

Proposed Amendment to Constitution

Change of Name to Cambridge Univeristy Singapore Society

2 February 2012

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1 Preamble

CUMSA has come a long way since the days of CUMA. Since its formation, its name has changed a few times to reflect the geopolitical situation in its members' home countries, finally acquiring its current name.

CUMSA aims to benefit both Malaysians and Singaporeans (constitutionally). However, reality has diverged from the original purpose. CUMSA is now the *de facto* “Singapore Society”. The formation of the Cambridge University Malaysian Society (CUMaS) has rendered CUMSA almost irrelevant to the Malaysians. Even the CUMSA committee members are almost exclusively Singaporean, and events in summer are held exclusively in Singapore.

To reflect the current situation better, I propose that CUMSA changes its name from C.U. “Malaysia and Singapore Association” to C.U. “Singapore Society” (CUSingSoc, for reasons of elegance¹). I believe this will confer the following benefits:

1. Less confusion in our dealings with external parties, including sponsors and contractors. Neither will sponsors be confused by two separate “Malaysian societies” asking them for help, nor will our most generous Singapore government-linked sponsors question whether a substantial portion of their sponsorship are going to citizens of their northern neighbour.
2. Tighter focus and greater relevance when serving our members. We do not have to pay lip service about serving the Malaysians, e.g. When creating social media groups. The recruitment opportunities we advertise in our mailing list can also be more focused on opportunities for Singaporeans.
3. Consistency in the naming of nationality-based varsity societies, since we will no longer be known as an “association” but a “society”.

A change of name, however, may be very costly. It will involve:

¹ The obvious *non*-alternative is *CUSS*.

1. Changing the logo.
2. Re-printing and re-issuing of membership cards (of which we have a large stock), and getting our partners (e.g. restaurants) to recognize the new name. Rather than re-print membership cards, CUMSA may also print and issue stickers bearing the new name, to be pasted over the old name on existing cards.
3. Updating the bank account.
4. Renaming the CUSU mailing list and obtaining a new Internet domain name.

Because of the huge logistical challenges, this proposal will allow CUMSA to retain its old name for “as long as it is expedient”. It shall be the responsibility of future committees to oversee the transition.

Finally, I do not mean to make CUMSA more exclusive to Singaporeans at the expense of Malaysians (or Bruneians), or to create a bitter divide between Singaporean and non-Singaporean members. Members of all nationalities have been, are and will always be welcome.

However, this proposal seeks to bring the current state of affairs, which has been contrary to the organization's stated aims, to members for critical examination and review. We will then know how many members prefer a more representative name to a more idealistic name, and how many otherwise, so that subsequent committees will know how to take the society forward more relevantly for its members.

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Proposer

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Secunder

2 Amendments

2.1 Section 1 (Name)

Original:

The name of the organization shall be the Cambridge University Malaysia and Singapore Association.

Amendment:

1. The name of the organization shall be the Cambridge Univeristy Singapore Society.
2. The organization may also be known by its former name, the Cambridge University Malaysia and Singapore Association for as long as it is expedient while transitioning to its new name.

2.2 Section 2 (Purposes)

Original:

The aims of the association shall be :

1. To hold meetings whereby Malaysians, Singaporeans and other interested can gather.
2. To discuss problems and issues of current interest relating in particular to Malaysia and Singapore.
3. To represent the interest and welfare of the Malaysian and Singaporean students in Cambridge in particular.
4. To link Malaysian and Singaporean students in Cambridge to the relevant alumni associations in their home countries.

Amendment:

The aims of the Society shall be :

1. To hold meetings where Singaporeans and other interested can gather.
2. To discuss problems and issues of current interest relating in particular to Singapore.
3. To represent the interest and welfare of Singaporean students in Cambridge in particular.
4. To link Singaporean students in Cambridge to the relevant alumni associations in Singapore.

2.3 Section 3 (Membership)

Original:

1. Membership of the Association shall be open to all Malaysians and Singaporeans and to others interested in Malaysia and Singapore.
2. The subscription shall be determined by the Committee for the current year.
3. Members of the Association may be automatically enrolled in the mailing lists of the relevant alumni associations in Malaysia and Singapore. They may unsubscribe at any time.

Amendment:

1. Membership of the Society shall be open to all Singaporeans and to others interested in Singapore.
2. The subscription shall be determined by the Committee for the current year.
3. Members of the Association may be automatically enrolled in the mailing lists of relevant alumni associations in Singapore. They may unsubscribe at any time.

2.4 Section 4 (Committee), Section 6 (General Meeting), Section 8 (Capital Fund)

Replace “Association” with “Society” in all occurrences.

Delete “Malaysia and” from subsection 4-13.