

Founded in 1958, The University Life is a nonprofit English newspaper of Kyung Hee University. Dedicated to the globalization of the university, the newspaper aims to impartially review the achievements and the problems of the administration, the faculty and the student body of Kyung Hee University. As an English medium, the newspaper also aims to provide international students with information and insights into the culture of Korea.

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Communication Meeting: Form Over Substance

The Editorial Board

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In April 2025, Kyung Hee University (KHU) Global Campus held its Communication Meeting at the Central Library. This biannual gathering, established in 2019, aims to facilitate dialogue between student representatives and university staff. However, the meeting still seems far from achieving its primary purpose—resolving campus problems through direct communication.

Identifying Concerns Without Resolution

The Communication Meeting is merely a forum for sharing concerns rather than developing practical solutions. For example, regarding the deteriorating tiles in the College of Life Sciences' building, KHU staff provided only a contextual explanation. When students inquired about repair feasibility,

the staff responded: "We cannot make an immediate response as these tiles are no longer available for purchase. We will address it further once certain processes are completed."

Notably, this pattern continues to persist. The College of Life Science building's exterior wall is an example, where KHU staff offered the same apology with a familiar promise: "We will do our best to resolve it." As this pattern appears similarly in other agendas for a while, such as campus dualization and participation of dormitory management committee, indicating the meeting works only in identifying concerns while failing to generate practical solutions.

Too Many Topics in a Limited Time



Broader student engagement is essential. Greater student attention to conversations with representatives will push both the University and student representatives to address campus issues more effectively.

The root cause of this issue lies in the meeting's fundamental structure.

In this year's meeting, only three hours were given to discuss 33 agenda items—college representatives had five minutes of presenting time respectively, and the General Student Association (GSA) had to address 20 agenda items within just 90 minutes. For the staff, this structure provided insufficient time to address all details thoroughly.

This limitation was first identified when the meeting began in 2019. The 2020 GSA posted a statement to the KHU staff, stating, "The Communication

Meeting did not produce practical results. We hope to receive feasible solutions, including detailed plans and budget information." This demonstrates that it is difficult to solely rely on meetings to solve the real issue.

Breaking the Stalemate

To overcome limitations, addressing agendas consistently is essential. Student representatives must follow up on the progress of discussed issues after the meeting. Furthermore, for long-standing issues, the Communication Meeting needs to serve as a forum to discuss the progress and future action plans. Otherwise, the campus issue will continue indefinitely.

Broader student engagement is also essential. Greater student attention will push the University and student representatives to address campus issues. Students are, therefore, key to overcoming the restrictive structure.

The Communication Meeting struggles to function as a practical problem-solving forum because of its superficial nature. Addressing this limitation requires ongoing efforts to examine issues in depth. Specifically, student engagement at each step is crucial for achieving meaningful progress.

Unlocking the Potential of KHU Cooperatives

The Editorial Board

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A cooperative is a nonprofit organization that aims to enhance community welfare. Most of its surplus goes back into facility operations and improvements, enabling students to enjoy better services at lower prices. While Kyung Hee University (KHU) Cooperatives began operating on the Global Campus in March this year, their scope of facility operation is still limited, which is obscuring the potential benefits that KHU Cooperatives could offer to KHU Global Campus stakeholders.

Currently, the KHU Cooperatives at Global Campus is only in charge of one facility, the Student Center cafeteria. Then their operational committee could merely deal with cafeteria matters, confined to meal quality and hygiene. This contrasts sharply with Seoul Campus, where KHU Cooperatives manages 15 convenience stores,

three cafés, two cafeterias, and other facilities like the bookstore and stationary store. A similar model exists at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), where the Cooperatives operates cafeterias, cafés, and convenience stores. This broader oversight enables both Seoul Campus and HUFS to discuss diverse initiatives, from facility-specific events to strategic profit reinvestment.

The limited operations could affect the ability to generate profit. The KHU Cooperatives initially faced an 80 million won deficit at Global Campus and now must rely solely on the Student Center cafeteria to recover these losses. Although they achieved a 12 million won profit in March, the limited scope of operations and current surplus pace suggest this year's earnings will merely cover the deficit.

In contrast, operating multiple facilities has an advantage in budget management. For example, Seoul Campus Cooperatives uses surpluses from profitable facilities to offset deficits in unprofitable ones, maintaining stable profits. Beyond stabilizing the budget, the HUFS Cooperatives generated additional financial value by returning 160 million



To reach its maximum potential during this significant period, the Cooperatives must expand its role in campus welfare facilities.

won to the university through annual donations. This demonstrates how a broader range of operations can create greater financial stability, ultimately enabling stakeholder returns.

If the KHU Cooperatives expands its scope of operations and financial capacity at Global Campus, students will benefit significantly. Recently, the HUFS Cooperatives has been providing snacks when the cafeteria is closed.

Through a partnership with Mom's Touch, they also offered chicken meals for under 10,000 won. Similarly, the KHU Cooperatives at Seoul Campus offers to-go meals and snacks during cafeteria breaks, along with more meal options than Global Campus. Since these services require additional budgets for staffing and resources, the broader revenue generated from operating multiple facilities sets the service of Global Campus apart from those at the Seoul Campus and HUFS.

The KHU Cooperatives has secured a five-year contract to operate the Global Campus Student Center cafeteria. To reach its maximum potential during this significant period, the Cooperatives must expand its role in campus welfare facilities. Otherwise, the Global Campus community will receive only normal service—not special treatment—similar to that of other university-operated companies.

To maximize impact of the Cooperatives, support from the Global Campus community—including students, faculty, and administrators—is vital. Their engagement will shape campus welfare in one of two ways: either empowering the KHU Cooperatives to improve welfare services, or relegating them to just another campus organization.