NUS Delegate Accountability

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: Women’s Officer
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This Students’ Union notes:
1. That our delegates to NUS National Conference are elected through a ballot of Sheffield students
2. That although this is a democratic process, there is no other way of holding delegates accountable for how they vote at conference
3. That delegates from the University of East Anglia Students’ Union record and disclose how they vote on all motions at NUS Conferences
4. That the University of Manchester Students’ Union and University of Edinburgh Students’ Association hold hustings for candidates in NUS elections, with votes by members, after which delegates are mandated to vote for the candidates supported by the members present.

This Students’ Union believes:
1. That delegate accountability to our members is important and should go much further than voting for short manifestos
2. That recording and disclosing the votes of our delegates in all public votes at NUS Conferences would help engage students with NUS decision-making
3. Members of the Students’ Union should be aware if delegates vote in a way contrary to Union policy
4. NUS delegate elections give little insight as to which candidates NUS delegates are likely to support
5. Having more robust accountability procedures for NUS delegates would increase understanding of NUS democracy and make conferences more relevant to our members

This Students’ Union resolves:
1. To ensure that delegation leaders at all conferences record all votes by Sheffield delegates on motions and elections at NUS Conferences and pass them on to the Union to be publicised after
2. To ensure that hustings are held for all full-time NUS Officer roles, with all candidates invited, and a democratic process for deciding the SU’s support for particular candidates put in place.

POLICY HISTORY:

This policy was approved by Students Union Council in April 2016.

This Policy is next due for review in November 2018.