

National Executive Council

Meeting of:	33rd meeting of the National Executive Council of the National Union of Students
Place:	Liverpool Guild of Students
Date and time:	13:00, Wednesday 3 December 2014

Members

present:

Zones

Toni Pearce (President & Chair)
Joe Vinson (Further Education)
Sorana Vieru (Higher Education)
Raechel Matthey (Union Development)
Colum McGuire & Sidonie Bertrand-Shelton (Welfare)
Piers Telemacque & Samayya Afzal (Society and Citizenship)

Liberation

Malia Bouattia & Zekarias Negussie (Black Students)
Maddy Kirkman (Disabled Students)
Robbie Young & Fran Cowling (LGBT)
Susuana Antubam (Women's)

Sections

Shreya Paudel & Teodora Teodorescu (International Students)
Kae Smith & Erin Lee (Mature & Part Time Students)
Ste Smith & Sai Englert (Postgraduate Students)

Nations

Beth Button & Grace Burton (NUS Wales)
Rebecca Hall & Fergal McFerran (NUS-USI)

Block

Amy Smith, Poppy Wilkinson, Miki Vyse, Dario Celaschi, Shakira Martin, Daniel Cooper, Aaron Kiely, Clifford Fleming, Abdi-Aziz Suleiman, Zarah Sultana, Vonnie Sandlan, Hannah Graham, Charlotte Agran.

Apologies:

Michael Rubin, James Elliott, Amy-Victoria Prior, Edmund Schluessel, Megan Dunn, Laura Jackson

Absences:

Gordon Maloney, Kirsty Haigh, Rochelle Owusu-Antwi

In attendance:

Amy Davies, Meg Evans, Graeme Wise, Peter Robertson, Davina Keen, Jon Chambers, Katie Shaw, Gareth Lindop

1. Introductory & Administration

- 1.1 Toni Pearce (TP) opened the meeting and welcomed members.
- 1.2 Apologies were noted as above.
- 1.3 There were no conflicts of interests declared.
- 1.4 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2014

Joe Vinson's initials wrong on the recorded vote (change from JB to JV)
Sai Englert requested a record of his question on Lead and Change from the last meeting.

- 1.5 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The minutes were approved.

2. Reports and accountability

- 2.1 President's Priorities

Toni Pearce – National President

TP presented her report and opened up discussion to the NEC for questions.

Report was taken as read but TP gave an update on the days of action that are upcoming in January beginning with education funding. TP also announced that the government had announced in today's Autumn Statement that they were going to introduce a system of postgraduate loans and praised the work of NUS in securing this.

Kae Smith noted that postgraduate loans were only for STEM subjects; TP noted that this wasn't the case and the story had been misreported and that loans would cover all students under the age of 30 and that NUS would be campaigning on this. KS also asked about how the days of actions covered part-time members.

Hannah Graham asked why papers weren't emailed to students' unions; TP gave an update on communications around NEC and talked about the Shape Our Work hub on the new NUS Connect website and improved accessibility. Unions will now be emailed before and after each NEC meeting.

Daniel Cooper asked TP to explain why NUS Leadership pulled support for the Free Education demonstration on November 19th. TP explained that she had been supportive of the motion but that there were concerns about the safety of the demonstration and that she had taken the concerns of the Liberation officers seriously and did not regret this decision. TP added that she felt NUS had to

be honest with students' unions about the risk of the demonstration and that was why the decision was made.

2.2 Zone Convenors presented on priorities for the year ahead.

Joe Vinson – Vice President Further Education

JV presented his report as read but talked about FE Leaders and Festival that had taken place the week before. JV added that there was an apprentices stream at FE Leaders that he was really proud of. JV updated on the Day of Action of EMA that had taken place in the last couple of weeks prior to the NEC meeting.

Dario Celaschi asked where the New Deal for EMA was listed; JV noted that it was on the General Election hub.

Megan Dunn – Vice President Higher Education

MD sent apologies for the meeting – Sorana Vieru took questions on behalf of the Higher Education zone.

Susuana Antubam asked about what MD meant by “diverse and inclusive” spaces meant in her report; SV took the question on and will report back.

Fran Cowling noted the publication of the Roadmap to Free Education and asked what the next steps were. TP updated on the planned days of actions, as well as the roadmap giving students' unions the tools to make the arguments for free education.

DC asked what NUS was doing about working with fellow free education movements.

KS asked about why the roadmap to free education didn't include information on how to mobilise students; TP clarified that the roadmap's purpose was to be informative and that campaigning tools were being delivered to students' unions and that the campaign plan was to inform students and then mobilise them. KS also asked about working with other groups; TP covered both questions and noted that she was happy to work with other groups to achieve free education.

Sai Englert asked what plans there were for working with other unions such as UCU and Unison on free education policy. TP noted that NUS regularly worked with trade unions to achieve these priorities.

DC asked about the days of action and what the content of these were. TP gave an update on what the days of action entailed. DC also asked about MD's meetings with Liam Byrne. TP gave a brief update on these meetings and what work was being done around Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

Raechel Matthey – Vice President Union Development

RM presented the report as read but added that Aston Union had re-affiliated to NUS after seven years away from the organisation and praised how the campaign had been led by students on the ground.

RM also gave an update on some other new affiliations and current affiliation referendums happening at the moment.

RM also updated about the Women in Leadership conference (a joint priority between RM, TP and SA) happening on Friday and how it was sold out and there was a waiting list.

Miki Vyse asked about the SU Local events that had taken place in November and the feedback on that. RM gave an update on that and the benefits to members.

DCe asked about the NUS London area; RM gave a quick update on this.

MV asked about the meeting of the leadership team of the National Society of Apprentices. RM gave an update on the National Society and an event planned with the TUC in March.

DCo asked about SU2034 and what action was being taken. RM gave an update on supporting students' unions and what had been done in terms of consultation so far.

Colum McGuire – Vice President Welfare

CM presented his report as read but added two things.

CM gave an update on the Private Members Bill on revenge evictions and how the bill had sadly fell because it had been filibustered out by two MPs. CM also talked about the Ready to Rent programme and how 47 students' unions had engaged with it in England and it was being taken to Scotland next week.

Vonnie Sandlan praised the Faith and Belief training that had taken place in Scotland and what the next steps were for that training programme. CM talked about potential future developments for the programme but also noted his concerns about putting on lots of events and the costs to students' unions but was happy to discuss further.

KS asked about Sharia-compliant loans and whether these would be available for part time students. CM confirmed that this was the case.

SV asked when the mental health in HE guidelines would be released. CM confirmed this would be in February.

BB asked what work was being done around Sex and Relationship Education. CM talked about the work that had been done and talked about the work across the organisation that was taking place.

DCo asked about the Immigration Act; CM updated on work that was taking place around landlord checks and the concessions that had been won such as universities being able to provide checks for international students.

Piers Telemacque – Vice President Society and Citizenship

PT gave his report as read but talked about the Leaders' Debate and his participation on it. He addressed concerns about sharing a panel with Nigel Farage but felt that he should hold Nigel Farage to account for his views.

FC asked about PT'S trip to Poland with UJS and whether it was in a personal or officer capacity. TP added that she felt that NUS officers make decisions always knowing their role as an officer.

Beth Button asked about PT's meeting with the Prisoner Education Trust. PT gave an update on his meeting and how he had met the Chief Executive of OFSTED who had offered his support to the youth services campaign.

DC asked about PT's appearance with Nigel Farage; PT gave an update on how the debate had gone. DC also asked about work around the Living Wage; PT gave an update on the living wage tour.

Shreya Paudel thanked PT for challenging Nigel Farage in the leaders' debate.

2.3 Liberation priorities were outlined to note

Black Students Campaign

Malia Bouattia (MB) presented the Black Students' Campaign report.

MB updated on a successful Black Students Winter Conference and thanked her committee for their support. MB updated on a successful Black History month and some of the events that had taken place. MB updated on work with the Equality Challenge Unit and work around attainment gap for BME students.

Black Women's Conference and Black International Students Conference will be forthcoming in the new year as well as upcoming regional networks.

VS thanked MB for coming to Scotland for the cross-liberation event and whether there was the opportunity for partnership to increase the representation of black women within NUS Scotland. MB updated on the cross-liberation work that could be done in this area.

Zarah Sultana made a statement on the treatment of MB following the last NEC meeting and condemned the backlash that MB faced following the meeting.

Disabled Students Campaign

Maddy Kirkman (MK) presented the Disabled Students campaign report.

MK updated on the Disabled Students Allowance and there will be a parliamentary debate on regulation changes to DSA.

MK also gave an update on the NUS Disabled Students Committee and motions that had been passed at the last meeting of the committee.

DCe asked about the changes that the Student Loans Company have made in the administration of the Disabled Students Allowance. MK gave an update on this and what actions could be taken.

LGBT Campaign

Fran Cowling (FC) and Robbie Young (RY) presented the LGBT Campaign report.

RY added that he attended a World Aids Day vigil in Liverpool ahead of the Policy Development Convention.

KS asked about the Trans conference that was happening in February; RY gave an update on the working group and progress had been made.

JV asked about the work that was being done on the HPV vaccine for gay men; RY gave an update on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on this issue.

FC presented her report as read but added that there would be a queer caucus at Women in Leadership conference on Friday.

FC also made a comment on the Free Education demonstration.

Women's campaign

Susuana Antubam (SA) presented the Women's Campaign report.

SA launched the Lad Culture audit on Monday and gave an update on what this entailed. SA is going to speak in parliament in a couple of weeks to launch the Carers Group with the Carers Trust. SA gave an update on some of the difficulties of Reclaim the Night London and was reviewing what support was given to some organisations.

2.4 Sections report:

International Students Campaign

Shreya Paudel (SP) presented the International Students' Campaign report.

Report was taken as read but added a couple of things; SP updated about the International Migrants Day on December 18 and encouraged NEC members to come along and express their solidarity. SP also updated on the pilot project of landlord checks in the West Midlands.

Postgraduate Students Campaign

Ste Smith gave a verbal update on the Postgraduate Campaign and how this relates to the General Election. Sai Englert also gave an update on work around postgraduates who teach.

Mature and Part-Time Students Campaign

KS and Erin Lee gave a verbal update on the work of the MPT campaigns. KS raised the issue that postgraduate loans would not be available for those over 30 which was cause for concern.

2.5 Nations report:

NUS Wales

Beth Button (BB) presented the NUS Wales report. The report was taken as read but BB added that NUS Wales had won some money in the budget for childcare in Further Education colleges. BB also updated on Glyndwr and supporting students affected by the Home Office decision to remove their licence to recruit international students.

CM asked about the Financial Contingency Fund and what the current situation is in Wales.

KS asked what Plaid Cymru's position was on cutting the funds; BB responded that they were against it.

Ste Smith asked about the representation of postgraduates in Wales. BB said she's like to work with the campaign to increase representation.

NUS Scotland

VS gave a verbal update on the work of NUS Scotland.

There was an update on Scotland Zone conference, work around the REF in Scotland and how it discriminates against women, work around divesting from fossil fuels. VS also gave an update on college mergers. VS also talked about the launch of NUS Scotland's priority campaign of "Stop Student Poverty."

NUS-USI

Rebecca Hall (RH) gave an update on the work in NUS USI.

Rebecca Hall presented the NUS-USI report; the report was taken as read but RH updated on some key areas. The first was on the Northern Irish budget and cuts being proposed to the Department for Employment and Learning of around £81million.

RH updated on the success of FEstival and the launch of the National Society of Apprentices in Northern Ireland.

SS posed the same question about postgraduates to RH who talked about work that had been happening in Northern Ireland.

3.1 Update on the Estimates

Peter Robertson gave an update on the Estimates process for 2014/5.

Motions

4.1 Ordinary Motions

Motion 1: Anti-casualisation and Living Wage speaking tour

Speech for: Sai Englert

Amendment one

Speech for the amendment: Sai Englert

Speech against the amendment: None

Vote on amendment: Passed (amendment becomes part of the main motion)

Speech against: None

Parts were received to remove NEC Resolves 1

Speech to remove parts: Raechel Matthey

Speech to keep parts: Sai Englert

Vote on the parts: Passes – parts are removed

Vote on the motion as amended with parts removed: PASSES

Motion 2: Standing up for sex workers, supporting decriminalisation of sex work

Speech for: Susuana Antubam

Speech against: Poppy Wilkinson

Speech for: Fran Cowling

Speech against: Aaron Kiely

Parts were received to remove NEC Further Believes 10

Speech for removing parts: Dario Celaschi

Speech against removing parts: Fran Cowling

Vote to remove parts: FALLS

Parts are kept.

Vote on the motion as a whole: PASSES

Procedural motion to move the emergency motion to be discussed next

Speech for procedural motion: Dario Celaschi

Speech against procedural motion: Shreya Paudel
Vote: FALLS

Emergency motion is not moved up the agenda.

Procedural motion to discuss motion 5 next
Speech for: Joe Vinson
Speech against: Shreya Paudel
Vote: PASSES

Motion 5 to be discussed next

Motion 5: Kurdish Solidarity
Speech for: Malia Bouattia

Amendment 1
Speech for: Daniel Cooper
Speech against: None

Parts were received to remove NEC Resolves 11
Speech for removing parts: Colum McGuire
Speech against removing parts: Daniel Cooper
Vote to remove parts: PASSES (Parts are removed)

Vote on the amendment with parts removed: PASSES

Amendment 2
Speech for: Aaron Kiely
Speech against: None

Parts were received to remove NEC Believes 4 and NEC Further Believes 2
Speech for removing parts: Abdi-Aziz Suleiman
Speech against removing parts: Aaron Kiely
Vote on removing parts: PASSES (Parts are removed)

Parts were received to remove NEC Resolves 3
Speech for removing parts: Daniel Cooper
Speech against removing parts: Aaron Kiely
Vote on removing parts: FALLS (Parts are kept)

Vote on the amendment: PASSES

Vote on the motion as amended: PASSES

Procedural motion that the question now be put on motion 3.

Motion 3:
Vote: PASSES

Motion 4 was withdrawn by its submitter, Aaron Kiely.

The NEC meeting came to a close. The next meeting will be held at Unison on Wednesday 4 March at 11:00am.
