

SINGAPORE SOCIETY - APPEAL FOR EXEMPTION FROM BIG ELECTIONS

I am the President of the Imperial College Singapore Society. I have previously met up with Rebecca, who personally explained to me the complexities regarding exempting societies from the Big Elections. We are definitely appreciative that the Big Elections allow us to conduct the elections in a just, democratic and efficient manner, but I would like to appeal for our society to be excluded from the Big Elections for the following reasons:

1. Clash with peak period of our musical production preparations

The nomination period for Big Elections is from the beginning of February to the last day of the same month. This coincides with the peak period of preparations for our production called the Major Event. Our Major Event is usually held at the end of February, and the coming production will be held on the 27th Feb 2016.

Typically, those who are interested in running for positions in the executive committee are heavily involved in Major Event. If the nomination period were to coincide with a time when these interested members are so heavily involved in the production, my members would not have the time to seriously consider stepping up to the plate, prepare their election manifestos, and also juggle their heavy academic commitment on top of everything else.

In the 2013-2014 election held in February, only 5 out of 9 election positions had nominations during AGM. In 2014 and 2015, the elections were held several weeks after Major Event. This saw a much greater turnout of 18 nominees in 2014 and 16 nominees in 2015. I foresee the response to be poor if we were to follow the Big Elections, and it will not be efficient to invite most of my members for an AGM, only to inform them to attend another by-election afterwards.

Furthermore, we are likely to lose many potential talents who would have run if they were given more time to think about the elections after Major Event have ended. As the Big Election does not allow on-the-spot nominations, it makes this problem especially serious. In 2014, one of our events officers, Lincoln, won the elections after being nominated on the spot. The reason why he did not decide to run in the first place was because he felt that he was not the best person for the job, but under the encouragement of his fellow

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Singaporean friends on the day of elections, he realized his potential and stepped up to run for the role of events officer. He had done a wonderful job organising events that not only myself, but also many others have thoroughly enjoyed.

I understand that there are other societies such as Malaysian Society that conduct the Big Elections while concurrently preparing for their production. However, my society would not be prepared for the sudden change in election system that ends the long running tradition to hold nominations only after Major Event had concluded.

2. Inability to rerun for positions after being eliminated

Another issue with regards to the Big Elections will be that the eliminated candidates will not be able to be nominated again on the spot to run for other positions. This means that we will lose many talents who are passionate to serve, but are not given a second chance when competing with many other capable candidates. I find this deeply regretful.

I have learnt from the elections of previous years the importance of allowing on-the-spot nominations. In both the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 elections, the Vice-presidents were nominated on the spot and elected by the society after they lost narrowly in the President election. From the Union's perspective, it may seem as if someone who has only decided to run on the spot is less deserving as compared to someone who decides to run right at the beginning. However, it is not always the case. In Singapore Society, entering the executive committee is a serious and heavy responsibility. Everyone understands that it requires an immense amount of passion and dedication to see through the huge number of events organised for the society. As the level of commitment required is so high, it is common for many of them to be doubtful about themselves. If on-the-spot nominations are allowed, it will be when these people see the encouragement from their fellow members and when they can find the courage to step out of their comfort zones. We are not in any position to decide that those who are nominated on the spot are less competent than those who have decided to run for elections right at the beginning. I believe all my members should be given a fair chance to stand for the elections, in the spirit of democracy. It should be the society that decides who will be the most competent to serve them, and we will take responsibility for our decision.

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We understand that the Board of Governance is very concerned about ensuring that the elections are held in a just and democratic manner. Please be assured that my committee is completely aligned with the board on this stance. In 2015, we have conducted a by-election for the treasurer position (our previous treasurer resigned due to personal matters). We were able to hit quorum, and the entire election process was conducted in an organised and fair manner. Attached are the documents to demonstrate the procedures we followed to hold the By-Elections. I am confident that if we were granted an exemption from the Big Election, the integrity of the election will not be lost.

We treat every election seriously and handle our members' votes responsibly and fairly. This is how we have slowly built up the trust between our members and the executive committee over the past decade.

I would not have spent the time and effort to write to you if this whole matter was inconsequential – after all, it may seem that who is in the next Executive Committee after I step down is no longer any of my business. However, I really do care for the Singapore Society and I believe that a robust electorate process to select the best possible executive committee is of utmost importance to ensure the continued success for the society.

I sincerely hope that you can consider my appeal, and your decision will have a significant influence on the next executive committee to be elected.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Wan Qing Tham
President of Imperial College Singapore Society



Imperial College London Singapore Society

Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB, United Kingdom
<http://www.ic-singsoc.net/>

By-Election 2015 Nomination Procedure

For those considering running for the role of Treasurer, or will like to nominate a friend you think is suitable, please read the following carefully.

Candidacy Eligibility Criteria

- Full member of the Imperial College Singapore Society
- No restriction on year of study

Nomination Criteria

- Only members can nominate another member to run for office
- A nominated candidate cannot nominate another person for the role of Treasurer
- Nominator should be a member and must be present at the elections
- Each nomination needs to be seconded at the election itself by at least 2 full members who are not running for the role of Treasurer
- Self-nomination is not allowed

Nomination Period

- Nominations begin: 4th November 2015
- Nominations close: 11th November 2015, before official commencement of EGM

To Nominate Someone

Simply send an email to admin@ic-singsoc.net with the following details:

1. Your CID number (i.e. CID no. of nominator)
2. Your name
3. Your contact no.
4. Name of nominee
5. Contact no. of nominee
6. Email address of nominee

Once the nomination has been received by us, we will contact the nominee to obtain his or her agreement to run for the role of Treasurer. When the agreement has been made, he or she will be an official candidate for the by-elections.

Manifesto Submission

It is highly recommended for all candidates who wish to run for office to submit a manifesto. The purpose of the manifesto is to allow members to understand what the candidate is like and what he or she stands for.

The manifesto should contain:

- Candidate's name
- Candidate's photo
- Personal statement on why the candidate is suitable for the position (max 250 words)

The manifesto should be sent to admin@ic-singsoc.net. The deadline for submission will be **10th November, 1700 hrs**. The manifesto will be published on our website within 48hrs of us acknowledging receipt. The collated manifestoes of all candidates will be sent to the members' college registered emails for their reference after the submission deadline. Note that the submission of a manifesto does not guarantee a nomination, and a nomination will still be required as explained above.



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Hustings

All candidates will be required to make a speech up to 7 minutes long. Subsequently, there will be a 10 minutes individual Q&A session for members to learn more about the candidate. After all candidates have made their speech, there will be a 15 minutes group Q&A session.

Presentation aids such as powerpoint slides are permitted. These documents should be sent to secretary@ic-singsoc.net and the deadline for submission will be **10th November, 1700 hrs.**

A large, faded watermark of the Imperial College Singapore Society logo is centered on the page, featuring a stylized black and red emblem with a laurel wreath.

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By-Election 2015 Voting Procedure

Here are the key details of the Extraordinary General Meeting:

Date: 11th November 2015 (Wed)

Time: 1pm to 6pm

Venue: Huxley LT 340

Agenda:

<https://drive.google.com/a/ic-singsoc.net/file/d/0B1VvVwDd28VWMUQyQU8ySUpXSW8/view>

Sign Up Form:

https://docs.google.com/a/ic-singsoc.net/forms/d/1m7O1ytxwuFJ7_X0K4b_YeminxMfqxxEZPUqcO3EmS7s/viewform?c=0&w=1

The returning officer for the By-Election 2015 will be **Clive Aw**, the president of the 32nd ICSS ExCo. He will be chairing the hustings for the candidates and announcing the results for each round of voting in the by-elections.

Hustings for candidates

Before the first round of voting, each candidate will be given a chance to share with the society the reasons why they are running for the role of Treasurer and to convince the members on their suitability. They will be entitled to:

- 7 mins speech
- 10 mins individual Q&A
- 15 mins group Q&A

Voting system

The voting system we are adopting will be the **Single Transferable Vote with Quota**. This means that as long as any candidate wins more than 50% of the votes in any round of voting, he or she will be elected as the next Treasurer. However, if the quota is not met, candidates with the fewest number of votes will be eliminated, before proceeding to the next round of voting. The process of elimination is as follows:

- For 6 candidates and above, half of the total number will be eliminated in the next round.
- For 5 candidates, 2 will be eliminated in the next round.
- For 4 candidates and below, 1 candidate will be eliminated after every round.
- For candidates that tie in number of votes, they will either both be eliminated or both proceed to the next round, depending on the number of candidates that will be left in the next round.

In the event that you do not want to vote for any of the nominees, you can opt to re-open nominations (RON) and nominate someone else again. RON is to be treated as a candidate in the elections in each round of voting. If RON wins with simple majority, nominations will be called on the spot after that particular round, before commencing the next round of voting.



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Voting Rules

Every voter is entitled to one voting booklet. For each round, voters will use a voting slip of a unique colour, announced by the Returning Officer. As we will be adopting paper voting for this By-Election, it is important that you follow the voting rules below:

- Write clearly and legibly on your voting slip
- Cancellations allowed (clean strike-through with new name written clearly)
- No other markings allowed (i.e. symbols, drawings)
- New voting slip allowed upon request (in exchange for old one)
- If the intention of the vote cannot be ascertained, subject to the discretion of the Returning Officer, it will be void
- If there is a need for you to leave halfway during the elections, voting slips have to be returned to any one of the Exco members in the room

Results

The results of each round of voting will be announced to the society by the Returning Officer. The results will also be available on the society's website for your reference at the end of the elections.



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