPID fulfil 2 roles, one of which is to plan the session activities, and the other is to go through the activities planned with the service users. A reason for the drop could be due to them feeling frustrated and helpless when trying to communicate with the service users. To solve this issue, I plan to start a workshop to teach the volunteers how to communicate with the PwID and to be introduced to what being a PwID entails. ● Another problem would be that not many people are exposed to the PwIDs. This is a problem as they are often misunderstood. After volunteering with the intellectually disabled for a year, I have realised that the people around me do not know what intellectual disability is and often have misconceptions about PwIDs being violent and hard to control. Being in the same position as them before, I feel that there is a need to address the issue. To start, I will be aiming to expose NTU students to the PwIDs. This can be done through inviting students from different schools in NTU to come down and organise a session for the service users through which they 	
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can apply the knowledge they have learnt. This will allow for a unique session for the service users and also expose the students to the intellectually disabled.

- To end off, if I get elected as chairperson, I hope to get the chance to raise awareness of the intellectually disabled in NTU and also to ensure that RSPID volunteers find more meaning in what they are doing. Thank you.

You mentioned a workshop to teach the new volunteers what is intellectual disability. Can you elaborate on that?

It's not starting a new workshop entirely. I plan to reach out to MINDS MYG, which is the volunteering wing of MINDS, to arrange for professionals to conduct a workshop for our volunteers. The workshop will focus on teaching what is intellectual disability and also how to communicate effectively with the intellectually disabled. This will be done through activities to allow volunteers to experience certain sensations that the PwIDs feel. These include sensory overload, poor hand eye coordination and more.

How is this workshop you are talking about going to deviate from workshops that have been mentioned in the past?

In the past years, there haven't been formal workshops to introduce and expose them to intellectual disabilities. Usually, the volunteers have just learnt from past seniors. The alumni base is quite strong but is weakening. Usually, we have a debrief after every session where senior volunteers will share their experiences to learn how to communicate better with the service users.

What are some of the challenges that you foresee yourself facing?

It is important that the volunteers learn how to communicate effectively with the intellectually disabled as it will allow them to find more meaning in what they are doing. On top of equipping the new volunteers with communication skills for volunteering, it is important to take care of them as well. This can be done through ad-hoc bonding activities such as after session dinners, karaoke and outings with the senior volunteers so that they will feel that they are a part of the RSPID family.

So on the note of alumni, as the oldest portfolio in WSC, you have the strongest alumni base, senior volunteers and present volunteers to tap on. How do you manage everyone's expectations and make sure your event satisfies everyone since I understand the alumni will also be involved in events?

Adhoc sessions will always be opened up for senior volunteers to

come down and give their opinions. If activities are not engaging, feedback can be given. All their expectations can be managed in the sense that they are all able to express their opinion.

In order to improve events, you need to receive feedback. How do you think RSP (ID) can better gauge the success of your events?

Success can be gauged through volunteer feedback and based on how the service users are feeling. If the activities are more fun, volunteers will be happy. If the service users feel satisfied, the activity was clearly a success.

So, are you planning to get feedback from service users?

The PWID cannot really give feedback. In RSP(ID), our service users have varying functioning levels, so we have actually not tried getting feedback from the service users yet. Actually it is an interesting point, if possible, we can look to asking the service users how they felt about the session.

OP.

- **Tsaur Sheng Jia is running for the position of RSP (Mental Health) Chairperson.**
- Good evening everyone, I am Sheng Jia, a year 3 Sociology major, and I'm running for the position of Chairperson of RSP Mental Health. I have been part of RSP Mental Health since I was a freshman and was part of the pioneer batch. I am passionate about mental health because I believe that it is essential to every individual's wellbeing. It is also my mission to advocate for mental wellness and empower individuals who live with mental health conditions. My ambition is to become a medical social worker and work with individuals with mental health conditions. I believe that by leading RSP Mental Health, I will be equipped to support people with mental illnesses in the future.
- According to the National Council of Social Service, more than 5 in 10 individuals are not willing to live with or work with someone with a mental health condition. It is therefore evident that stigma of mental illnesses is entrenched in society. Therefore, through leading RSP Mental Health, it is my mission to destigmatise mental illnesses so there will be greater acceptance of individuals who live with mental health conditions.
- I have had an enriching volunteering experience befriending our service users from IMH. After volunteering at the same ward for 2 years, I have forged a strong bond with many

service users. Being institutionalised has not stopped them from having hopes and dreams. Some would share about their relationships with their families and friendships they have nurtured in the ward. From my time volunteering at IMH, I am convinced that our service users lead their lives with so much fortitude that I am inspired to live my life to the fullest.

- My vision for RSP Mental Health this academic year is therefore to empower our service users to lead autonomous lives and to advocate for mental health in NTU by increasing mental health literacy. I would also like to build a community of mental health advocates among our volunteers. I would like their experience of volunteering at IMH to inspire them to advocate for mental health in their spheres of influence.
- My focus for RSP Mental health this academic year is peer support. We will be adopting 2 specialised youth wards in IMH, the Early Psychosis Intervention Programme ward, and the Mood Disorders Unit ward in addition to the long-stay wards.
- Although there will be many challenges in leading RSP Mental Health, I am very excited about the many possibilities in advocating for mental health and bringing joy to our service users through volunteering at IMH.

What are some of your plans for RSP Mental Health this coming academic year?

In semester 2, we will be organising Mental Health Week to advocate for mental health in NTU. From the feedback that we gathered from this year's Mental Health Week, we are moving towards more engaging activities like yoga and baking. Therefore, we will be planning for more engaging activities such as art therapy, baking and performances to reach out to a wider group of students in NTU. Through these activities, we hope to raise awareness on the common mental health conditions among youth in Singapore. We also hope to provide an avenue for students to learn how to support a friend who is struggling with his/her mental health.

What are some challenges you foresee for RSP Mental Health this coming year?

One of the major challenges that RSP Mental Health faces as a portfolio is engaging our service users. While we have been able to successfully engage the service users in the female ward through the handicraft activities that we have planned, we were not so successful in engaging the service users in the male ward. Hence, we will be planning more games for the male service users, as we have observed that the male service users enjoy

games rather than handicraft activities. Another challenge I foresee is engaging our service users from the youth wards. Our volunteers have been volunteering with long-stay patients and have no experience volunteering with youths with mental health conditions. Hence, we would need to equip our volunteers with the knowledge on how to interact with our youth service users. For the youth wards, we would also need to plan activities that would appeal to young people instead of conducting the same activities as the long-stay wards. Therefore, we would need to do more research to come up with activities that can interest them.

Last year, the Mental Health Week collaboration was very successful. What are you plans for this year's event?

I have reached out to Campus Psy and Hope Alliance which is a social enterprise that empowers youth with mental health conditions. So, these are the collaborations in our mind.

What are some of the ways that you plan to better retain the volunteers?

Through bonding sessions and workshops, which also will allow us to learn more about mental health together while bonding as a team.

- **Camilla Lim Xin Rong is running for the position of RSP (Operation Hope) Chairperson.**
- A very good evening to everyone, I am Camilla Lim, a year 3 Accountancy student. Currently, I am a Centre Head for RSP OH and I manage student volunteers and contribute in the planning for events. I am running for the position of Chairperson for RSP OH.
- Some of you might be wondering why I would be willing to take up such a significant commitment in my final year of studies. Having been in Operation Hope since I was a freshman, I have found my experience to be very fulfilling. I would hope to have the opportunity to allow my final year in NTU to be meaningful. 2 years in Operation Hope has given me the opportunity to interact with volunteers from all walks of life. Year on year, I find that I have grown as a person and learnt more about myself and the values I hold dear.
- Operation Hope has been like a home to me, with encouraging and supportive friends whom I look up to. I strongly feel for the direction of Operation Hope - specifically in the growth and bonding of members' journeys with volunteering.
- Potentially, as the Chairperson of Operation Hope, I hope to be a positive role model and mentor for incoming members, also



to guide them through this meaningful experience. I believe it is crucial for our members to effectively give back to society. I will, as much as I am able to, lend a helping hand, provide a listening ear or give some words of advice.

- Taking as example my working style, I am committed and hardworking. I am confident that I will be able to manage my responsibilities well if I were to be elected as the Chairperson of Operation Hope. As a leader, I am assertive but understanding. I believe that these values are important in a leader.
- Personally, I hope that through this journey, I am able to step out of my comfort zone and understand more about the needs around my community. Although this aspect of the community - Children, which is Operation Hope's target service users, is a small segment considering the various needs in this world, I feel strongly for Operation Hope's cause.
- Often, others may have a common misconception that the Chairperson of Operation Hope's job scope only concerns that individual portfolio. But in fact, I feel that this role I am running for would go beyond my portfolio as I hope to spread the spirit of volunteerism on a bigger scale among my peers in NTU.
- With that, I end my speech. I sincerely seek your support by voting for me as the next Chairperson for Operation Hope. Thank you.

What other qualities do you think will be crucial for you as a leader in order to manage the portfolio better?

One crucial quality, in my opinion, would be the ability to care for my committee and members. In terms of their personal growth and wellbeing, when taking up their respective commitments in Operation Hope. Often, students take up extra-curricular commitments to learn and I feel that it is crucial for the Chairperson to be able to have a big picture of the current situation and progress.

What do you hope for your members in Operation Hope?

Taking myself as an example, I hope that OH members will find the experience to be meaningful and that they will find a sense of belonging. This is especially so for freshmen who are looking to find friends and meaning. I hope they can do so by volunteering in OH.

What are the qualities that will be crucial for you to manage

your portfolio?

In order to address the question, I believe that the leader should be able to take good care of the well being and the personal goals of everyone as well as her committee members. I must also have a big picture in my mind, and guide the main committee members. I believe that everyone who comes into ntu and takes up a big commitment wants to grow and learn. I hope we can address that by taking charge of the personal growth aspect of individuals as well.

How will this year's OH be different from the previous year?

I think we will focusing more on being bonded within each center instead of bonding just between the volunteer and the child. We can also seek to expand the number of volunteers we have.

On the note of expanding, OH has an issue in that you are not able to provide enough volunteering opportunities for all your members? So is your main aim to expand and have more volunteers a way to counter this problem?

I think a possible solution is to conduct the volunteering in groups. Instead of a 1-1 experience, a few volunteers can be grouped with 1 child. Sports can be played with the children in a group. In this aspect, the number of volunteers may not be much of a concern. It has to be ensured that all volunteers have an opportunity to volunteer.

As a fellow Year 3 Accounting who was a Chairperson as well, the workload can be a lot to handle. How do you plan to cope with it?

Time management is an important decisive factor. Studies is important but not my primary concern. Beyond studies, there's a whole lot of meaning to university life. Operation Hope is my meaning.

- **Shawn Tang Zhen Kee is running for the position of RSP (Physically Challenged) Chairperson.**
- A very good evening to everyone. My name is Shawn and I'm a candidate running for RSP Physically Challenged Chairperson for this upcoming academic year. I have been in WSC for the past two years, since 2017, and this will be my final year in both NTU and WSC.
- Last year in August, I decided to join RSP (Physically Challenged). Prior to that, I was in a WSC supporting committee and did not volunteer on a regular basis. As such, the decision to join RSPPC, was in some ways a leap of faith.

Camilla Lim

	<p>Looking back, I'm glad to have made that decision as it was a fulfilling and memorable experience, with our service users and volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● For some context, RSPPC serves with two centres which we alternate weekly. One is the Singapore Cheshire Home and the other is the Friends of the Disabled Society, or FDS for short. Our regular sessions include games, handicrafts and outings with our service users. For FDS we also do home visitations where we go to the homes of our service users, or Friends as we call them, to find out more about their situation and to understand any issues they face.● Being in RSPPC made me realise how much impact we as volunteers have on our service users. A regular session 2-hour session with them may not seem like much to us, but during this short span of time that we interact with them, we find out more about the issues and challenges that the Physically Challenged community faces daily. RSPPC has done a tremendous job so far in its mission on integrating the Physically Challenged with society but still, I believe that we can do more to help create a larger impact for the physically Challenged community.● In particular, my aim for RSPPC is for an increased engagement with our housebound service users. In cases like this, we find that the physical disability doesn't affect just the service users themselves but also the people around them. One example is two brothers from FDS, both of whom are on wheelchairs and have no motor control of their bodies. They live with their elderly mother, who's about 80, and she is their sole caregiver. This situation is made more difficult given that both brothers are large-sized and heavy, so imagine the trouble and effort their mom has to go through just to bathe them. In this situation, we find that we are not just helping the service user themselves but also those around them. Volunteers sometimes are the only people who have reached out to them for help for months on end.● Aside from the physical challenges, a lot of our housebound Friends tend to be socially inactive due to them being unable to leave their homes freely. As such, RSPPC aims to interact with them more through increased home visitations and outings. This will allow them to have some form social interaction as we find that our own volunteers are sometimes the only people that they get to talk to for months on end. Therefore, it is imperative that we dedicate more time to our housebound Friends.● I am confident that I, together with my dedicated group of	
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volunteers, will be able to reach out and help many more people in greater ways and bring our portfolio to greater heights. RSPPC will face many challenges on its mission to integrate the Physically Challenged with society, such as a lack of manpower and also volunteer retention and it will be tough, but then again if it were easy, it wouldn't be worth doing.

- At this point, I'd like to end off my speech with a quote from Cristiano Ronaldo. "We don't want to tell people our dreams. We want to show them". And that's what I intend to do, to actualise RSPPC's mission, instead of just having it as a slogan.
- Thank you.

What are your plans to engage the housebound Friends that you have mentioned?

We aim to engage them through two channels. Firstly, through home visitations, and secondly, through planned outings that we will be trialling in this work year. For our home visitations, we traditionally rotate amongst our Friends based on a list that is decided and given to us by our centre. This year however, we plan to have a more focused approach, where we will place our housebound service users as our highest priority. This will allow us to meet them more regularly and allow them to have a form of social interaction, as they are unable to leave their homes most of the times. However, this is not to say that we will forsake our other Friends, as we will have other plans to engage them even without home visitations. As for the second channel which is our outings, we will be trialling having outings catered for our housebound Friends. This is different from the usual outings as we will have to plan for their pickup from their homes using wheel-chair friendly transport and ensure that our outing location and routes are able to accommodate their needs. Although it will be challenging but starting this initiative now will set the foundations for RSPPC to be able to engage all of our Friends, especially the housebound ones.

You mentioned in your speech about manpower issues in terms of recruitment and volunteer retention. Do you have any plans to address this issue?

This manpower issue has been a problem for RSPPC in recent years. Instead of us going to them, they can come to us at our centre instead. 2 volunteers can be attached to 3-4 service users. The alumni can be tapped into as a resource. This is something we have not worked on so far. The alumni can help us organize on a larger scale.

However, I believe that by tweaking our concept of operations, we will be able to overcome this challenge. The key concept is to optimise our efforts and achieve a multiplier effect when using our volunteers. Let me use our activities for FDS as an example. When we do our home visitations, we will prioritise our housebound Friends and repeatedly assign the same group of people to them to allow a relationship to form. This will allow an easier conversation between Friend and volunteer and will reduce time taken just to break the ice each time a new group is sent there. In terms of engaging our more mobile Friends, we plan to switch from Home visitations to regular sessions at FDS instead. During this session, we will have games or handicraft sessions for our Friends. This will mean that we can engage more service users with lesser volunteers. For context, a regular home visitation requires 3 volunteers to 1 Friends. Meaning if I wish to engage 10 Friends, I will need 30 volunteers. However, by getting our Friends to come to use instead, we are able to handle the same number of Friends with a much smaller number of volunteers. Lastly, we are also setting up an alumni support system for RSPPC so as to tap onto them as a resource. Their previous experience in RSPPC is a multiplier in itself, so having a small group of them will give us the same capability as a larger group of new volunteers. All I've mentioned are some examples of plans we are introducing to help RSPPC overcome this manpower crunch.

From my understanding of RSP(PC), there is no strict way of saying 1 volunteer at a specific centre. It seems to be on a rotational basis. Are you planning to improve this?

Now, we go to Cheshire once a month. We have occasional sessions at FDS. We do 2 weeks of home visitations with alternate groups of volunteers. We are planning to make the FDS sessions regular and have both groups going for visitations on the same day.

How are you going to encourage more FDS service users to come down for sessions considering how the place isn't that convenient?

I'll do it the same way as how we get our volunteers to be more committed. Once our volunteers are more committed and service users are more excited, both the volunteers and service users will be more willing to go down for sessions and be involved.

What is one weakness about yourself and how will it affect your role?



Doing paper work and admin duties is my weakness. I tend not to proofread thoroughly. I am working on it. My committee and I now have a system where we proofread each other's work.

- **Wong Yong is running for the position of RSP (Visually Handicapped) Chairperson.**
- Good evening everybody, I am Wong Yong. I am a Year 2 Chemistry student running for the position of chairperson for my portfolio: Regular Service Project - Visually Handicapped.
- So, let me tell you how I came to stand in front of all of you now. I had a classmate with tunnel vision in my junior college days and that was my first time interacting with a person hard of seeing. I did not know what was best for his condition as a fellow classmate. Before I joined VH, I didn't consider the idea of being able to befriend the visually impaired. The service users at VH are a small and specialized group of people. I myself felt that it is hard to befriend a visually-impaired back then, given that you cannot easily say words such as 'look', 'see', and etc. and you have to be more sensitive when talking to them. In short, I thought that they would be difficult to handle. However, during my time with VH, I managed to befriend different age groups of visually impaired, ranging from 7 years old to 70 years old with varying eye conditions. They do not victimize themselves and their condition did not hinder their life goals. In a sense, they are stronger than you and I as they persevere through their disabilities to excel in school and work. That was when I became more interested and bonded with them. I started listening and learning from their stories. And so I became more than happy to be their white cane, eyes and buddies for outings and experiences.
- I felt very inspired by the stories of how the visually impaired are persevering and coping in this fast-paced society of ours and I want to do more to help them, interact with them and let them have fun through our tuition sessions and events. Through our past year events I've discovered that while it is important to let them enjoy our games, what they want more is to have someone interacting and bonding with them. Similarly, for volunteers, be it new or old volunteers, I believe that everybody's aim when volunteering is to bring joy by making a difference to others while receiving intangible returns such as meeting new people and learning their experience.
- As a chairperson, I can arrange for more interactions between the volunteers and service users so that both sides would benefit each other. I can help the volunteers grow to be more

compassionate and in return let the kindness spread so that our service users can enjoy their interactions more. I was fascinated with the process of how the events and tuitions were organised and coordinated, which was the reason why I joined sub-committee in my first year. On top of that, I believe that with my past experience as a vice-president of a club in junior college where I also trained new members and hosted external guests, can further enhance my ability to lead VH in the correct direction and be a good role model for the new members. As such I feel that I can handle the responsibility and enjoy the work process of organising events and our tuition sessions because after all, it's better to enjoy what you do.

- "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." To end off, this is a quote from Ralph Waldo, which is also my motto.
- I'm passionate about my portfolio, our service users and my volunteers and I want to make volunteering an enjoyable experience for everybody. So trust in my passion and vote for me please! Thank you.

What are some of the challenges you foresee in your term, if you were elected? And how will you face it?

We are currently trying to expand our pool of service users. But being a very niche portfolio, it is hard to attract first-time volunteers to join us and there were many year 4 students in the previous batch. Now that they have graduated, it would be hard to ask them to continue volunteering with us as they move on in their individual careers. Thus, the greatest challenge would probably be maintaining the volunteer to service users ratio. To maintain the optimal volunteer to service users ratio, the plan is to continue with the 3-week roster. Another method that I will be looking at will be to expand our tuition sessions to include more youths. This will allow every volunteer to not only be able to alternate between youths and elderly to have a more enriched experience, they will also be able to fulfil their wish of making their Saturdays a more meaningful one. Another challenge would be the lesson materials that are planned for the elderly. With the youths, they would bring their school work and we would help them with the materials that they bring. However, for the elderly, the materials were mainly focused on conversational and most of them have already mastered the basic vocabulary for English or Chinese. Hence, I wish to include lessons on technology and other areas that they would be in contact with in their daily lives but are still not too sure

on how to utilise it. Our tuition sessions will be a platform for them to familiarise themselves with the technology that we find easy.

Can you share your plans with RSP (VH) in the upcoming year?

In the past year, befriending sessions at SAVH was mainly conversational language classes and hands-on activities like art-n-craft. Moving on from there, as previously shared, we can proceed onto teaching more tech-savvy stuff such as social media and smartphone usage for the elderly. The elderly were only able to call and send sms. With the tech-savvy lessons, I hope that they'll be able to use it to bridge the gap between themselves and their grandchildren as well as find information more easily with the help of their smartphone. As for the youths and children, I want to promote closer ties between the service users and let them enjoy their time together with us. They will be able to interact with elderly service users and learn from their experiences, which may be rare for them as they normally interact with people their age in school.

What takeaways do you hope that your volunteers under RSP (VH) will achieve this year?

I hope to have a few takeaways. One is to have my volunteers forge deeper friendships with our clients, between VH members and within WSC. I also wish that they would be encouraged by their experience in VH to try out volunteering with different groups that they may not have contact with. I also hope to let the volunteers have a better understanding of the visually handicapped and create a more inclusive society for them. It would be a bonus if they are able to spread the happiness that they feel volunteering with people around them and continue with the volunteering spirit outside of NTU even after they left school or WSC. It would be of greater joy if they are able to remember the reason they had when they decide to join us as that reason and courage that they had would bring them further in their volunteering life.

You had an event called 'Eye am aware' this year. Would you have a similar event next year?

Yes, we are planning to have a similar event under the same name. However, with the budget cut I am not sure if such a large-scaled event will be feasible.

Any aspect you want to improve on?

I wish to have more volunteers. This year's was a grand one already, but we hope to build on it.

Having volunteered in ‘Eye am aware’ previously, I think the system in which the volunteers contact the service users directly may be an issue with some volunteers who don’t want their phone numbers to be disseminated. What do you think about this?

I don’t see it as a problem. I agree there might be people who see it as a problem. I will get the people who are comfortable with it involved. If anyone is uncomfortable, they can contact me directly.

Since potentially there might be a problem with people who are uncomfortable, is there a system in place to counter it?

When signing up, I will get my volunteers to ask whether they are comfortable releasing their phone numbers.

I understand that it is a bit difficult to recruit members especially for those who are recruiting volunteers to help service users with special needs. Do you have any solutions for sustainability and volunteer retention?

We do have difficulty in recruiting as there are people who are unsure how to handle individuals who are visually-handicapped. Usually, it’s the friends of friends who join or Y4 students who join. I plan to improve retention rate by having more bonding sessions. Friends are what motivate me to go for session. Instead of weekly session, we can be more flexible in allowing 3 sessions per month, so that volunteers are a little more relaxed with a lesser commitment level. The plan now is that the volunteers tell us beforehand which week they are available so that they can juggle between their own responsibilities and volunteering.

Are you looking into having exposure sessions like RSP(ID)?

We already have trial sessions.

Are you thinking of expanding it to the whole of NTU?

We will consider SIW 2020.

- **Wilson Xu Weixuan is running for the position of RSP (Youth) Chairperson.**
- Good evening everyone. I am Wilson Xu Weixuan, a Year 4 Electrical and Electronic Engineering Major from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and a candidate running for the position of Chairperson for Regular Service Project (Youth) under Welfare Services Club.
- Having joined RSP (Youth) since year 1, I have had the opportunity to meet and volunteer with many like-minded



friends who are passionate to support the Youth-at-risk and the underprivileged Youths. As volunteers, we have worked hard together over the years to befriend the youths from various backgrounds and provide the moral support needed to encourage them on as they face various difficulties growing up.

- To learn how to collaborate with the Institution Staff and improve on the Programme for both volunteers and service users, I took on the role of Main Programme Coordinator for ITE College West during my second year in WSC. Concurrently, I became a member of Special Project (Challenge ur Limits), where I gained exposure in collaborating with external organisations and institutions, and the planning of large-scale events. To further gain insight in working with Youths from various backgrounds, I volunteered with other programmes under RSP (Youth) as well, joining Boys' Town in year 3 and Jurong Youth Centre this year.
- Working with different stakeholders over the years has its own challenges, but in the end, it was a very rewarding and eye-opening experience that has helped me to develop a lot as a person. These experiences influenced me to want to take on a bigger role in RSP (Youth) in my final year, and the skills I have gained over the years will help me to adapt quickly into the dynamic nature of the position.
- True to its objectives of providing opportunities for NTU Students to volunteer with the Youth-at-risk and the underprivileged Youths, my committee and I are committed to working together with our volunteers and organisations to provide a meaningful volunteering experience that will benefit both volunteers and service users in the long run. It is only with the support of the NTU community of students that we can achieve these objectives and bring RSP (Youth) to greater heights. Thank you for your attention and please vote for us!

Can you share with us some of your plans for RSP (Youth) for the upcoming year?

Having met some of the Programme staff from various centres, it was commonly highlighted that it is important for volunteers to be able to commit consistently long-term in order to befriend and build up rapport with the Youths. Poor or intermittent attendance on the other hand, will have negative impact on the Youths. We will be emphasising the importance of sustainability in volunteering to our new members.

I believe it is vital and important to work together with the RSP (Youth) committee to emphasize to all volunteers the importance

of volunteering commitment, and how it impacts onto the well-being of the Youths that we work with. For volunteers with poorer attendance, we will work closely together with them and try to provide support, because we believe that in order to support the Youths that we work with, we must first take care of our own volunteers first.

It was also highlighted from volunteer feedback that volunteers generally feel that they are not adequately prepared with interacting with the Youths and are unable to properly support the Youths. understandable because we are not professionally-trained. we are going to look into providing training so that we are better prepared to help the youth that we are helping I believe that our volunteers can be better prepared and trained to volunteer with the youths. The RSP (Youth) committee and I would like to work with professionals and social workers from the organisations that RSP (Youth) partners, to engage and equip our volunteers with the necessary skills needed to better support the youths. Internally, regular sharing sessions in school will also be organised for volunteers from different RSP (Youth) programmes to come together and share experiences and exchange ideas.

Given the large number of volunteers and programmes under Youth, it has always been a challenge for the volunteers from different programmes to get to know one another. The RSP (Youth) Committee and I am committed to organising activities to promote inter-programme bonding within RSP (Youth) to foster a stronger identity. These activities include outings, canvassing and community service events, organize regular meet-ups, foster a common identity

How does your previous experience in Special Project (Challenge ur Limits) accustom you to meet the expectations of the role of Chairperson in RSP (Youth)?

It is often expected for a Chairperson to communicate with both external organisations and the school staff with regards to matters involving the portfolio. During the two years when I was a member in SP (Challenge ur Limits), I was given the opportunity to liaise with external organisations such as Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore and Down syndrome Association to join us for our main event, VOKational Carnival 2018 and VOKinclusion Carnival 2019. It was a good learning opportunity for me, learning to be a good host to organisations that join our event, and more importantly, I learnt how to communicate professionally with external organisations. Accompanied with my previous experience as Main Programme Coordinator for ITE College West, these

skills gained will help me to meet the expectations of the role of Chairperson in RSP (Youth).

Having sat in on some of these sessions myself, a lot of volunteers seem to have forgotten their secondary school syllabus. Do you have plans to provide some form of academic training?

For some of the centers, they prepare the information beforehand. Materials come from the students itself or from the centers. Summaries can be prepared for volunteers beforehand so that volunteers are able to refresh their memory ahead of the session. This can help make the sessions more meaningful, reducing time wasted searching for answers on Google.

RSP (Youth) is pretty dynamic. Recently, it has been somewhat stabilizing. However, a centre was closed down recently and you have 2 new centres? How do you ensure that your portfolio is stabilized?

There are 2 different perspectives. From the point-of-view of volunteers, collaboration between RSP(Youth) and the centre itself would help ensure a greater experience for our members. From the point-of view of the centers, these centers have their own structures. Previously, there was limited communication between the centres and the volunteers, so this coming year I would like to liaise with the staff from each centre. Even though there'll be differences, we will try to reconcile and find a good way to stabilize the programme.



Since you have had numerous experiences, what made you want to run for this position specifically?

Having been a centre head in RSP(Youth) in year 2, I would like to take up a new position.

Why didn't you run for a position in CurL instead?

Youth is the portfolio i have been in since year 1. It has been very meaningful to volunteer with RSP(Youth). I feel more passionately for youth and the for the cause our RSP champions.

Special Projects

- **Jan Paolo Macapinlac Balagtas is running for the position of Camp Outreach (COR) Chairperson.**
- Good evening. My name is Paolo. I am running for the role of

Chairperson for Camp OutReach. To begin, I'd like to share with all of you something I've learnt over my short stint as a volunteer. I believe there are at least 3 ways to empower people, the marginalised, the impoverished, the disabled, or anybody for that matter.

- And here are the three ways: One, Provide them with resources: financial resources, raw materials, anything to get them started. Two, Teach them skills: marketable, self-sustaining, long terms skills. Skills that can help them find a job and to take care of themselves. And finally, three, invoke in them self-confidence. A rather equivocal term in contrast to the former two in the list, bordering to ambiguity even.
- Amongst this triad, however, I believe the third afford the largest impact. I say this because if there's one thing that denies people most often of success or achievement is doubt. What are you to do with all the resources and skills in the world if the belief in your own capacity is lacking? Conversely, self-confidence is acknowledging that the sole measure of your own ability is one that came from you; everyone else's opinion is secondary.
- Nevertheless, teaching one to be self-confident is a demanding endeavour. It requires consistent affirmation in the face of defeat. It requires changing one's mindset from surrendering to failure to learning from it. And it requires relentless drive to challenge oneself time and time again.
- Camp OutReach, or COR, is in a unique position to impart self-confidence because it offers the opportunity for volunteering to anyone willing to do so, in this case, be it Deaf or hearing. It demonstrates that there is no minimum number of organic senses one must possess to give back to society. COR seeks to prove that lending a helping hand to those in need is a matter of wanting to do good, no matter your circumstance. COR is a platform for the Deaf Community to prove not only to others, but to themselves, that just because they're Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing does not mandate that they will always exclusively be at the receiving end of goodwill.
- This past year in Camp OutReach, I have met lovely and determined people from the ages of 20 all the way to 50 who are more than willing to offer their time to help our fellow human beings both locally and overseas. I saw first hand how the Deaf and hearing worked hand in hand to prepare food for the less fortunate groups in Singapore and to teach young Deaf students in Nepal, as well as, to contribute in building their school. Inspired, I want to run for chairperson because I'd like to continue the deed they have started with a generation of

new volunteers who believe in the equal and shared goodness across the Deaf and hearing communities.

- This year, I propose two new goals for Camp OutReach to achieve by the academic year's end. First is to extend our reach to a larger Deaf Community. We have many of our regular Deaf volunteers who have continued to support Camp OutReach, even as far as since its inception. In conjunction, we want to also invite the younger generation of the Deaf Community this opportunity for personal growth and to be volunteers in their own right. And second, to forge lasting friendships between the Deaf and hearing – friendships that last beyond that of COR. Only this way can we say that we have achieved equality when they see each other, not as colleagues, but as genuine friends.
- I look forward to working with Camp OutReach and the Welfare Services Club in the upcoming year.
- Thank you very much for your time.

What steps will you take to achieve these two goals?

Thank you for the question. My answer is three-pronged. First, we aim to extend our reach to collaborations with other organisations engaging the Deaf Community, such as, Touch Silent Club, the Singapore Association of the Deaf and even our sister club, RSP Deaf Community. In addition, we will be emphasising the cultural aspect of our members' sign language skills. Reason being that Singapore Sign Language is uniquely Singaporean and to build that connection with our Deaf volunteers, we must better understand the culture to which they have come to nurtured in. Finally, we aim to inculcate amongst all our members that these two goals are not mine alone, but a goal reachable only through teamwork. One which cannot be achieved without a concerted effort from every individual in Camp OutReach.

One of the most emphasised aspect of community projects in recent times is the concept of sustainability. How do you propose to incorporate sustainability in both your local and overseas community projects?

Of course. For our local community project, we aim to engage an organisation for long-term that also aid the Deaf Community. In this way, we provide the platform for our Deaf Volunteers to help their brothers and sisters in the Deaf Community in need. In terms of our overseas community project, we want to focus on helping build infrastructures that last even after our departure from the country of destination.

I understand that for the past 2 years, COR has been going to Nepal. Will you be intending to go to Nepal again? Why?

Since the cost is high, do you have any counter measures?

Yes, we have considered going back to Nepal but there are a lot of factors at play. The 2nd time we went there, we saw a lower rate of participation from the volunteers. This will be something we have to take into consideration. Once we have narrowed down the underlying cause for that, we will decide whether go to Nepal. Other factors apart from cost include whether people believe in COR's cause.

Based on past experience with volunteers from COR, there is a perception that some just join to go for the overseas trip.

How to ensure sustainability?

We are expanding our reach to the larger deaf community, the younger ones as well. The main thing this year is that we want to emphasise we'll be doing this for a good cause, beyond ourselves but for the greater good.

In line with you wanting to reach out to the deaf community, would it be more difficult for you to do that now that deaf students are in mainstream schools, instead of being in specific schools? How do you plan to reach out?

One of my goals is that for every member of COR, there must be 1 friend in the deaf community with whom he/she can go for dinner with and hang out with and not just go for sessions with. In conjunction, we want to organize with those outside COR. We want to work with DC, and expand our outreach, not just with those who have been with us.

Since you mentioned working with your sister club, what are some of the plans for COR and DC to work together?

DC has a local event called Farago which we can leverage on. There's a good overlap there.

- **Leow Tien Wee is running for the position of Challenge ur Limits (CurL) Chairperson.**
- Good evening everyone. My name is Leow Tien Wee from PPGA year 2, and I am running for the position of Chairperson for the Special Project Challenge Ur Limits, also known as CurL. I am also a member of Youth (my heart is still with CurL)
- To begin, allow me to share with you my experiences in CurL. I was the Events IC in CurL last year. As the events IC, I was tasked to plan for the vocational booths for our main event.



		<p>This includes generating ideas for activities that can engage our service users, and more importantly to showcase their vocational skills to the public. Additionally, I was also tasked to manage my fellow Events Officers. This includes ensuring that they meet the deadlines, as well as assist them in wherever way possible. As such, I was given the opportunity to hone my planning skills and management skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After spending a year in CurL, I realised that I resonated with the goals and objectives of Challenge Ur Limits. Their aim to raise awareness and empower the disabled is a great cause to work towards. My time spent in CurL, as well as the interactions I had with the service users and volunteers has compelled me to run as the Chairperson to contribute more towards their cause. ● On top of my experiences in CurL, I was the President of the Student's Council back in JC. I believe that the summation of all my experiences will help me adapt to the dynamic nature of the Chairperson. ● If elected as the Chairperson, I would like to work on two aspects of CurL. ● Firstly, I would like to work on enhancing the experience of our CurL members. CurL is a portfolio that places an emphasis on planning, in addition to on-the-ground volunteering. In order to ensure that our members will still have a valuable learning experience, I intend to have a two-way discussion approach rather than a top down approach. In other words, the various members of each subcomm would have a greater say in how our main event will proceed. What this would achieve is a greater sense of ownership for our main event. With a bigger stake in the events, they would be more willing to spend their time and effort to ensure that the event is a success. ● Secondly, I would like to bring about a different direction for CurL's main event. For the past two years, CurL has been focusing on the Intellectually Disabled community, challenging their mental limits through a carnival. This year, I would like to bring CurL back to our roots of challenging the physical limits of our service users. I am aiming to work with the visually handicapped and the physically challenged community. This would be aligned with another of CurL's objectives: being a platform to introduce the idea of volunteerism. By changing our service users, and our main event, our members and volunteers would be exposed to different types of service users, and new volunteering experiences. With a different direction, our members would also be challenged to come up with new ideas and programmes for our service users, spurring 	
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their growth.

- The direction I am proposing for CurL may be daunting and have its fair share of uncertainties. However, I am confident that with my leadership, not only would I be able to bring CurL to achieve the objectives I have set, but also to achieve CurL's objective of bringing about a more inclusive society. Personally, I view volunteering as a journey. A journey where we meet amazing people, and a journey with ourselves. I hope that with my passion for CurL, that I would be able to inspire the people embarking on this journey with me and allow them to challenge their own limits.
- Thank you.

In your speech, you mentioned that you are changing the directions of CurL. If so, would you still think that your experiences in CurL last year would still be relevant?

Yes, they would still be relevant. Although the programmes I planned last year may not be recycled, due to the different considerations for the service users, the soft skills I gained would still be useful. As mentioned, CurL has a large emphasis on events planning. Organisational skills required in events planning, such as the need to be meticulous and creative are still applicable.

Additionally, working with my fellow Events Officers last year taught me the need to be adaptable to the different team dynamics. As I will be working with a different team this year, I am sure the need of adaptability would come in handy.

Embarking on a new direction would bring about new challenges for you as the Chairperson. How would you plan to manage them?

With regards to having my subcomms having a greater say in the events planning, I foresee that there would be delay in the generation of ideas since ideas have to be bounced around. To circumvent this, I plan to start my event planning early, in order to allow my subcomms to have more time to discuss and explore more ideas. Yes, it would be more tiring on our end, but I see the value in allowing every member to have a greater stake in the event. With a greater stake, members will feel a greater sense of ownership. Ultimately, the effort we put in would be worth it when we see our event running successfully.

And with regards to changing our focus on challenging the physical limits of our service users, I plan to collaborate with the respective Regular Service Projects to have sessions where our members would have the chance to interact with the service

users. Only when we have a better understanding of our service users, can we plan meaningful programmes that are catered to their needs.

Branding and identity are important aspects for a portfolio but they are not your strongest suit since you have no specific direction. How do you plan to overcome that?

Definitely there will be overlaps between what CurL does and what other portfolios do. I think the focus should not be on how to set CurL apart from other portfolios, but to perhaps try something new every year. Our events officers put in a lot of effort into each event. So, our niche area could be doing something new every year - being a jack of all trades, but perhaps only a master of some.

- **Janani D/O Tharrmaraja is running for the position of Ignite Change (IgC) Chairperson.**
- Good evening to my fellow WSC members and to the NTU community who are present here today. My name is Janani D/O Tharrmaraja, and I am running for the position of Chairperson of Special Project (Ignite Change), also known as IGC.
- Since young, I've always wanted to be able to make a difference in people's lives and put smiles on their faces. Having been in IGC for two years consecutively, I've had the opportunity to be a part of something great.
- I first heard of IGC through a friend I met at work. I was enrolling into NTU and decided to sign up for IGC. As a freshie, I was very touched by my orientation group members and the service users I interacted with. The positive experience I had in the 4 days 3 nights programme, thanks to my seniors and group leaders especially, propelled me to sign up for the portfolio. I wanted to be able to give back the experience I had gained to the next batch of incoming freshmen.
- For the past two years, I served as a Group Leader for IGC. As a group leader, I was also actively involved in the planning of IGC's events such as the annual overseas retreat for main committee members. I, for one, believe that it is really important to have the committee bonded first before even planning for the orientation programme together.
- In my service, I also had countless opportunities to interact with different types of service users through our visits to Regular Service Projects' centres and the hosting of IGC's long-time service user MDAS – Muscular Dystrophy



	<p>Association (Singapore). My first-hand encounters with the service users allowed me to gain invaluable experiences especially through the interactions I had with them. It was truly an eye-opening experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● As a group leader, I've also had the chance to interact with the past two batches of incoming freshmen, welcoming them into NTU and at the same time igniting the spirit of volunteerism in them. Many of the freshmen under my charge came into IGC wanting to learn more about volunteering and IGC provides that bridge of connection, linking the students to the various service users. As a result, I'm really glad that I got to be a part of this process.● IGC is a fun, lively and warm place to be. I have learnt so much from this portfolio. Therefore, this year, if I were to be elected, I hope that I will be able to recreate the memorable experiences I had for my fellow members. I want to be able to provide them the opportunity to be part of something great and guide incoming freshmen into the world of volunteering. By running for this position, I want to do more to contribute to the portfolio that has given me so much.● As IGC continues to be a platform and a stepping stone for students to ignite their spirit of volunteerism, I aspire to make IGC a place where there are no boundaries between volunteers and service users.● Within IGC itself, I will also place more focus on interacting with service users by exploring more opportunities for collaborations across the various portfolios in WSC itself. I will also look into collaborating with organisations outside of NTU as this will enable our volunteers to be exposed to various service users, making their journey in IGC a more enriching and fulfilling one.● These experiences will guide IGC members in conveying the meaning of volunteerism to the incoming freshmen for the orientation programme. The interactions members have with the service users will also be able to guide them in planning and executing unique activities for the freshmen, allowing them to understand the importance of an inclusive society and inspiring them to kickstart their volunteering journey with WSC.● One of my biggest goals this year is to promote bonding across the five different sub-committees within IGC. As mentioned before, I believe in the importance of having a bonded committee first before we even plan for an orientation programme together. I really wish to inculcate the culture of 'one IGC family' among the committee members as we work towards a common goal together. Through regular bonding	
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activities, I hope the members will be able to forge new friendships and remain as a close-knit family, providing support to one another, especially in times of need.

- Last but not least, I will work hard to ensure that IGC's freshmen orientation programme continues serving its goal of introducing incoming freshmen to NTU Welfare Services Club while promoting volunteerism. Along with the fun and games, I aim to provide a meaningful experience, not only for the freshmen but for my fellow committee members as well.
- And only with your support, will I be able to do that. I hope that you will give me the chance to serve IGC, to create lasting memories and to bring the portfolio to greater heights. Thank you.

The Big 4 CCA are often competing to draw the freshmen in into the orientation programmes. How do you think you can circumvent this problem, in view of the declining participation rates?

I would not force people to come into IGC. Those that sign up for IGC are most likely the ones who have a heart to serve. I hope that the declining participation rate is not indicative of newer generations having lesser passion to serve. With more government initiatives to promote the spirit of volunteerism through CIP hours and all, more should be interested to join the IGC Orientation Programme. Also, I think publicity is key. Many freshmen currently are unaware of the IGC Orientation Programme. So, we need to make sure that publicity is improved so that more freshmen know of the IGC Orientation Programme and I hope I can tap on the NTU's platforms to do so.

What do you aspire to achieve in the upcoming year as a Chairperson?

Being in IGC for two consecutive years has allowed me to experience the leadership styles of two very different leaders. As an active and committed member for the past two years, I believe I truly understand what works and what does not, especially in the context of IGC. I hope to be able to apply this knowledge and whatever I have learnt to run the upcoming year as the chairperson. My biggest goal is to be able to provide a good experience not only for the incoming freshmen but for my fellow committee members as well. I am someone who values my relationships with people a lot and I'm really thankful to have found a family in IGC. I hope to recreate this experience and be able to connect with my fellow committee members, providing

them the opportunity to create long-lasting friendships with one another.

What challenges do you foresee IGC will face in the upcoming year?

I foresee that the main challenge IGC will face is with regards to funding. I believe that IGC should manage our finances well. Together with my committee members, I plan to look into ways in which IGC can enhance our budgeting efforts, especially when it comes to fund-raising. I will also do my part in sourcing for external grants, whenever possible. Ultimately, I understand how important it is to ensure all our funds are properly accounted for and I am confident that IGC will be able to pull through this obstacle.

What are your plans to look out for the safety of participants during the orientation programme?

No matter how careful we are, injuries are always bound to happen. I understand the importance of the safety of all our participants as they are under our liability, for the 4 days and 3 nights of the freshmen orientation programme. As part of an organising committee, it is our responsibility to ensure that the activities and games played in the freshmen orientation programme are carried out with precaution and safety measures. I will make sure that all the group leaders abide by the safety rules. Moving forward, I will be sure to emphasise the safety guidelines of our programme to participants at all times, making sure that the games have been tested beforehand and are carried out after risks have been assessed and safety measures are put into place. I will instruct group leaders and seniors to always be on the alert and look out for potential hazards. We will also analyse all activities beforehand for risks involved, performing risk control and making sure to adhere to safety guidelines at all times.

What is the greatest takeaway from one of these 2 leaders?

It is very important to place members first and to not neglect the welfare of members. It is often very easy to overlook this area. Being on task may lead to neglecting the members' welfare so it is especially important that a balance is struck between fulfilling the needs of the participants and managing the welfare of the members.

- **Ho Zong Jin is running for the position of Overseas Volunteering Expedition (OVE) Chairperson.**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good Evening everyone, I am Ho Zong Jin, and I am running for the Chairperson role in Overseas Volunteering Expedition, a Special Projects portfolio in Welfare Services Club. ● My journey in OVE 2019 has been a heart warming and fulfilling one. I remember the service users from our local CIP social service organisation, Metta Home, that we have been working with for the past year. We brought the service users out to visit many Singapore attractions throughout the year. And it is through these local CIP sessions that we frequently have that has really helped me better understand the volunteering landscape in Singapore. The genuine smiles on their faces, and warm hugs that we receive from them at the end of the day really taught me the value and importance of giving back. This is also something that I feel is important for us volunteers, to be able to understand that anyone is able give back no matter how small the impact or effort may seem, we can all contribute somehow. ● For our overseas expedition, I also recall the locals in Prey Veng, Cambodia being very welcoming and hospitable towards us volunteers. Even though we were only there for 2 weeks, and the amount of help that we could offer was quite limited, the locals were still very appreciative of us coming over and welcomed us with open arms. Let me share with you a certain memory that made quite an impact on myself. During the construction phase of our expedition, we were tasked to build a house for a family that was too poor to afford one for themselves. In the meantime, they were living in a makeshift shelter, with very basic things to live with. However, even then, the homeowner found ways to help us even though they had nothing much to offer. Here and there she will come up to us, finding pieces of groundsheets for us to sit on so that we do not dirty our pants when we sat on the ground, offering us spaces in their half built home to rest and have lunch while they themselves stayed in the makeshift shelter. In addition, even their neighbours who had no obligation to help us, offered us chairs to rest on and their own home space to put our things and rest even without us asking. Things like these really taught me about selflessness as well as realising that it really does not take much to offer acts of kindness to others. Also, we do not need a reason to help others in need, but when they opportunity arises, even the simplest of gestures can go a long way. ● I was also inspired by the leaders and members during my one year in OVE. Seeing many like-minded individuals coming together with the passion to serve, taking the time out of their 	
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own busy schedules to help someone they are not affiliated with is something special. And I too would like to continue this, and work with the next team of individuals with the same heart, passion and drive while trying to deliver the same meaningful experience when it comes to volunteering. Hence, I have decided to take up the challenge to run for the chairperson role in my portfolio and am motivated to bring OVE 2020 to greater heights and also to inspire the next batch of members to cultivate a continuous volunteering spirit, like how the previous batch did for me. And with that I would like to end my speech, thank you for listening.

Why do you choose to volunteer overseas instead of locally?

I believe that volunteering overseas and volunteering locally is a whole different ballpark, it is firstly a way for one to learn more about themselves, being able to adapt to your surroundings while still having the goal of helping somebody else in mind. And that is something that I feel is not very easy, in Singapore, anything you need is just a phone call away, while when overseas especially a non-English speaking one, it can be a very uncomfortable experience. And when things do not go accordingly to plan, that is when one really learns how to be flexible and adapt to things on the go. I also believe that volunteering overseas helps us gain important exposure to the different kinds of problems people from all walks of life face, in comparison with those that we face here in a Singapore. In addition, there are many things that we can bring over from Singapore, in terms of knowledge and skills in trying to suggest improvements to the locals overseas who may not have access to the same resources as us, and thus creating a bigger impact. And of course, I am sure that are many things that we can take away from their country as well, such as their culture and hospitality. Therefore, after learning all these lessons from overseas, I would also hope that the members will take the lessons learnt in stride and continue to contribute to the volunteering scene in Singapore and continue the spirit of volunteerism locally after the trip. And that is why I feel that it is very essential that we continue having our local volunteering sessions.

OVE has a relatively high commitment level due to the many activities throughout the year that the members have to plan for, how will you make sure that the members stay motivated throughout the entire year and not give up halfway?

I think all of us have a reason for joining OVE, and it might not necessarily all align. Thus, I believe the best that I can do is to

lead by example, by first showing that I myself am motivated and passionate to serve, to be able to see the big picture ahead. So when times are tough, the members can always look around to see that we are all in this together, and we can make the long journey less tiring. I also believe that it is through the ups and downs of a journey that really bring people together, which is very important for a small team like us to be going overseas together for 2 whole weeks. Rather than putting in place strict rules, or the use of force to mandate compulsory attendance, which would only brew unhappiness within the team. This may also only result in more harm than good in the long run.

OVE has been to Cambodia for 4 years. How can you ensure sustainability?

I think sustainability is a prominent issue in overseas volunteering portfolios. We have been trying to circumvent this problem for the past few years. We have to recognize that after so many years, there are other overseas projects from different universities who visit the same place. This year, during our trip, we were told that in a few weeks time, NUS is also going down which means a lot of people come down very often. So, it is not a one-off thing. I would like to change the place if the place we have been going to is already receiving a lot of help. This can ensure that we can impact the people in a different place positively.

- **Ellie Lew Yi Ting is running for the position of Volunteer Management (VM) Chairperson.**
- Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I am Ellie from Volunteer Movement. To start off, let me share with you a little story.
- I had my first experience volunteering in secondary school. I'm pretty sure many of you have done it as well: spending 100 hours doing service work to obtain 2 CCA points. I still remember the lead-up to the experience: it was my first time in an old folks' home, and it was hot. I was complaining about the need to travel long distances for just that 2 hours of volunteering. But after the experience, I came out, stunned, realising that while this 2 hours meant almost nothing to me, it really, really meant a lot to these elderly. And seeing their smiling faces right after various sessions, sparked something in me, and I started wanting to volunteer more, from supporting a cause for the elderly, to animals, to the environment, and to youths.
- After secondary school, I realised that many of my friends that I went to volunteer with, aren't volunteering anymore, simply because they don't have much time, to truly sit down and find a



volunteering opportunity suited for them. In Junior College, I had the opportunity to join a CCA called CIP Council, and I took it almost immediately. I wanted to not only try something new, but also, be that bridge that connects these willing volunteers to beneficiaries who needed them, and inspire the rest to join in a volunteering movement with me. And I really enjoyed my time there, creating school events that bring people together to do good for the community.

- Then came university, and from my positive experience in CIP Council, I decided to join Volunteer Movement, or VM in short, and didn't regret a single minute of it. I especially love the culture where when, someone needs help, we would all just offer our help without hesitation. You simply don't find this anywhere.
- So, in short, I went from one event, to the next, and from volunteering once in a year, to doing it as a CCA, and now to making it a way of life, I am still volunteering on my own, and it all started, because I was asked to go for that one volunteering event.
- Hence, I have decided to step up as a Chairperson, to continue VM's mandate of helping people kickstart their volunteering journey, and give back to this wonderful community of people within VM.
- Volunteer Engagement is a key part of VM. Ultimately, we all want to do good, but how we do it efficiently? That is where VM comes in: we inspire those around us, to volunteer more frequently, and to give back to the society with us.
- If I were to be elected as Chairperson for Volunteer Movement, I would first strengthen the bond among VM members. You may think, it doesn't tie in very much with VM's mission to spread volunteerism, right? To me, a strong connection is important for us to enjoy the work we are doing, to continue the work we are doing above and beyond VM.
- Next up, I wish to have more cross-portfolio or cross-club collaborations, to tap on the human resource of each club. This is also a way for us to expand our publicity base, engage new volunteers to join us in our events and help them kick-start their volunteering journeys, and be just like everyone of us in VM: spreading the spirit of volunteerism to the people around us.
- With that, I end my speech, and I hope that you'll see that I am sincere in the promises that I made to deliver, and that you'll support me in my journey as Chairperson.
- Thank you for your attention, and I am open to any questions that you may have, which I will address in the Q&A session.

How do you intend on strengthening the bonds among your members?

VM has traditionally been very bonded. And what I want to do, is to initiate these new members who are joining us, into the VM culture. Within VM, I wish to create a home away from home, where everyone can get involved doing good, while having lots of fun with their friends. So how would I do that? It is to initiate more bonding activities for VM during the year, be it volunteering together or just simple dinners and celebrations of events. And at the same time, plan events that are large enough so that VMers can do these activities together, and really get to know each other through this.

What are some things you could do to get more non-WSC members to join your events?

I believe we need to tackle this problem via a number of phases. Via our surveys done in the past academic year, we realise that most of our volunteers actually came down to volunteer for our events as they heard about our events via social media platforms. So in the grand scheme of things, the first step is to increase our social presence and engagement. A content plan can be developed by the marketing division including a list of actions to be taken – such as giveaways, more videos, Q&As – to increase our branding and awareness. Another thing we could do, is to make our Instagram pages more personal. By sharing volunteer and member experiences, we can hopefully generate a word-of-mouth movement, to get them to join our events. Aside from just our personal Instagram, we can also tap on WSC resources such as the Telegram chat to publicise our events. Via WSC-wide collaboration, I am sure that we'll be able really get new and passionate volunteers for our events.

Some people might think, since VM just creates events, how do you effect real change then?

This is a very good question; in fact, I've received these questions a few times during both my first year in VM and my term in CIP Council. But, I'd like to address this misconception. We might be doing events, rather than volunteering regularly for a particular cause. And our events have sustainability, we do Kids' World and Golden Generation every year, and we take in new volunteers all the time too. Let me bring this across using an analogy: let's say we have only one student regularly committed to volunteer for a cause for let's say, the elderly. It's great, and we do have other WSC portfolios achieving this aim. So VM comes in, creates an

event for the elderly, and get 10 people without volunteering experience to join. And after the event, 5 people really enjoyed the volunteering experience, and decided to join us for the next, and 3 of them eventually become regular volunteers. And these 3 people, will bring the people around them to volunteer even more, and this creates an entire movement towards volunteering, which we are trying to drive. That's why, VM, working together with the rest of WSC, we can effect real change.

At the end of most VM's events, you give out goodie bags. As mentioned earlier, some events have sustainability across 10 years. So, some service users are joining just for the goodie bags. So how do we get around this?

This is quite true. I understand that it is a monetary incentive that lures people back. I think it is the easiest way to attract new volunteers. Ultimately, we are targeting people who need help, so if they come for the goodie bags, they should by all means come for the event. We do want to collaborate with new beneficiaries as well.

Supporting Committee

- **Cheryl Choo Pei Lin is running for the position of Growth & Opportunities! (GO!) Chairperson.**
- Hi everyone, my name is Cheryl and I'm a Year 3 in Psychology and Linguistics and Multilingual Studies. I'm running for the position of Chairperson of my portfolio, Growth & Opportunities!, or GO! for short, which is a Supporting Committee of WSC.
- GO! is the exploratory arm of WSC, which seeks to raise social awareness and promote volunteerism through the events we organise. To me, GO! is a safe communal space where you can learn, with like-minded peers, how to ignite change from the ground up.
- I believe in the power of spreading volunteerism through the sharing of people's ideas, stories and lived experiences. That is why I feel that GO! is a meaningful portfolio to be in, even though we do not directly volunteer within our CCA, We seek to bring more people into the volunteering community, or at least be aware of the social issues that exist in our society and how we can help to bridge the gaps and extend a helping hand.
- My journey in GO! started when I was a freshie, in AY17/18. I was considering whether to join the same thing I had joined in poly - Chinese Drums; or trying a faculty club to be more

	<p>involved in my faculty community. But coming from a performing arts background and being in performing arts for most of my previous CCAs, I wanted to try something different. Since I was (and still am) already volunteering outside with a National Library kidsREAD club and with Silver Generation Office, I wanted to learn how to plan events instead. So, I joined GO! as a member in 2017 and since then, I've never looked back with regrets on where this path has taken me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I first started off as an Events Director for one of our signature events - GO! Initiative, in which we planned a mental health awareness campaign in NTU. In the middle of my first year, I also took the opportunity to step up as Deputy Secretary, as I wanted to do more for GO! The following year, which is this past year, I served as vice-chairperson, during which I've learnt so much about leadership and how teams work together effectively. It was definitely not without difficulty, managing projects on a higher level and learning to be a better leader while working with rather than against my own introverted style; but with the support of the GO! family, it was a worthwhile challenge to undertake and overcome. ● I joined GO! partly because I was inspired by a senior who I met as an orientation group leader in my faculty camp. My first self-directed volunteering experience was also through the invitation of a friend, who asked me to start a children's reading programme together with her in the Prison Fellowship Singapore Family Life Centre, when we were both only Sec 1 students. Similarly, I hope to be able to inspire others, just like how I was, towards a journey of serving and doing good in the best way we can, whether it is directly volunteering in the community every week, every month, ad hoc, or spreading social awareness and volunteerism through events and our everyday interactions. ● I've served in GO! for 2 years now and I've gained so much in the process, both in the skills I've learnt, as well as the people whom I've had the privilege to know and call a family. I'm deeply grateful for all that I've been blessed with in this CCA and as much as I can, I want to continue to give back to and build up this warm and close-knit community. My hope is to provide everyone who joins GO! the same opportunities that I was given to grow and develop, if they wish to, with guidance from seniors who have walked that path before them. ● The vision I have for GO! this year spans four main areas: communication, engagement, guidance and senior culture. I hope to implement a more smooth flow of communication, promote more engagement with the committee at the start of 	
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	<p>the year, provide more guidance for the committee so that they do not feel lost, and allow the seniors to take more ownership of the CCA and integrate with the juniors. Structure-wise, I would also try to reorganise the subcommittees of GO! a little such that it allows for more engagement of our members all year round.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking up this position would allow me to play a greater role in helping GO! develop, whether it is refining the internal processes that GO! runs on, translating GO! members' feedback into tangible improvements, or taking on new projects and challenges. I would really cherish having the opportunity to work even more closely with our CCA mates, to bring our dreams for GO! to fruition. • Thank you for listening! And I'd be honored if you would give me your vote for Chairperson of GO!. <p>Why does the structure of GO! need to change?</p> <p>The structure of GO! last year was more event-based, such that every event/project had its own specialised events, publicity and liaison committee. This worked in my first year in GO! as we were a smaller committee with fewer projects and everyone still had a part to play in every event. However, as we expanded last year to include more members and projects, this system was not so effective. Although this structure allowed for a narrower timeframe-limited job scope of the subcommittee, it also caused some segregation between the different subcommittees as interaction was limited between them, especially those from different events. This also made GO! members feel like they were not involved in the other events of GO! that they were not in the subcommittee for, which may have caused them to lose engagement with the portfolio. Thus, my proposal is to restructure GO! such that we have permanent committees, of which GO! members will be a part of at least one; and event-specific committees, which centre around the event/project and members can sign up to be part of the subcommittee to plan the programme, activities and flow of the event itself. The permanent committees are mostly skill-based, such as liaison and publicity, except for GO!Green, which is a subcommittee centred around our various green projects that we have collaborated with EarthlinkNTU on and beyond.</p> <p>Can you elaborate more on your vision for GO! this year?</p> <p>Okay, so like I mentioned, the vision I have for GO! this year spans four main areas: communication, engagement, guidance</p>	
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and senior culture. Communication-wise, I want to revise the flow of it so that it becomes more smooth and open between the leaders and the subcom members, so feedback given can actually reach the relevant parties and have an effect. I'd also want to give more instructions/briefings and regular updates to members, as well as implement a more detailed minutes-taking system, so they can stay in the loop. With regards to engagement, I want to implement more bonding sessions at the start of our year, so that we can interact more on a personal level and build relationships before we dive straight into work. This could also prevent instances of "lost sheep" where people, again, lose engagement and fall between the cracks without the committee noticing their absence in time. For guidance, I think it would be good to provide more training for our members that is skill-specific, such as publicity and liaison, to help them to carry out their tasks more effectively in their subcoms. I would also suggest defining the roles and responsibilities of each leader more clearly, and have more check-ins with the respective leaders to check if they're doing okay in both CCA work as well as themselves as a person. Lastly, I would like to shift our senior culture towards allowing seniors to take more ownership of the CCA - getting their input for important decisions and involving them more in leadership roles, as well as helping to engage our new future juniors, which will hopefully also promote better integration of the seniors and juniors.

On the issue of identity and branding, how does GO! define itself? It is often just misunderstood or people just don't understand the purpose. What does exploratory arm mean to you?

It refers to exploring new avenues for WSC to explore. Sometimes, our purpose may seem vague but our role is to help explore and raise awareness of the different causes.

I think it seems as though some GO! events are a bit touch and go. How to bring sustainability into GO!

What I feel is like we function to bring a new cause to light when it changes. In our event, GO! Initiative, we aim to showcase a new cause. As such, it is not possible to have sustainability in terms of having a same cause every year. One way to subvert that is to have an element of an event that stays on. For example, the recent GO! Initiative, a Pay-it-Forward platform.

- **Muhammed Teo Luqman is running for the position of Internal Relations Chairperson.**

Cheryl

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good evening everyone! I am Muhammad Teo Luqman, a year 2 undergraduate student in Psychology and I am running for the Chairperson position for Internal Relations, or in short IR. ● Welfare Services Club is massive with more than 1400 volunteers and every member in WSC aspires to serve in many different ways, be it through the regular service projects, special projects or supporting committees. ● As such, understandably, it may be challenging for members of different portfolios to interact and learn about one another if there are no platforms to promote cross-portfolio interaction. ● Thus, in hopes of bridging this gap, the supporting committee IR acts as the cohesive force that weaves together all WSC portfolios by providing meaningful avenues primarily aimed at cultivating friendships and fostering bonds. ● Every year, we strive to engage WSC members through 3 main events, namely the WSC Bonding Day, Community Service Day and the Annual Appreciation Dinner. It is through these events where members across all portfolios can come together to connect with one another, to serve the community as one WSC and to learn and recognise each other's volunteering efforts. ● Over the past year in IR, I have gained invaluable insights through the many opportunities to take on different event planning and leadership roles across the 3 events. These roles ranged from planning of games and carnival booths and leading groups in community service to sourcing for product sponsorships and liaising with external organisations. Certainly, these roles have allowed me to sharpen my event planning, communication and leadership skills. ● The events that IR organised last year have inspired me to develop ideas that centre on sustainable volunteerism, the voice of WSC members and creating a stronger portfolio presence. If given the position to be the Chairperson of IR, it is my hope to further develop these ideas and turn them into initiatives that will not only do more good for the community but to also create a more interesting and exciting experience for WSC members. ● Aligned with our portfolio's mission to weave WSC together, I envision WSC members forging greater ties in the spirit of volunteerism. Running for the position of Chairperson would definitely allow me to serve WSC and the community in a greater capacity. I hope to be given this opportunity to lead and shape this portfolio as well as to bring the portfolio to greater heights through new directions and ideas. ● Before I end my speech, I would like to acknowledge and 	
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recognise the hard work and teamwork of the main committee and members of IR as well the continued collaboration and support we receive from other portfolios in making IR events possible.

- All in all, I hope that my passion for leading IR resonates with everyone and I would appreciate your vote for Chairperson. Let's work together as we inch closer towards our aim of weaving WSC together.
- Thank you very much!

What plans do you have for IR this year?

This year I plan to develop 2 community service days. One will focus on previous year's efforts by improving the event as a whole and monitoring its progress. This is in line with my vision of sustainable volunteerism where I feel that it is important that there is a continuation of the project in order to assess its long-term impact on the community. To cater to WSC members who had participated in our community service day last year but would like to contribute to the community differently, I plan to have a second community service day this year. For this event, I hope to seek greater involvement of WSC members by giving members opportunities to express ideas for the community service event that they would like to have. In addition, I would like to introduce a new event called 'WSC Outing' where we conceptualise fun yet educational trips to places that will allow members to learn more about social issues in Singapore while at the very core, promoting cross-portfolio interactions as well.

How do you plan to promote cross-portfolio interactions?

I believe that at the heart of every IR event, our main goal is to foster bonds between members across different portfolios. At every event, IR members are given the roles as group leaders that will help facilitate the interactions between members of different portfolios in their groups. Apart from big scale events, I hope to create more personal interactions between members on a micro level through informal platforms such as WSC Chompz as well. Utilising such existing platforms also helps to create a stronger presence for IR as well. Through such face to face avenues, I also plan to seek WSC members' opinions for upcoming community service days or obtain feedback about the previous IR events that have been conducted. Coupled with the addition of new IR events this year, I hope these initiatives will be a step forward in further encouraging cross-portfolio interactions.

This is a question that IR Chairpersons get every year – since

everyone is passionate about the cause they are involved in, why do you think it is important to bond the whole of WSC together?

If everyone focuses on their own portfolio, there are no other opportunities to interact with other volunteers or know about others' experiences with other service users. This will lead to a singular perspective. Hence, bonding the whole of WSC is an opportunity for all portfolios to interact with each other.

- **Jessie Tan Huixian is running for the position of Publicity and Publications (PnP) Chairperson.**
- Good Evening to all, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jessie Tan Huixian, year 3 Civil Engineering student and I will be running for the position of Publicity and Publications Chairperson.
- I started volunteering since my study in Ngee Ann Polytechnic and I was part of the community service cluster as a Logistics Head. Since then, I've always been participating in any ad-hoc volunteering opportunities made available to me. These opportunities serve a diverse group of service users such as elderly, children and intellectually disabled. As a result, my experiences were not targeted towards any specific group and this became a dilemma for me during my freshman year in NTU when I joined WSC. So I decided to join PnP as the portfolio enables me to know more about other portfolios.
- During my first year in PnP, I was part of the Design team and contributed by designing the cover of the STANDout magazine as well as a few other poster designs. Fortunately, I was given the opportunity to be part of the Digital Imaging team at the later part of the year to cover events such as Eye Am Aware and Golden Generation. Unlike the usual volunteering, I experienced a different joy of volunteering by supporting the events on the side line instead of the first hand interaction with the service users. Being able to capture all the smiles and precious moments between the volunteers and service users was indeed a heartwarming experience for me.
- This will then bring me to the first reform which I would like to bring to PnP if I were to be elected as the Chairperson for the upcoming year. PnP should have a significant focus on volunteerism to have a greater understanding of the respective groups of service users' so as to support the various WSC portfolios better. Hence, I would like to bring on more volunteering opportunities for PnP members in the upcoming academic year to participate in WSC events as volunteers instead of just doing the media coverage for events.



- Secondly, I would like to promote inter division bonding. As the scope of work for the respective divisions are different, divisions often do not get the opportunity to interact with each other which is undesirable. Thus, I feel that it is pivotal for PnP members to be bonded as one so that members will be able to feel a sense of belonging and attachment to PnP before working with other portfolios. Just like a Bundle of Stick, a single stick is weak and easily breakable on its own but when the sticks are bundled together, they tend to support each other and be tougher together. Hence, strong inter division bond is of utmost importance to ensure that the portfolio can function well together.
- Last but not least, I am an advocate for ensuring that my members are proficient in their technical skills. Only by being competent, then quality works can be produced for WSC's publicity which will in turn be able to effectively promote the spirit of volunteerism within the NTU's community. I will source for workshops that will be conducted for members by external trainers for every division.
- Although these goals are not easily achievable, I will strive to accomplish them with the interest of my members in mind and to ensure that PnP will be able to support WSC by portraying a positive image for it to STANDOUT from the rest of the CCAs in NTU. Thank you for your attention and I hope to gain your support so that I can bring PnP to greater heights.

What is a problem that you foresee if you were to be elected as a Chairperson and how do you plan to solve it?

A problem that I foresee if I was the Chairperson is probably the issue of not having enough members to sign up for volunteering and bonding session within PnP. Based on the situation I noticed from the previous academic year, members are bound to feel detached from the portfolio even though they had the opportunity to cover different events and they hardly understand what other divisions in PnP are doing. Thus, to address this problem, I feel that firstly the event should be made enjoyable so that members will anticipate for the subsequent event. As such, future events will naturally have higher turn up rate.

What is the biggest takeaway you wish PnP is able to achieve for this academic year?

The biggest takeaway that I wish for PnP to achieve is for the members to forge long lasting friendship with each other. Just like any other CCAs, PnP is where many like minded people gather to serve the WSC community, a platform for one to seek comfort

from hectic school life and have fun through volunteering. Therefore, in the near future, PnP will have more regular bonding sessions to forge a stronger bond between one another. Every member in PnP is an asset to the portfolio. As such, it will definitely be my pleasure to ensure that their time in PnP is enjoyable during my term as a Chairperson.

How do you think wsc's publicity can be better?

Instead of maybe just publicising between respective portfolios, I would aim to reach out to the entire WSC committee and NTU as a whole.

Any ideas on how to achieve that?

From what I have noticed now, on social media there are many NTU students who are starting to follow our Instagram account. This is a good start, but we should make more relevant posts.



Top 5

- **Nadiya Nasseer is running for the position of Honorary General Secretary.**
- Hello everyone! I am Nadiya Nasseer, a Year 2 student from the School of Social Sciences, I am a Sociology student who is also pursuing a 2nd major in Public Policy and Global Affairs. I will be running for the position of Honorary General Secretary, HGS for short in NTU Welfare Services Club.
- How did I get first introduced to Welfare Services Club? My first experience was as a freshman, taking part in Ignite Change Orientation Programme 2018. At first glance, one would think of the programme as merely another opportunity to make new friends and to be socialized into NTU. But across the 4 days, what was particularly heart-warming was getting to hear the stories of seniors about their volunteering experiences as part of WSC and exchanging anecdotes about why volunteering mattered to each and everyone of us. As it turned out, while each of us had different reasons as to why we started volunteering - some wanted to do something meaningful with their friends, some had experienced a personal loss, some just wanted to rack up those CIP hours, we all had in one way or another come to the realization that amidst all the noise and the chaos of our stressful, busy everyday lives, volunteering added meaning as it allowed us to put a smile on someone else's face. For me, I have always volunteered my time with youth. Back in secondary school, I pioneered a reading programme between my then CCA, Indian

		<p>Orchestra and Fei Yue Community Services for youth from underprivileged backgrounds to be introduced to the habit of reading. For me, it was about giving back to a society I have gained so much from.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The decision to join Regular Service Project (Youth) as a member was an easy one for me. I have been a regular volunteer at Singapore Girls' Home for a year now and it has given me great fulfilment to have formed a tight bond with my tutee, one that has gone beyond just tutoring. My tutee and I discuss just about anything and everything, almost like how good friends do. She's taking an important exam this year, and I am glad I can be part of her journey. I hope to continue volunteering at Singapore Girls' Home for the rest of the 3 years I have in NTU, and beyond if possible. ● So, you might wonder why a year 2 student like me would want to take up the daunting role of the Honorary General Secretary. Initially, it was just merely to challenge myself. Recently I have gotten to understand more about the pivotal role that the Honorary General Secretary plays in helping to run this huge CCA of approximately 1400 students in 18 different portfolios. As Honorary General Secretary, he/she will be primarily involved in carrying out the administrative tasks of WSC. The duties, while not an exhaustive list, consist of recording the meeting minutes, booking venues for events, and liaising with external organizations. I have come to understand that should I be elected, I would have to commit a significant amount of time and energy into this position. As someone who manages her time well, is dedicated, task-oriented and puts a 100% into whatever she commits to, I believe I am an ideal candidate for this position. ● I don't think that one has to be a senior member to qualify as a good Honorary General Secretary - one just needs to be dedicated. While I am certain that the journey may not be as smooth-sailing as I'd like it to be, I am assured after hearing the speeches from my fellow candidates here today, that should I be elected I will be in a safe environment to learn from potential mistakes with their encouragement and patience. ● As someone who likes to keep busy, I have always had to juggle multiple commitments. In addition to the already rigorous curriculum in JC, I was part of 2 CCAs, volunteered whenever I could, and helmed the leadership position of Secretary in Guitar Ensemble. It definitely was not easy, having to balance the academic load and my other commitments, but to me, it always came down to prioritizing. My work ethic has always been to set clear and achievable 	
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goals for the tasks that need to be accomplished and to procrastinate minimally. I try my best to get things done as efficiently and as quickly as possible, without jeopardizing the quality of my work. My personal belief is that if you have taken up a commitment, the onus lies on you to remain dedicated throughout your term and to do the needful.

- If elected as Honorary General Secretary, I am particularly excited at the prospect of getting to work with the different regular service projects, special projects and supporting committees. Having only had experience in Regular Service Project Youth, I look forward to finding out how each of the work done by the respective portfolios makes a positive impact on society. While I understand that I won't get the chance to be exactly involved in their activities, the exposure is one I'll value. Also, I would get the opportunity to take part in and attend WSC-wide events and meet our volunteers and service users.
- Much of the work done by the Honorary General Secretary has been independent, unlike the other portfolios where Chairpersons have a committee each. This year, I have come to know from seniors that there's been a new initiative proposed, to forge an Administration Team to assist WSC with admin tasks. I am excited to see what and how this can help support the CCA further.
- Ultimately, there are 3 things I hope to gain from this experience as Honorary General Secretary if I am elected. Firstly, I'd like to hone and pick up new skills involved in managing a CCA of this magnitude. Secondly, I'd be honoured to be able to be a team player and to learn from these individuals, all united by a common goal to share this vision of volunteerism with NTU and beyond. Thirdly, I can only hope that this opportunity helps me grow as an individual. With that, I have come to the end of my speech. Please give me the support needed and vote for me.
- Thank you for listening!

Stepping up as HGS in your 2nd year can be difficult for you to handle. How do you think you'll cope?

I should be able to cope if I prioritize carefully and stick to a well-thought out schedule or timetable. Many of the tasks like replying to emails can be done with access to the Internet, so they can be completed while I am on the go. I will definitely make it a point to jot down all the deadlines and work towards them.

What are some of your weaknesses?

I may not be the most organized person in that I may not always

note down all my deadlines. I am someone who remembers quite well when I have something due so I have often just relied on that. But given the many deadlines the Honorary General Secretary has to deal with, I will diligently note everything down.

What are some of the lessons you can learn from the role?

I can learn to be more organized in the work I do since in a CCA of this magnitude, there's a lot of tasks that need to be completed. Also, as Honorary General Secretary, you need to be an important contributing member of the EXCO as well as an individual who works well independently. So, I get to grow as an individual and as a team player.

What do you foresee is your biggest challenge?

I have other commitments as well, so there's a possibility of them clashing. However, since this position in WSC is something that I have gone out of my way to take up, it should take precedence.

How will you go about entering the CCA records of some 1400 members in the CCA?

I would divide by the number of days. For example, 1400 divided by number of days I have to complete the task. Each day I will cover that number of records.

- **Ng, Zaphyr is running for the position of Honorary Financial Secretary.**
- A very good evening to everyone. Before I start, let me first introduce myself. My name is Zaphyr Ng, currently a Year 2 Computer Science student. I will be running for the position of Honorary Financial Secretary, of Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club, NTU WSC in short.
- The reason why I joined NTU WSC last year when I was in my first year of studies in NTU is because WSC is one of the Big 4 clubs and the biggest volunteering body in NTU. Since young, I have been actively volunteering at the Community Club in my neighbourhood, so I wanted to build on my experiences further by joining WSC.
- I joined WSC as an Accounts Officer under the Finance portfolio, one of the Supporting Committees in WSC. I work alongside Yin Yin, the Honorary Financial Secretary of WSC's 24th Executive Committee. I would also like to take this time to thank Yin Yin for her continuous support and guidance she has given me this past one year.
- I have been in charge of 5 Regular Service Projects, namely, the Deaf Community, Friends of Children, Mental Health,

	<p>Physically Challenged and Youth. As an Accounts officer, I assist the collection of claim forms and ensure that they meet the standards and requirements put forth by the Finance Office. Additionally, I also ensure that the receipts and invoices passed to me by the various portfolios have fulfilled the various requirements before handing them over to Yin Yin. This has helped to speed up the reimbursement process so that the respective portfolios can get their reimbursements more efficiently and quickly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Besides the aforementioned tasks, I was also responsible for overseeing the accounts of various portfolios under my charge. I had to ensure that they remain financially healthy and did so by keeping an eye on their in and outflow of money in general ledger accounts. These have helped ensure they do not overspend the allocated budget given to them.• Speaking of allocated budgets, during my time as an Accounts Officer, I was given numerous opportunities in experiencing the management of budgets and assisting in the procedures for donations. I have also gained much insight into how crucial of a role the Finance Committee plays in supporting the operations of the all the portfolios in WSC. These valuable experiences that I have gained throughout my 1 year in the WSC has equipped me with relevant skill sets required to accomplish the tasks entrusted to me. I strongly believe that with my support in the financial aspects of each portfolio's operations, accountability and transparency in WSC's financial operations will be ensured, and all portfolios will also be able to carry out their events successfully thereby allowing them to focus on achieving their respective goals and objectives.• During my time as an Accounts Officer, I have also had the opportunity to interact and make friends with the Financial Controllers from different portfolios. Through our interactions, I have gained a better understanding of how they manage their portfolios' finances. Additionally, I have learnt about some of the challenges they faced and how they came up with solutions to overcome them. If I were to be given the honour to serve WSC as the Honorary Financial Secretary, I hope to share these valuable experiences to all portfolios in WSC so that they are able to effectively and efficiently address their finance-related difficulties and concerns.• Besides fostering new friendships with financial controllers from various portfolios, I have also made friends with members from other portfolios through various WSC-wide events. Being one of the Supporting Committees of WSC, Finance gets to work with all the portfolios in WSC. This motivated me to run	
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for the position of Honorary Financial Secretary as I will be able to meet new people and gain new friendships with members from various portfolios while continuing to provide my support in the financial aspects of all WSC portfolios. Also, since the Finance portfolio is small, I would also like to propose new initiatives to ensure that Accounts Officers will be able to have a fruitful experience in WSC just like I did in the past year.

- If I am elected as the Honorary Financial Secretary, I will also be able to be part of the Executive Committee which will give me the opportunity to work together with my fellow committee members to enrich the journey of WSC members and at the same time bring WSC to greater heights.
- Lastly, I am aware that stepping up to the position of Honorary Financial Secretary is a large transition from being an Accounts Officer, but I believe that my passion towards finance, my willingness to learn and my 'never give up' attitude makes me a great candidate for this position.
- Once again, my name is Zaphyr and I am running for the position of Honorary Financial Secretary of Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club. Thank you for your time and have a good evening ahead.

Just now you mentioned that you are from Computer Science so without a Finance background. What are the difficulties you faced in handling Finance matters and how did you overcome them?

Thank you for your question. It is true that I am from Computer Science and prior to becoming an Accounts Officer, I did not have much background knowledge about finance. The difficulties that I faced were not knowing common financial procedures and financial terms. But, thanks to the current Honorary Financial Secretary Yin Yin's patience and guidance, I have become more familiar with Finance matters and I am confident in managing them.

Just now you mentioned that you would like to propose new initiatives for your future Accounts Officers to make their experiences fruitful, can you share one of the initiatives you plan to propose?

Thank you for your question. Since Finance portfolio is a small portfolio without much events, I would like to propose monthly volunteering sessions with the Regular Service Projects in WSC. Through these volunteering sessions, I hope that Accounts Officers will be able to foster more friendships and gain valuable

experiences through volunteering.

What are some lessons you can learn from the previous Honorary Financial Secretary?

She doesn't mix business with personal affairs. This helps ensure accountability and transparency in finance aspect.

For HonFinSec you need to educate the chairpersons about the different financial terms, the previous HonFinsec utilized lengthy slides. Any way to improve the current situation or is this a good way?

Using slide is one of the options that I can consider. The most efficient idea I can think of is through clear communication. Using slide is still the 1st method to convey if there are new financial procedure passed down from the Finance Office. Face-to-face session with portfolios can be another way for them to clear any issues they are facing and from the session I will come up with solutions to overcome the problems they are facing.

Previously as an AO, what was the greatest challenge you faced and how did you overcome it or if you didn't overcome it, how do you plan to?

I didn't know financial terms so I had to check with Yin Yin. I can also ask finance office about the procedures. I can do some self-study

How well do you adapt to changes since the system might be revamped to be an electronic one?

I think I am used to adapting to new situations. Everyday, in life, we have experience new situations and have to adapt to them. Also, before I pass down the information before I pass down the info the new FCs, I will try out the system as well I will come up with a step-by-step guideline as well. If unsure, they can direct to me. i can direct to finance office.

What do you think are some reasons as to why the school wants to change to a new system?

Well, Singapore is transitioning to a smart system. So, everything is online now. Having an online system is always better as changes and all edits are saved online. The online system is also more time-saving and efficient as the tasks can then be completed at home or on the go.

Earlier you mentioned that in your interaction with different

portfolios, you realized that some Financial Controllers are experiencing some difficulties. What are some measures you will introduce to help them with the difficulties they face?



For now, I cannot give you a fixed answer as different Financial Controllers have different difficulties. I would sit down with each of them so that I can discuss with them in-depth and discuss solutions.

- **Johan Ng Choon Heng is running for the position of Vice-President 1.**
- Good Evening, I am Johan Ng, a fourth year Psychology student. And I am running for the position of Vice President for NTU's Welfare Services Club. I have been in WSC for the past three years. In these three years, I have been part of three portfolios: RSP(Youth), RSP (Mental Health), and Growth & Opportunities!. I would like to share my experiences in WSC which made me motivated to run for this position. As a regular volunteer for both RSP (Youth) and RSP (Mental Health) in Year 1 and Year 3 respectively, I've come to have a develop my own purpose for why I volunteer, which is to make full use of my limited time with the services users and to ensure that the service users are empowered. Working with youth at risk service users and tutoring them was fulfilling as much it was challenging. While tutoring them, there was so much potential I see in them and that made me motivated to rise up to the challenge to make them feel motivated as well.
- Volunteering with the patients at IMH under RSP(MH) was another eye-opening experience. Through my weekly volunteering at IMH, i learned a lot through interacting with the services users and realized that all of us are susceptible to mental illnesses. It was always a 2 way learning for us, going there no only benefits the service users but in return, they also educate us indirectly to check on our well-being as well as our loved ones.
- As a member for the supporting committee: Growth & Opportunities! in year 2, I come to realize that the objectives of GO! on spreading the spirit of volunteerism and exploring various social causes outside of the WSC's scope is something that I want to fulfill in my time in the WSC. This is the reason why I ran for the Chairperson of GO! last year as I believe that GO! have the potential to be so much more. In a way, if you see WSC as a tree, GO! could be the roots that support and allow WSC to expand and grow further.
- Flash forward to this year, the past year being the GO! Chairperson has been one of the most memorable and

rewarding experience in my third year of university. I've learnt so much about the volunteering landscape in Singapore, understanding the various service users that the RSPs serve. I have liaised with various social service organizations on various GO! events like Social Impact Week and I have come to learn about their purpose to the service users and the needs for additional volunteers in order to fulfil that purpose. I have learnt about the importance of connecting people who have the same purpose together. As a sole volunteer, there is only so much one can do to impact the community. Unified as one by bringing different organizations together, we can impact the community on a much larger scale.

- I have learnt a lot of managing multiple events at the same time as well and motivating my members to take charge and assist the portfolio in bringing the event to fruition. I've learnt more about myself on what kind of leader I am. I've learnt that the biggest joy I've have come to experience while being the Chairperson is to allow my members to grow, step out of their comfort zone and to push beyond their boundaries to develop new skills and experiences.
- As a year 4 student who wants to continue growing in WSC, I think the most natural learning progression is to be part of the next Management Committee, the 25th as the Vice President for WSC. In my time with the 24th Management Committee, the previous Top 3 has been such an inspiration to us, having providing guidance and different perspective to help us manage our own portfolio while at the same time providing us with the autonomy to lead as well. In a way, I consider them our backline supporters, providing us with the necessary support, while at the same time, allowing us to take the stage on the frontline. I've realized that this form of leadership is something that I myself have adopted being the Chairperson of GO! portfolio.
- Personally, to me, leadership is not only about empowering yourself but to empower the people that you worked with. This is what I believe should embody what the Vice-President of WSC does. With this form of leadership, I want to set into motion three main goals. Firstly, I want to use my experiences and lessons learn from being the Chairperson to help guide the new batch of Executive Committee into thinking from multiple perspective and I want to inspire them to empower their portfolio members as well. In short: To empower other leaders and inspiring them to take action for the community.
- My second goal is for WSC to be the platform for NTU students to explore various volunteering opportunities by

reaching out to the social services organizations and explore avenues for potential collaborations on service projects. Even though the Regular Service projects portfolio are mostly catered toward the portfolio members, we do have portfolios that specializes in creating outreach to NTU students. Events such as Kid's World organized by Volunteer Movement and Social Impact Week organized by Growth & Opportunities! Provide NTU students with the possibility to be involved in volunteering.

- My final goal is to have more inter-portfolio collaborations on projects this year. Having such collaborations allow portfolios to tap on each other's knowledge, resources as well as their expertise, while at the same time, bring various groups of people together. This way, portfolio members are also exposed to what other portfolio does as well. Collaborations is one of the strongest ways to create maximum impact and outreach to the community and moving forward, I believe that collaboration between portfolios will bring WSC to greater heights.
- I would like to end my speech by thanking the 24th Executive Committee for this meaningful journey throughout the past year and thanking the Top 3: Kah May, Jeline, and Shawn who have inspired us to push ourselves further as well as my decision to run for Vice President. I aspire to inspire the next batch of the Management committee just as they have done for us. I hope you are inspired to vote for me as the Vice President. Thank you for listening!

Given that you are a year 4 student, and that you have your FYP ongoing, are you able to commit to this position?

Yes, I am a year 4 student doing my FYP. For my academics, I have cleared most modules that are required and this year, I am taking just two modules, together with my FYP. Thus this is very manageable. In addition, I feel that the role as the Vice-President is mainly a guiding role and I believe that I would have a team of leaders, who are capable in completing their own tasks.

What do you think are the challenges that you will face this year?

I think one of the main challenges that we may potentially face next year is a constraint of resources that may impede the various portfolios in better accomplishing its objectives. That being said, I believe that we can creatively make use of the limited resources that we have to accomplish the portfolio's objectives. After all, "Using less to do more" is always going to be more sustainable.

Having observed what your predecessors have done, what aspects of their leadership can be improved on and what aspects can be brought forward?

I really admire how the Top3 in the 24th MC have managed their own portfolios. They have provided the necessary balance in managing their portfolios - by supervising them and at the same time, giving them the autonomy needed to lead their portfolios. An improvement will be how administrative tasks are carried out. Last year, there was some improvement in making administration more efficient, but there are always more avenues to improve. This aspect should be improved so that portfolios can focus on their cause more and spend lesser time on administration.

Why run as Vice-President and not as President?

I am more of a supportive kind of leader rather than a leader who has a vision. I'd rather support an individual who I think can do better.

As VP, you will be the bridge between Exco and school. How will you manage this?

Through clear communication and ensuring a proper flow of information from the Management Committee to school.

How can WSC collaborate with other clubs?

To have inter-club collaboration, there must be a specific idea that is set by someone. Without a specific idea, the collaboration cannot proceed. Each club will be unclear on what to do. If we want to have interclub collaborations, either WSC needs to come up with a vision, idea or concept or other clubs have to approach us with any of the above, then from there we can work out the details, leveraging on by each club's manpower and expertise.

Compared to being a Chairperson who just manages members, now you are managing leaders. Everyone has a voice as a leader now. What are your expectations of these candidates?

My expectations are that they are fully committed and take charge of their respective portfolio. It is a challenge to manage all leaders as each of them have their own voice and each of them is managing their own portfolio with their own objective. It will be a learning experience for me and it will take me time to figure out what works well for them. I would like to emulate what the previous Top3 has done.

● **Smeetha Nair is running for the position of Vice-President**

Johan

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- Good Evening to all. I am Smeetha Nair, a final year student at the School of Biological Sciences and I am running for the position of Vice-President in Welfare Services Club.
- So I'd like to start by giving a bit of background about myself. Throughout my pre-university education I was always involved in sports ccas' and other things apart from volunteering. Volunteering was always something I did on the side, not something I prioritized. However, I feel like I always knew that this was something I wanted to develop and maintain as part of my life. Before coming to NTU, I did read up on WSC and I think that was the first time it really sparked an interest in me. So in my first year in NTU I joined Operation Hope.
- For the past 3 years of my university education I was in Operation Hope, OH for short, one of the 18 portfolios under WSC. In my first year in OH as a member, we functioned as a special project. We organized events for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, and for a year 1 student this was a flexible commitment. However, I did feel that there was a whole lot more that could be done with our purpose. It was at that point, that my current Chairperson, asked me if I was keen to join the next main committee. This leads me to my second year in OH. With the new main committee's aim to transition into a Regular Service Project, I was tasked as the first centre head of OH, to make their aim come true. I learned many valuable skills like how to manage a group of people and how to encourage people to come for volunteering. I also learned the difficulties that came with the job, which included trying to convince members to place as much emphasis on their regular service as much as anything else. I was really keen to push for greater attendance and more bonding within my portfolio and this encouraged me to run as Chairperson of RSP (Operation Hope) in Academic year 18/19.
- Throughout my Chairperson journey, I learned a lot more about other portfolios, more specifically how different special projects, supporting committees and even other regular service projects work. I have learned to work with other Chairpersons and accept opinions and changes as they come along. I truly do believe that these skills of understanding, listening and learning to adapt to changes come in handy for someone aiming to be the next VP of WSC.
- The past 3 years in WSC has taught me a lot and allowed me to learn more about myself. From being exposed to how a special project works to a regular service project and also joining a supporting committee, I have come to understand that

all 3 types of committees work and run in their own ways. By understanding this, I feel that, it is the first step to helping each portfolio improve their current status. More importantly, these past 3 years have really allowed me to grow from an indecisive and unconfident person to someone who is willing to step up and lead a team. Thus, I really hope that if I do succeed in getting this role, I will be able to influence the next committee positively and hope that I also manage to reach out more to our WSC members or even other NTU students.

- Another factor motivating me to run as the next WSC VP would include my aim to push for greater attendance for volunteering and to hope that members incorporate it as part of their lives. I think at this point in time, many of our WSC members volunteer for various different reasons. However, I am happy to say that a good number I have met, do so because they truly have the passion to make a difference or contribute to society in one way or another. I would really hope that as VP, I will be able to source for new ways to promote volunteering to more students in NTU and emphasize on the greater good it provides. I really also hope to find a way to get in touch with WSC's alumni to meet our current members to show them the importance of incorporating such service into your life, even after you graduate. Hopefully, by doing so, it will help to ensure greater sustainability and also build a better nation for the future. I think that students like us need to understand that success really does come beyond grades and hopefully more will be able to experience the joy we feel when working with our service users.
- With all that said above on how I believe I am capable for this role, I would like to touch on some aspects of why I want to be in the next Top 3 in the 25th Committee. Throughout my year, I have experienced so many different aspects of a Chairperson's job scope, from writing proposals, to working with external organisations, interacting with my members and so on. I understand that this is a serious role, but I do have to say that I actually did have a lot of fun going through the different tasks throughout the year. This is definitely with the support of my main committee from RSP (OH) who constantly pushed me to make decisions, even though it was technically my job, it was something I always had issues with. Also the support of the 24th committee meant a lot as they embodied the true meaning of teamwork and communication. Lastly, also not forgetting our Top 3, Kah May, Shawn and Jeline who constantly encouraged me throughout the whole year. Especially to Kah May, who wasn't just my leader as

Chairperson of RSP (OH) and president of the 24th committee but also a great friend, who was ever willing to listen to the difficulties I was facing. I really do hope to embody the same willingness and ability to make a difference, guide the next committee throughout their journey and also be their friend in this process.

- In conclusion, I do understand the demands that come with the job scope of a Vice-President and how the responsibilities will be much more as compared to that of a Chairperson. However, as mentioned previously I am well-prepared and genuinely ready to take on this role. I strongly do believe that I will be able to make a difference to each and every portfolio that I oversee and WSC as a whole. I really also do hope to grow with each and every one of y'all through this journey. Thank you

Given that you are a final year student, with an Internship or FYP project next semester. How confident are you to be able to cope with this journey?

Yes, to start off, I am a year 4 student and in my second semester I will have to take up an internship or a FYP project, which is yet to be confirmed. I wouldn't deny that my workload isn't heavy for the year. However, I will say that it has been a constant workload throughout my 4 years in NTU. I have learned to manage it together with other ongoing aspects in my life. I also do believe that this is something that I really want to take up and if I set my mind to it and have a goal, I am confident I will do a good job in it.

I'm sure there are many other people who have experiences from more than one portfolio in WSC. Do you believe that your experiences from managing RSP (OH) solely will be enough for you to work with other portfolios?

So as mentioned previously, OH actually transitioned from a special project to a regular service project. Thus, I would like to say that I do have a rough idea of how they both work. I have yet to mention this in my speech earlier, but I did join the Publications and Publicity portfolios in WSC, a supporting committee in my third year as well; mainly because I wanted to gain skills to help out my portfolio at that time. I think this gave me a good gauge on how SCs' in WSC work as well. However, having said that, I do think that every portfolio is different and unique and there's no way anyone can study them to specifics. So I believe that this is where soft skills and using basic foundation skills I have picked up in my journey will help in resolving the different issues I may be faced with.

Why Vice-President and not President?

Most of it has got to do with peer pressure as I am in my final year. For me, it is of utmost importance that I step up, be it as a President or as a Vice-President. For me, similar to the reasons Johan mentioned, the position of Vice-President is a better option for me. Ultimately, it was a personal decision that I made.

What is your leadership style and how can it fit with the rest of the Top3?

I don't think I am an authoritative or dominant leader. Through the past years, I have grown to put forth my ideas more directly, which is something I am proud of. I would use communication as the main medium to get my point across.

How will juggle your commitments if you are doing an internship as well?

Emails can be settled on the job. For events like SIW that require me to be in school in the morning, I can do the administrative backend duties. I am probably going to do an FYP and the professor supervising me is understanding about my WSC requirements.

What are your expectations for these people running as chairpersons?

I won't force anything on them but I would encourage that even if they come leader, they should continue volunteering and still advocate their causes. I am looking forward to a year where we communicate better with each other, respect one another and respect everybody's opinions which can be hard because a lot of us might have contradicting opinions. But, we can come together as one and balance it out.

In your speech you mentioned your goal to be improving the attendance - how do you plan to achieve it?

Sometimes there's a lost of connection between members and the main committee. The Chairperson must better understand where their members are coming from and must be more understandable. For example, during finals/mid-terms, sessions can be suspended and replacements sessions can be held during the recess week. Eventually, if you treat volunteering as part of your life, you won't find it a chore, and I hope this stays with people for the rest of their lives.

What, in your opinion, is the most important thing you have

learnt from your journey as a Chairperson and how will that help in your journey as Vice-President?

I think I tend to say this a lot, but the most important thing I have learnt would be to take things, especially the difficulties we face, with a pinch of salt. I think that this might sound very cliché to many people, but many a time these problems are very short lasting. As much as the impact might be huge, I believe that by telling yourself to not worry and focus on the problem at hand, it really helps to boost your confidence for that period of time, which is really what you need. I think another thing I have always believed in, again might sound cliché but would be positivity. I think if you do ask my main committee or some of my friends in the 24th committee I always say “positivity is key” and I’m sure it gets annoying at times but it’s actually a self-actualizing process that I strongly do believe in.



- **Iswari Joyce Kaliappan is running for the position of President.**
- Good evening everyone. My name is Joyce, a year 3 Psychology student and I’m running for the position of President of NTU Welfare Services Club. Firstly, I’d like to give my heartfelt thanks to all of you for taking the time to attend our rally today.
- To give an outline of my speech, firstly I’ll be talking about the experiences I’ve had in WSC, why I want to run for this position, and lastly, some of the goals I have in mind.
- So I first joined WSC in my first year in 2017 as a member of Regular Service Project (Mental Health). In RSP (MH), we head down to the Institute of Mental Health or IMH every Saturday to befriend service users with mental illnesses and conduct meaningful activities to keep them active. As I’m a psychology major interested in pursuing a career in mental health, I was motivated to join RSP (MH) to make a positive difference in their lives and to get to know more about their experiences. I can honestly say that joining RSP (MH) and deciding to commit to long-term volunteering has been one of the best decisions of my life. I am grateful to have become close friends with many of our service users in IMH. I have cherished being able to have fun together through activities, joke with them, and even lending a listening ear to their troubles. The memories I have made with them will always be something I hold close to my heart.
- As the year I joined was only RSP (MH)’s first year being established, I decided to take on the role as Chairperson the following year as I had many ideas on how to improve its

operations and to help it realise its full potential. I am pleased to say that the past year was quite an exciting and fruitful year where we managed to initiate numerous new events to better engage our service users and even came up with a new awareness initiative in NTU, Mind Matters Mental Health Week. We also managed to establish a better working relationship with IMH as well as forged new collaborations with other partners. I truly enjoyed serving as Chairperson as it gave me a great sense of purpose and fulfilment in life dedicating my time to a cause greater than myself.

- I have decided to run for the position of President this year because I want to contribute to WSC further and make a greater impact beyond just RSP (MH). My volunteering experiences have been quite humbling, allowing me to realise that I should be grateful of the privileges I've had. Thus, I want to play a larger role in giving back to the community and ensuring that both service users and volunteers alike from all portfolios continue having meaningful experiences just like I have had. I would like to use the experiences I have gained to guide other portfolios in their operations and ensure that they reach greater heights.
- I am also deeply passionate about volunteering and want to do more to support all WSC portfolios and to further promote the spirit of volunteerism within NTU and beyond. Through my time in WSC, I've come to realise how important of a role volunteering plays in reaching out to the less privileged in our society. It is only with the involvement of volunteers that many social service agencies are able to have the additional support they require to achieve their goals and objectives. I also strongly believe that it is only through volunteering that we will be able to create a more inclusive society. Thus, I want to do more to encourage more people to volunteer.
- Lastly, I think I am a suitable candidate because I am an open-minded person who embraces change. I understand that in order to grow we need to overcome stagnation. Although WSC has established a lot in its 34 years of history, I believe there is still room for improvement which is necessary to keep up with changing times and expectations.
- This year I have 3 goals in mind that I wish to focus on.
- Firstly, I hope to stabilise WSC's current initiatives. I plan to be actively involved in understanding the needs of all portfolios in WSC and to bring them closer to achieving their objectives by helping them address any issues they may be facing with regards to their volunteer management or their partnerships with organisations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secondly, I want to encourage more inter-portfolio collaborations through an organised approach. I believe that many members who join WSC join because they have a general passion for volunteering. Although they may have just joined one portfolio because of their preferences or scheduling restrictions, I believe they would want to expose themselves to the various causes that other portfolios are part of as well. This is especially so for members of Special Projects or Supporting Committees who do not regularly interact with service users. ● Lastly, I aim to encourage more portfolios to go beyond just volunteering and to consider raising awareness of the social issues that they are involved with. This can be done through inviting NTU students down to their existing sessions or events, or initiating new outreach initiatives. By doing so, our contributions towards our service users would also be doubled. We will not only be contributing by volunteering our time but we will also be motivating others to do the same. ● While I have my own goals and ideas, I also realise the importance of considering the opinions of those I will be working with before pushing out any initiatives. WSC is a collective representation of many voices from different portfolios, not just my own voice. While there may be some initiatives I am keen on pursuing, I completely understand that others may not see things the same way I do. If I am elected, I will address this, by establishing a set of shared objectives for the entire 25th Executive committee to work on together. ● I understand that the position of President comes with way more responsibilities and requires greater commitment than my previous role of Chairperson. However, I am prepared to tackle any challenges head on and I have braced myself for the potential journey ahead. Since my pre-university days, I've always believed that a holistic education is not just about focusing on academics but it is also important to involve myself in other co-curricular activities to gain more exposure and learn important skills. Having been chairperson in the past year and also having had other leadership positions in the past, I am aware of how to manage my time and tasks well without being overwhelmed. As such, I am confident that I can fully dedicate myself to the role. ● It was a great privilege serving WSC as Chairperson of RSP (MH) under the 24th Executive Committee, and it'll be an even greater privilege to serve as President to lead the 25th Executive Committee and make a larger difference in WSC. ● Thank you. 	
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How do you plan to lead the 25th Executive committee?

I believe that all members of the committee would have their own unique reasons for taking on their respective roles as well as certain objectives they would like to achieve during their term. Being in their position last year, I fully understand that they may want to leave their own mark on their portfolios and to further improve the way things are run. Just like the current Top 3 who have given us so much guidance in helping us to realise our plans, I also genuinely want to empower the portfolios under my charge to achieve all they want to achieve.

I would say I'm more of a passionate leader who likes to take a personal approach in my interactions. Beyond just delivering in terms of work, it's also important for my committee members to focus on their wellbeing. No matter what, I will never neglect my committee's wellbeing in pursuit of results and I will take the time to understand the struggles they are facing. It is always important to manage your expectations depending on who you are dealing with as everyone has their own personal issues they are dealing with.

Lastly, I know that it's different managing a group of normal members or volunteers compared to managing a group of leaders who have strong capabilities. I believe more can be done at the committee level to give committee members the opportunity to lead WSC-wide events or initiatives so that they have extra opportunities to grow.

How will you deal with the school's demand for an effective volunteer tracking system?

This is something I agree with as well. It is very important, though I know some may think that there is no need to monitor because volunteering should be about the act of kindness and not about the attendance. However, lack of volunteer commitment is also an indication that there are some things that portfolios have to change about the way they run. For example, last year, I learned that the reasons why some volunteers from RSP (MH) were turning up less and less was because they faced issues with communicating with our service users with mental illnesses. Thus, volunteer attendance can also be used as an important metric to make potential improvements which will then increase volunteer commitment.

To encourage volunteer tracking, I aim to work closely with the newly formed Administrative team to create a more user-friendly

tracking system that is convenient to use. I will also follow up with portfolios if they require any advice in dealing with their members.

What are some of your weaknesses?

I think another weakness of mine is that I'm a natural worrier. Something I've been trying to do is to convert my worries into step-by-step actions to address the issues I am worried about. I also know that if I were to be elected as President, my journey will not be a solo one. I will be open to seeking advice from my other committee members and vice presidents on any issues I am worried about. Ultimately, I think that being part of the committee is a team effort, we can play on each other's strengths and also make up for each other's weaknesses. I hope to inculcate this kind of supportive working culture within the committee.

Many stakeholders will be involved in interacting with you. Please rank the following stakeholders according to how you will handle their concerns: Chairpersons, WSC members and service users.

It depends on what kind of situation it is. Because we are serving our service users first and foremost, they should come first. They are our purpose of volunteering. If something is negative or detrimental to our service users, it is a cause for concern. In 2nd place will be the members because Chairpersons should be catering to their members' interests instead of just following their own personal agenda. This leaves Chairpersons in the last ranking. However, I'd like to emphasize that this doesn't mean I don't value Chairpersons' opinions. I feel that I will still have to deal with Chairpersons sensitively in emphasizing the need to focus on service users and members.

Being the head, you are a student leader rep of NTU. How do you think you can use your voice to create a change in the larger body of NTU?

As others have said, WSC's main focus is to raise awareness about volunteering. Through my position, I'll be encouraging more collaborations. Even though WSC is the largest student body in-charge of volunteering, it doesn't mean we should work alone; there's a lot other clubs can contribute as well. I will work closely with other clubs who are also doing volunteering and have social causes they champion and see whether there can be collaboration or any overlap in the work we are doing. This can help us meet the greater goal of spreading the spirit of volunteerism.



Union Representative

- **Juliet Tan Li Xuan is running for the position of Union Representative.**
- Good evening everyone. My name is Juliet Tan Li Xuan from Linguistics and Multilingual Studies Year 3 running for the position of Union Representative in WSC.
- My speech will be split into two parts, welfare services and the leadership aspect and representation. Personally, I would describe myself as a compassionate person with a heart willing to give back and serve. However, this wasn't always the case. As a child, I was spiteful. I blamed things, people and circumstances around me for mishaps in life. This was till I was 16 when I suffered a major loss which impacted me greatly.
- When I entered polytechnic, I wanted to excel in academics, sports, leadership roles and last but not least, do community involvement projects as well. I joined SP Primers and participated in NDP where I spent countless Saturdays to perform. However, I wanted to do something that impacted more. So I signed up for another initiative the Boys Brigade Share A Gift Programme. We held donation drives, packed and delivered to the people in need around Singapore. BBSAG impacted me greatly as it really opened my eyes to see that there are so many people in the world, and even in Singapore that could use our help, the people around us that needed so much more help.
- Moving on in University, my course of study was a choice as I am keen to help the children with speech difficulties and learning or language disabilities. We don't all get a choice to the life we are born into which is why I believe that I am fortunate enough and want to be in a position to help these people.
- In year 2 I also joined my Hall OCIP as Top 4. The entire experience was rewarding and it led me to see a new perspective of serving – to help make a difference in their life, not to change their life and this difference, to help them make a better change in their life.
- Next to touch on leadership experience, I have held various leadership positions the positions taught me the importance of two things - Communication and Representation.
- In my tertiary years, I held CGL roles and Presidency for sports and academic clubs. These positions have allowed me to learn that communication within a team is crucial. And by communication I mean a two way communication. A good leader not only thinks and talk, but he/she listens and understands as well.

- In JCRC, it taught me the importance of representation. My hall was never a sports hall so for me and my partner, we just worked hard to organize and do our jobs. However, there was one instance of unjust ruling and being the representatives, we did our best to speak up and speak out in the joint hall and higher levels. It was definitely not the most comfortable situation but we needed our voice to be heard as we represented our group. These are the 2 key takeaways from all my experiences as a leader.
- I strongly believe that leading a meaningful life includes giving back to the society and WSC is a community that makes this happen for the students in NTU. Together with my 2 key aspects of leadership I believe in, I am running as WSC's Union Representative this year to serve WSC and it's members to serve the service users of the community outside NTU.
- Thank you.

Are you a WSC member?

No. In Year 1, I represented the IVP/ National team. My roomie was a member of WSC. So, I got to know more about WSC through her. I was unable to participate in WSC due to commitment clashes.

Do you have any intention of joining WSC?

I do, should the time allow. I am interested in joining VM events before considering other portfolios.

Having no prior direct experience, how do you think you can efficiently represent the club?

I do not have first hand experience in the club, but I do not want to come here and make false promises. I have read up extensively on WSC and the other day I had a meeting with the 24th Top3. I have spoken to some of my friends from WSC. I guess I can't say I know the challenges but I will take the initiative to find out more from them and be the voice.

After hearing our speeches and reading up on us, how do you think you can help us?

For publicity, more can be done. Email blast can be streamline there can be more help with the Instagram site. Facebook has a lot of likes but now there is not much reach on it. Also, if I do become union rep, it will be helpful if WSC can give us a schedule of upcoming events which I can then share with Students' Union so that they know what to promote.

Do you happen to know last year's union rep for WSC. Is there any lesson you have learnt from them?

I will definitely continue this journey. I won't pull out. I am passionate about this position. I understand from what last year's union rep told me that there are just meetings to attend. However, I would like to attend the events as well. I want to come down for events and know what WSC is like.

What is something new you learnt from the people who ran for election today?

I got the knowledge about the respective portfolios from reading up but from today's election, everyone's passion was especially evident which makes the role more meaningful as well.

If WSC and SU come into conflict, how would you go about this?

For discussion, I would weigh both sides and find out where both parties are coming from. I hope there is good communication with the WSC exco and I will help ensure that there is a service aspect in the exco discussions especially during the events and policy level planning.

- **Bryan Michael Chiew Sen is running for the position of Union Representative.**
- Good evening everyone, my name is Bryan, I am a Public Policy and Global Affairs student and I am running for WSC's Union Representative.
- I would like to begin by sharing some of my background and personal experiences, then share with you how I hope those experience and skills that can translate and contribute to my role as a union rep.
- Firstly, I carry with me a unique background of studying both locally and overseas. I have been a Head Prefect in JC and President of the Interact Club, I initiated events like Dental and Health checks for 752 migrant school children along with House Building trips in Cambodia. Then, stepping into NTU, my first ever interaction with the school and any club society was IGC. I later then took up positions in Sports Club as a Union Rep, and subsequently as Integration Executive in the NTUSU EXCO. While also taking up positions as CGL in my hall TOP, Representing NTU at SUNIG and IVP Swimming while also joining WSC VM as a committee member.
- What I hope to demonstrate to you through my background and experiences is a firm understanding of the Union work,



activities and most importantly a background of consistent leadership track record and commitment to serving the greater community through service. Through these opportunities, I not only was able to grow holistically but also learned more about the kind of commitment level it takes to understand the concerns and issues of the student body and then engage and present it to the respective administration and staff in order to get them resolved.


- The reason I decided to run through WSC as a union rep instead of any other constituent body is simple. Service is big part of my life. And as I shared earlier, it is not something I am merely saying but also something I have demonstrated in my track record. Last year, I took on many responsibilities that really pushed me to my limits. Sacrificing many things through the process. But very honestly, I underestimated my commitments last year and I was not able to commit as much as I wanted to VM and by extension WSC. Community service runs in my veins and I believe I have unfinished business in the service area and WSC. Through running as a Union rep, I will be in a position to continue committing to WSC while also extending the reach of WSC to the larger student body at the same time.
- With my experience in SU EXCO and Council last year coupled with the fact that WSC was my first home in NTU. I look forward to representing and protecting the Interests of WSC in my role in SU. I look forward to working with all of you to further establish WSC's presence in the school and to spread the word of standing out and serving our community.
- Thank you.

What plans or ideas do you have for WSC?

Based on whatever initiatives that SU pushes up, I can have WSC at the back of my mind. How I can involve WSC and the different initiative as well, I think that is very important. Having listened to the different candidates who have spoken earlier, reach and ensuring growing awareness is something that can be improved and putting myself in this position I will be able to further help that cause.

Having a glimpse as a WSC member yourself what do you think are the nature problem we are currently facing? How do you think you can manoeuvre this position of yours?

I think there are several aspects to this question. WSC and what are the different ways we can do as a committee. Like I said earlier, spreading the awareness is very important.

	<p>For SU, and overall school standpoint, how can WSC expand and involve volunteers beyond WSC level? In WSC, we have very passionate and committed individuals and those are the people who often comes back to regular projects.</p> <p>If there was a situation where there is a conflict between WSC and SU, how would you deconflict?</p> <p>Firstly, looking at the overall big picture point of view, the intention of both organisations is very simple, serve students or serve the big community. Important to take a step back and understand the point of view on both parties, which communication is key when coming to solve a problem. Regardless, most important is to take a step back and eventually working out a solution together.</p> <p>What is the importance of having a Union Rep when we already have a President and Vice president of WSC?</p> <p>For me, union rep is an important role, in ensuring a representative role in the student union executive. Usually as an executive committee, we plan things like events on the ground, and policy suggestions that are brought up to the student union council. So I think to have the voice in the executive committee is allows WSC's interest to be protected right from the onset. Additional representation is always good.</p> <p>Will you be joining WSC this coming academic year?</p> <p>I don't want to make false promises. Joining in is definitely something I want to do and would love to do. Perhaps, we can hold a joint service event, a collaboration between SU and WSC and maybe other clubs, to further the service cause.</p>	
		All to note

Meeting adjourned 0016 hrs

Recorded by:
Nadiya Nesseer

Vetted by:
Yeo Khai Sern

The minutes have been vetted and approved by Returning Officer, Yeo Khai Sern.

