

National Executive Council

Meeting of: 31st meeting of the National Executive Council of the National Union of Students

Place: UNISON centre, 130 Euston Road London, NW1 2AY

Date and time: 13:00, Monday, August 4th 2014

Members:

Zones
Toni Pearce (President & Chair)
Joe Vinson & TBC (Further Education)
Megan Dunn & Tom Flynn (Higher Education)
Piers Telemacque & Hugh Murdoch (Society & Citizenship)
Raechel Matthey & Nosheen Dad (Union Development)
Colum McGuire & Chantel Le Carpentier (Welfare)

Liberation
Malia Bouattia & Zekarias Negussue (Black Students)
Maddy Kirkman & James Elliott (Disabled Students)
Robbie Young & Fran Cowling (LGBT)
Susuana Antubam & Rochelle Owusu-Antwi (Womens)

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)
Gordon Maloney & Kirsty Haigh (NUS Scotland)
Rebecca Hall & Fergal McFerran (NUS-USI)

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

Apologies:

In attendance:



No	Item	Action	Paper	Lead	Time
1. Introduction and administration					
1.1	Welcome and President's opening remarks		Verbal	TP	
1.2	Apologies, quorum count and notice of meeting	Note	Verbal	TP	
1.3	Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest from the agenda	Note	Verbal	TP	
1.4	Minutes of the last meeting 13th May 2014	Approve	1.4	TP	
1.5	Actions and matter arising from the last meeting 13th May 2014	Discuss	1.5	TP	
2. Accountability and NEC Member Priorities					
2.1	National President Priorities and questions	Approve	2.1	TP	
2.2	Organisational year plan				
2.3	General Election Strategy session				
2.4	Zone Priorities and questions	Approve	2.2	VPs	
2.5	Liberation Priorities and questions	Note	2.3		
2.6	Sections Priorities and questions	Note	2.4		
2.7	Nations Priorities and questions	Note	2.5		
3. Papers					
3.1	NEC Standing Orders, cycle of business and meeting dates	Note	3.1	TP	
3.2	Appointments and responsibilities	Note	3.2	TP	
3.3	Elections to Group Committees	Vote	3.3	TP	
4. Motions					
4.1	Ordinary motions	Discuss	4.1	TP	
5. AOB					

Date of Next Meeting

11:00 16 September 2014, London.

National Executive Council

Meeting of: 30th meeting of the National Executive Council of the National Union of Students

Place: Unison Centre, 130 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AY

Date and time: Tuesday 13th May 2014, 11:00

Members

present:

Zones

Toni Pearce (President & Chair)
Joe Vinson and Amy Smith (Further Education)
Rachel Wenstone (Higher Education)
Raechel Matthey (Union Development)
Colum McGuire & Chantel LeCarpentier (Welfare)

Liberation

Aaron Kiely and Malia Bouattia (Black Students)
Hannah Paterson & Jawanza Ipyana (Disabled Students)
Sky Yarlett & Finn McGoldrick (LGBT)
Kelley Temple (Women's)

Sections

Daniel Stevens International Students)
Josh Rowlands & Emma Barnes (Mature & Part Time Students)

Nations

Gordon Maloney & Robert Foster (NUS Scotland)
Stephanie Lloyd & Rhiannon Hedge (NUS Wales)
Rebecca Hall & Fergal McFerran (NUS-USI)

Block

Apologies:

Paul Abernethy, Amy Gilligan, Anna Chowcat, Tom Flynn, Hugh Murdoch, Nosheen Dad, Edmund Schluessel, Dom Anderson, Tabz O'Brien Butcher, Arianna Tassinari, Peter Smallwood.

Absences:

Kirat Raj Singh, Harry Fox, Jeni-Marie Pittuck.

In attendance:

Amy Davies, Meg Evans, Hannah Cutler, Alex Jones, Graeme Wise, Peter Robertson, Anna Connell-Smith, Hilary Carter, Shelly Asquith, Maddy Kirkman, James Elliot, Erin Lee, Poppy Wilkinson, Miki Vyse, Ste Smith, Clifford Fleming, Megan Dunn, Grace Burton, Michael Rubin, Charlie Agran, Teodora Teodorescu, Susuana Antubam, Kae Smith, Daniel Cooper, Dario Celaschi.



1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Toni Pearce (TP) opened the meeting and welcomed members and newly-elected members of NEC to the meeting. TP outlined that only current members of NEC would have speaking and voting rights.

1.2 Apologies were noted.

1.3 There were no conflicts of interests declared.

1.4 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2014

Remove Peter Smallwood from the attendance list.
Remove a couple of the notes from the minutes.

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:

Report was taken as read; TP added the following:

GM asked about TP's meeting with Shami Chakrabati from Liberty. TP spoke with SC about women in leadership. Also spoke about defending the right to protest and how NUS and Liberty work to ensure that Black students have the right to protest.

Chris Clements asked TP what she thought of National Conference. TP reflected that Conference was excellent and felt that the values of discussion at NEC translated to National Conference.

2.2 Zone Convenors gave updates on their areas of work.

Joe Vinson:

JV apologised for his report not being included in the papers.

Next week, JV will be launching a report with OCR into GCSE and A-Level reforms.

Rachel Wenstone:

RW's report was taken as read, but she added that she had been doing some work around the increased conversation about student rights as consumer rights and what that meant in terms of protection for students in the absence of a Higher Education bill.

Dom Anderson:

DA was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Raechel Matthey:

RM apologised for her report not being included in the papers but has sent it for circulation. RM talked about the work being done on the National Society of Apprentices and the development that was happening and had happened at National Conference.

RM also talked about the Democracy Commission and the follow-up work that was taking place.

CC asked about the fact that there was no UD policy discussed at National Conference. RM noted that she was upset that there wasn't any policy discussed but wants students' unions to have an input into her workplan following this meeting of NEC.

CB asked about NUS MINDS (Membership Intelligence Data Set) and how it was different to other data sets. RM elaborated that the MINDS survey was a collated version of lots of data on students (including clubs and societies numbers, election turnout, student numbers, block grant figures) and soon a ten-year data set will be released by NUS shortly.

RHu asked about NUS London and what the plans are going forward. RM noted that she and TP had been looking at how NUS could support the NUS London working group and that it would be adequately resourced.

RHu asked whether there were any plans to introduce areas elsewhere. RM noted that NEC are due to discuss regional partnerships at the meeting today but did not want to impose organisational structures on students' unions.

Colum McGuire

Report was taken as read.

CMCG elaborated on a lot of the work that he had been doing around housing and how excited he was that the Labour Party was tabling an amendment on ending letting agent fees in the House of Commons today.

RHu asked CMCG asked about how the work around students impacted on the wider public as well. CMCG felt that NUS had built some strong coalitions with organisations such as Shelter and Generation Rent and how this will have a positive impact on the private rented sector.

GM asked about rent caps and what CMCG he thought about rent caps – CMCG noted that he didn't necessarily believe that rent caps worked but that rent control could be a way forward.

2.3 Liberation priorities were outlined to note

Black Students Campaign

To note.

AK praised the work that was done on March 22nd – Stand up to Racism day – which included actions around the country.

AK also talked about the success of the Anti-Racism and Anti-Fascism conference and thanked everyone who was involved in making it a success.

AK talked about Black Students Conference, taking place the weekend of 17th/18th May and how excited he was about it due to the large number of delegates registered to come.

AK talked about the Black Students Campaign's priority of Black representation and how proud he was of the work that had been done on that priority.

Disabled Students Campaign

To note.

HP talked about the lobby day against cuts to Disabled Students Allowance and how NEC members can get involved in that campaign.

RHu asked about alternative actions to undertake against the cuts to DSA. HP clarified that the lobby day was a constituency lobby day but also that students' unions around the country are taking action on their campuses.

LGBT Campaign

To note.

SY talked about LGBT Conference and how successful it had been and thanked members of the NEC who attended the conference. FMCG added that the first full-time LGBT officers were elected.

FMCG talked about the Education: Beyond the Straight and Narrow research and the actions that are going to follow in promoting it. FMCG added her thanks to RW for the support she had given to the research as it was the first piece of research that the LGBT campaign had done into education.

Women's campaign

KT talked about how excited she was that motions 701 and 702 on Fair Representation passed at National Conference and what that means for NUS next year. KT also talked about the ESU Board Meeting in Vienna that she attended and how proud she was that resolutions on Women in Leadership had passed at the ESU Board Meeting, NUS-USI Conference and USI Congress.

KT also talked about the first meeting of the Lad Culture Strategy group and the work going forward.

2.4 Sections report:

Daniel Stevens:

To note.

DS spoke about the work the campaign had been doing with British Influence and the funding available to students' unions through the Open Campus Open Community around the European Elections. DS also talked about the first meeting of the International Student Experience

RHu asked about what was happening with the Immigration Bill relating specifically to the NHS.

JM asked DS about the European Elections. DS noted that he believed the worrying rhetoric around immigration was a problem.

Emma Barnes & Josh Rowlands:

EB and JR talked about MPT conference and how successful it had been. EB also talked about how she had spoken at the Westminster Higher Education Forum about how government and the sector can address the dramatic decline of mature and part-time students in Higher Education.

2.5 Nations report:

NUS Wales – Stephanie Lloyd

SL talked about NUS Wales conference and NUS Wales Women's conference and the newly elected officers. SL noted that the first meeting of the Higher Education Review group. SL noted the work around the Violence against Women bill and praised the work of RHe around the bill.

GM asked SL about what concerns she had about the review into HE funding in Wales.

NUS Scotland – Gordon Maloney

GM apologised for his report not being included in the papers and circulated it amongst NEC.

GM talked about the first Scottish Sections conferences that took place in Scotland.

GM has put in a funding bid for some money to do some work around developing student associations.

GM has been working with Unison around the rights of sabbatical officers in terms of employment and setting up a trade union for sabbatical officers in Scotland.

GM talked about the work RF had been doing with college governance.

GM talked about the work that had been done with the National Society of Apprentices in Scotland.

RW asked why the national sections officers weren't invited to Scottish Sections conference. RF clarified that he was sorry and had forgotten to invite them but they would definitely be invited next year.

NUS-USI – Rebecca Hall

RHa talked about the work that had been done with apprentices in Northern Ireland including meetings with apprentices in colleges.

Attended a conference in Finland with JV.

RHa talked about the Equal Marriage campaign that took place in Northern Ireland. Actions included writing to all MLAs and a large lobby outside Belfast City Hall. RHa talked about the vote on Equal Marriage and how she was so thankful to the help that the Rainbow Project had given to the campaign, as well as the work of the NUS-USI Regional Executive Committee and Fergal McFerran.

NEC officially commended the work of Rebecca Hall and Fergal McFerran for their commitment to equality and the work that they had done around the Equal Marriage campaign.

SY thanked RHa for the support that NUS-USI had given to supporting the LGBT campaign in Northern Ireland.

Scrutiny and Group Committee reports

CB gave an update on the work of the Communications and Membership Engagement committee that met on March 4th and May 12th.

3.1 Review into the Block of 15

CB presented his review into the Block of 15 for discussion.

RD talked about the work she had done with her contact unions and believed it was important to keep the communications link with contact unions.

CC noted that he thought it was important for papers to be sent out centrally to encompass the whole discussion of the meeting and not just certain issues.

MMC felt that some of the recommendations about what actions block members should take would prohibit people from doing this because many block members have other commitments.

RHu felt that there should be remuneration for volunteers and that there should be a budget for NEC members to attend other NUS events such as liberation conferences.

CC added that in terms of attending events, there should be a consistent approach to NEC members attending NUS events.

JM believed that it should be made clearer about what the role of Block members.

BD believed that a system of fixed allowances would be problematic.

MMC noted the relationship between Nations and Block of 15 members and how this relationship should be improved.

TP noted that it was difficult to talk about allocating a budget to Block without a discussion of how much the figure would be.

FMCG and SL raised questions about managing volunteers but felt that this would need to happen across all volunteers within NUS.

RW felt that it was difficult to have the discussion about how we resource Block without truly knowing what the role of Block is.

JM noted that he felt a vote should be taken on the report.

GM talked about the comparison between NEC and SEC and how volunteers are supported on SEC.

SY added to the conversation about supporting volunteers, especially in Liberation committees.

TP thanked CB formally for undertaking the review into the Block of 15.

TP noted that it was not for NEC to decide the governance of NEC but that if governance was to be reviewed, it would have to be sent to National Conference 2015 as a rules change.

Action points:

- TP to bring back a volunteer experience strategy for the whole group, looking at how the experience of volunteers can be improved.
- Papers to be sent out centrally to students' unions.

3.2 Approval of the Detailed Internal Budgets

RW presented the Detailed Internal Budgets.

NEC noted a different number for the officer cost for the Women's Campaign. This was due to participation in the pension scheme; this has been amended as all figures should be the same.

The DIBS were approved.

3.3 No Platform Policy

The No Platform policy was noted.

Motions

4.1 Motions remitted from National Conference

Motions remitted to National Conference are starred – this means that there won't a debate on them but there will be a vote. If motions are unstarred, then there will be a debate on it and then a vote. Where amendments had been unstarred but the main motion had not, TP ruled that there would be a debate on the whole motion as amended.

Motion 513 A Student living grant and the cost-of-living crisis

Speech for: James McAsh

Speech against: Chantel LeCarpentier

Vote: FALLS

Motion 514 Mental health – away from awareness, towards action

Vote: PASSES

Motion 516 Condemn "Student Rights" and Support Islamophobia Awareness

Vote: PASSES

Motion 517 A New EMA

Vote: PASSES

Motion 518 International Students

Vote: PASSES

Motion 519 Drugs off campus

Speech for: None

Speech against: Colum McGuire

Vote: FALLS

Motion 520 Access without support is not opportunity

Vote: PASSES

Motion 521 Students and HIV/AIDS

Vote: PASSES

Motion 523 Segregation on campus

Speech for: None

Speech against: Colum McGuire

Vote: FALLS

Motion 302 Local and Vocal: Students and the Ballot Box

Vote: PASSES

Motion 311 Barclays Bank – the Tax Dodging and the Exploitation

Vote: PASSES

Motion 312 Legal Aid

Vote: PASSES

Motion 313 Get Out the Vote; Stop the Far Right

Vote: PASSES

Motion 314 Public ownership of the Banks

Vote: PASSES

Motion 315 Fossil Free

Speech for: Matt Stanley

Speech against: None

Vote: PASSES

Motion 316 Equality for Students

Vote: PASSES

Motion 317 Opposing the Immigration Bill

Vote: PASSES

Motion 318 Fighting Cuts

Speech for: Aaron Kiely

Speech against: Finn McGoldrick

Votes: FALLS

Motion 319 Justice for Palestine – support the right to education

Speech for: Aaron Kiely

Speech against: Rachel Wenstone

Vote: FALLS

Motion 320 Defend our right to resist

Vote: PASSES

Motion 321 Solidarity with the oppressed in South Africa

Speech for: None

Speech against: Rhiannon Hedge

Vote: FALLS

Motion 322 Local income tax

Speech for: Charles Barry

Speech against: Colum McGuire

Votes: FALLS

Motion 323 30 years since the miners' strike

Speech for: James McAsh

Speech against: Rhiannon Hedge

Speech for: Rosie Huzzard

Speech against: Steph Lloyd

Vote: FALLS

Motion 324 Saving Polar Bears, one plastic bottle at a time

Vote: PASSES

Motion 401 Empowering Active Students

Vote: PASSES

Amendment 401a NUS and Strategic Partnership

Vote: PASSES

Motion 402 Connecting Networks of Student Communities

Vote: PASSES

Motion 411 Regional Partnerships

Amendment 411a Creating Networks for similar Students' Unions (moves into main motion 411)

Vote on motion as amended: PASSES

Motion 412 Democratic Students' Unions

Amendment 412a Open and transparent Students' Unions

Speech for: James McAsh

Speech against: Raechel Matthey

Vote on amendment: FALLS

Amendment 412b Trustee Boards

Speech for: None

Speech against: Raechel Matthey

Vote on amendment: FALLS

Vote on Motion 412

Speech for: Charles Barry

Speech against: None

Vote on Motion 412: PASSES

Motion 413 From 1994 to 2034: the next generation of the student movement

Vote: PASSES

Motion 414 For a living wage in our institutions

Vote: PASSES

Motion 415 SU autonomy and building pan-London representation

Amendment 415a Save ULU –defend student union independence

Speech for: Rosie Huzzard

Shelly Asquith asked if she could speak. TP ruled that observers do not have speaking rights. RHu made a challenge to the Chair's ruling.

Vote: Challenge to the Chair's ruling falls.

Speech against: Rebecca Hall

Vote: FALLS

Speech for: James McAsh

Speech against: None
Vote on main motion: PASSES

Motion 416 Gagging Clauses

Speech for: James McAsh
Speech against: Jawanza Ipyana
Vote: FALLS

Motion 417 The next opportunity...
Speech for: Raechel Matthey

Amendment 417a BUCS
Speech for: Charles Barry
Speech against: Chris Clements
Vote: FALLS

Amendment 417b National Student Associations
Speech for: Raechel Matthey
Speech against: None
Vote: PASSES

Speech against main motion as amended: None
Vote on 417 as amended: PASSES

Ordinary motions

Motion 1: Student Carers and Parents

Speech for: Kelley Temple
Speech against: None
Parts: Part were received to remove Resolves 1,2,3,4

Speech for removing parts: Raechel Matthey
Speech against removing parts: Kelley Temple
Speech for removing parts: Colum McGuire
Speech against removing parts: Josh Rowlands
Vote on parts: FALLS (Parts are kept and become policy)

Vote on main motion: PASSES

Motion 2: We need Hope, not Hate

Speech for: Daniel Stevens
Speech against: Rosie Huzzard
Speech for: Finn McGoldrick
Speech against: Kelley Temple
Vote: PASSES

Motion 3: Ukraine Conflict

Speech for: Rosie Huzzard
Speech against: None
Vote: PASSES

Procedural motion to hear Emergency Motion 1 now.

Speech for PM: Colum McGuire
Speech against PM: James McAsh
Vote on PM: Passes – emergency motion will now be heard.

Emergency motion: Defend the DSA – reject the cuts
Speech for: Jawanza Ipyana
Speech against: None
Vote: PASSES

Motion 4: Free Education Motion Clarification

Speech for: James McAsh
Speech against: Steph Lloyd
Vote: FALLS

Emergency motions

Emergency Motion: Lambeth College Struggle

Speech for: Rosie Huzzard
Speech against: None

Parts were received to remove Resolves 7
Speech to remove parts: Joe Vinson
Speech against removing parts: Sky Yarlett
Vote to remove parts: PASSES (parts are removed)

Vote on the main motion: PASSES

NUS National Executive Council

NEC Standing Orders, Cycle of Business and meeting dates

Toni Pearce, National President, 4th August 2014.

Summary- This report proposes a set of by laws, a cycle of business and a format for officer reports to be used by the NEC during 2014/5

Recommendations- This set of proposals is for the NEC to approve and replaces all existing by laws and report templates.

Standing Orders Governing NEC Meetings

Under clause 156 of the NEC rules the NEC "shall agree, and may at any time vary, its own Standing Orders for the conduct of its meetings, including procedures for agenda setting, the discussion of motions, amendments to motions, elections of its members to other bodies and reports".

NEC Standing Orders

Meetings and Agenda

1. The appointed Clerks shall draw up the agenda in accordance with the provisions in the constitution, rules and programme of business approved by the NEC
2. The Clerks shall give notice of all meetings of the NEC to every person entitled to attend meetings. At least fourteen clear days notice must be given of a meeting of the NEC.
3. The Clerks shall publish the Agenda to every member of the NEC. The Agenda shall normally be published seven clear days before the day of the meeting.

Meetings/Quorum/Voting

4. The chair of the NEC shall be the NUS President or their designate.
5. No business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum (one third of voting members), save that an inquorate meeting of the NEC of which due notice has been given may adjourn itself until a quorum is mustered.
6. An inquorate meeting of the NEC shall be suspended if a quorum has not been reached within one hour of the stated time of commencement.
7. Every voting member of the NEC shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the NEC. The Chair will have a casting vote.
8. Voting shall be by show of hands. There shall be no provision for a secret ballot. The Chair shall be competent to declare the result on the show of hands alone but may conduct a count if they deem necessary.
9. If a member of NEC requests a recorded vote it shall be at the Chair's discretion or by a simple majority vote from council. If there is an affirmative reply, the manner in which each voting member of the NEC casts their vote shall be recorded and published in the minutes of the meeting.
10. If matters arise in-between scheduled meetings that require approval by the NEC a vote via email may take place and requires not less than 5 working days to allow for replies and not less than one third of voting members participating for it to be valid.

Reports

11. Zone Vice Presidents, along with the National President, will be required to submit a written report to each meeting of the NEC. Other convenors will be invited to submit a written report to each meeting of the NEC of no more than 2 sides of A4. All of the reports will assume to have been read by the NEC.
12. In the case of any Sub Committee, Zone or President report, the NEC may take a vote on whether to endorse the report if requested to do so by the person responsible for the

report, or otherwise the NEC may take a vote on whether to refer back a report or any part of a report, following a proposal to do by any member of the NEC.

13. There shall be the following report motions:

- (a) The reference back of a specified part or a specified line or lines of a specified part of the Report
- (b) A motion of censure on the convenor or the National Executive as a whole.
- (c) A motion to remove responsibility from a convenor, or all of the National Executive for a specified area of work.
- (d) A motion to commend a member or members of the National Executive or all of the National Executive for a specified area of work.

Motions

14. A motion on any matter relating to the affairs of the National Union may be submitted to the NEC, provided that it has the support of at least (3) three members of the National Executive Council and is submitted to the Clerks by no less than eight days before a meeting. A motion that relates to matters under the control of the Trustee Board, Democratic Procedures Committee or Chief Returning Officer, when carried, shall constitute a formal recommendation to the aforementioned body.

15. There shall be the following motions:

- (a) Ordinary motions, which must be submitted electronically in writing to the Clerks before mid-day at least (8) eight clear days before the day of the meeting. Each motion needs at least 3 proposers. The motion may be no more than 1,400 words long.
- (b) Each member of NEC may submit up to 1400 words of motions to each meeting.
- (c) Amendments to the ordinary motions which must be submitted electronically in writing to the Clerks before mid-day at least five clear days after the motions deadline. Amendments may be no more than 500 words.
- (d) Emergency motions, which must be submitted electronically in writing to the Clerks after the motions deadline but must be deemed an emergency motion by the Clerks based on the definition given for National Conference emergency motions. Emergency motions may be no more than 1,400 words.
- (e) Report motions, which shall hold the Convenors accountable for their work.

16. The Chair will invite the proposer of the motion to speak for the motion or amendment for a set period of time. After this they will invite contributions from the rest of the NEC. No member of the NEC will speak more than twice on the motion or issue.

17. At the Chair's discretion, they may ask for an open discussion on any motion or amendment to inform the discussion on the debates.

Parts

18. At the Chair's discretion, an NEC member may call for a discussion of parts on a motion or amendment. The calling of parts means that a section is discussed separately from the rest of the motion. The chair may decide whether to hear the parts separately or see a vote from Council to see if they wish for this to happen. Only whole clauses or sentences may be taken as parts. A submitter of a motion or amendment may remove any section of their text before the calling of parts.

19. The person calling for parts may speak for them to pass or allow someone else to do so and then speak against them passing.

Procedure

20. There shall be the following procedural motions which are listed in order of priority:

- (a) That the meeting has no confidence in the Chair. If this motion is carried, the person in the Chair must vacate the Chair and not resume the Chair during the meeting.
- (b) That the meeting close or adjourn. If this motion is carried, the meeting shall immediately close or adjourn to the time and place specified in the motion.
- (c) That the question be now put. If this motion is carried, the motion under discussion is put to the vote after summations against and for the motion. This

motion prevents parts being taken on the motion even if parts have already been tabled.

- (d) That the question be not put. If this motion is carried, the motion under discussion is not put to the vote.
- (e) That the question be referred to another meeting or body. If this motion is carried, the motion under discussion is tabled to the meeting or body specified and no further discussion on it takes place at the meeting.
- (f) That the question be taken in parts. If this motion is carried, the motion under discussion is voted on in parts as specified. A successful parts procedural motion will decide to remove a section of the text from any amendment or motion. A failed parts motion will leave it to be debated along with the rest of the text.

Accessibility

21. All members of the NEC are entitled to take full part in all areas of the meeting. If a member cannot take part in any area due to procedures not being followed, the Chair shall adjourn the meeting until the problem has been rectified.

Suspension

22. A motion to suspend the Byelaws or any part thereof may be moved without notice by a voting member of the NEC during a meeting of the NEC. The motion shall be voted on after a speech in favour and a speech against. The motion shall require a two-thirds majority of those present voting members to be enacted.

Non Attendance

23. If an NEC member does not attend 3 consecutive Council meetings or 4 in a one year period, without apology they will be assumed to have resigned from their position and all related benefits and authority. If they miss 3 consecutive meetings or 4 meetings in a one year period with an apology, any member of the Council may call for a simple vote on whether they should remain as a member of the NEC at the meeting.

NEC						
	04 Aug 14	16 Sep 14	04 Dec 14	04 Mar 15	20 Apr 14	02 Jun 15
Standard items						
Minutes of previous meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Political Scrutiny						
Presidents report	✓	✓	✓	✓	National Conference briefing	✓
Vice Presidents report	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Group and Scrutiny Committees	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Reports from Councillors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Reports to Note						
Liberation reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	National Conference briefing	✓
Section reports	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Nations reports	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Financial Strategy						
Allocation of Budgets 2014/15		✓			National Conference briefing	
Update on estimates 2015/16			✓			
Approve Estimates for NC2015				✓		
Update on Budgets 2015/16						✓
Internal Governance						
Approve Rules for NEC	✓				National Conference briefing	
Approve cycle of business	✓					
Presidential appointments	✓					
Group Committee Elections	✓					
Policy						
Interim policy between conferences	✓	✓	✓	✓	National Conference briefing	✓
Amendments & motions to NC2013				✓		
Policy referred from NC2013						✓
Organisation Strategy						
Update on KPIs		✓	✓	✓		✓
Other Items						
Note of those subject to No Platform		✓				

Presidential and Other Appointments and Responsibilities

There are several appointments to be made and responsibilities to be allocated at the first NEC of the year. This paper details the main ones and, where applicable, the method of election or appointment.

The choices already made are outlined, but please get in touch if you are interested in any of the positions still available and I can report back at the NEC itself.

NUS Trustee Board:

Four full time officers are elected to the Trustee Board by the NEC in June each year. Gordon Maloney, Fran Cowling, Rebecca Hall and Joe Vinson have been duly elected.

The President allocates the following constitutional responsibilities:

- **Deputy National President** (in the event of illness or sudden vacancy, FTO Rule 11):
Raechel Matthey
- **Board of Endsleigh Insurance Services Ltd:**
Toni Pearce and Raechel Matthey
- **Board of NUS Services Ltd:**
Raechel Matthey (elected Chair) and Colum McGuire
- **NUS Democratic Procedures Committee member (Rule 64):**
Colum McGuire

The following will be elected at the NEC Meeting on 4th August 2014

X 3 Clerks to the NEC

The Clerks act to regulate the NEC, enforcing the standing orders on behalf of the DPC

X 2 places on Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is a joint Trustee Board/NEC Committee and makes recommendations on Lay Trustees for the Board and other bodies across the NUS Group

Committee and Group Memberships

There are two types of committee of the NEC- Special Committees and Group Committees.

Special Committees

There are currently three of these- ARAF is in the constitution, there is an established Liberation, Equality and Diversity Committee and a special committee to examine the relationship between the Trustee Board and the NEC was established at Conference.

The President allocates the following subcommittee memberships:

- **Anti-Racism/Anti-Fascism Sub-Committee:**
Co-Chairs Malia Bouattia and Charlie Agran plus 3 x additional places
- **Liberation, Equality & Diversity Group:**
Robbie Young as the Chair plus the other Liberation Officers

Group Committees

There are two of these now in the constitution. The Comms group looks closely at comms and marketing matters including Brand. The E&E group is the group's Ethics committee.

- **Communications**
3 places plus Raechel Matthey form this committee along with members from across the group. To express interest please email executiveoffice@nus.org.uk
- **Ethical & Environmental**
3 places plus TBC form this committee along with members from across the group. To express interest please email executiveoffice@nus.org.uk

Other Responsibilities

Student Professions (e.g. BMA, NUT...)

Colum McGuire and Megan Dunn

Student Sections

Under Rule 901, the work of each student section shall come directly under the remit of and control of the Convenor of a Zone, which shall be allocated by the President.

Megan Dunn

NEC Union Liaison

The role of the National Executive Councillors is to communicate with member unions on the business of the NEC and provide scrutiny and direction to the full time officers on this basis. Attempts to create a system to support this have had issues in previous years as councillors do not engage with specific unions.

Unions have raised concerns that they find the random allocation of councillors frustrating where if they have one point of contact who is not in contact for whatever reason (many councillors are still students themselves for example) they lose a channel of discussion with the NEC.

- **FE, HE and Specialist Unions:** There are five reserved places for FE candidates though they do not 'just' represent FE or vice-versa. We clearly have a much higher number of FE unions than HE and it is unrealistic to expect 2/3rds of the membership to communicate solely with one third of councillors.
- **Communication:** Despite job descriptions and a clear steer prior to National Conference on the scrutiny and communications purpose of councillors, many mistake the role for having an overt delivery aspect of the NEC work (rather than a regulator and, indeed, counselling one). This can cause some NEC members to offer operational support rather than political communication to unions.
- **Scrutiny:** In their scrutiny role the councillors have a strong role when united and communicative with each other. However it can feel for those who are not part of a different political group within NUS that they are going alone without support from colleagues on specific issues. More should be done to encourage collective working.

I am therefore proposing the following regional allocations:

London

Dario Celaschi
Daniel Cooper
Vonnie Sandlan

South & West

Edmund Schleussel
Charlie Agran
Shakira Martin
Michael Rubin

Midlands

Zarah Sultana
Poppy Wilkinson
Aaron Kiely
Abdi Aziz-Suleman

North

Miki Vyse
Hannah Graham
Amy Smith
Clifford Fleming

Nations

It is expected that constituent members in the Nations will give feedback through their full time officers and second places on the NEC.

Zone Allocations

Further Education Zone:

Daniel Cooper
Shakira Martin
Amy Smith

Higher Education Zone:

Poppy Wilkinson
Abdi Aziz-Suleman
Edmund Schleussel

Society and Citizenship Zone:

Miki Vyse
Zarah Sultana
Clifford Flemming

Welfare Zone:

Aaron Kiely
Vonnie Sandlan
Charlie Agran

Union Development Zone:

Hannah Graham
Dario Celaschi
Michael Rubin

Other Organisations Appointments

- Higher Education Academy Board – Megan Dunn
- Higher Education Academy Academic Council – Megan Dunn
- Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education – Megan Dunn
- Equality Challenge Unit Board – Vonnie Sandlan
- Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) – Joe Vinson
- Foundation degree forward Board – HE Zone Committee to allocate
- UKCISA Board – Shreya Paudel

Motion 1: SRE: It's My Right

Proposed by:	Colum McGuire
Seconded by:	Susuana Antubam, Piers Telemacque, Miki Vyse, Grace Burton, Fergal McFerran, Chantel LeCarpentier, Vonnie Sandlan, Ste Smith, James Elliott
Committees:	NEC

NEC notes:

1. There are currently no statutory requirements within the schools curriculum to provide sex and relationships education (SRE) in any part of the UK.
2. NUS' policy passed on sex and relationships education at National Conference 2013.
3. Campaigning for statutory SRE in schools is part of NUS' General Election strategy.
4. The Sex Education Forum is a membership coalition of organisations campaigning for SRE as well as creating and providing resources for delivering successful SRE programmes. It is hosted by the National Children's Bureau and contains representatives from health, education, faith, disability and children's organisations.
5. The Sex Education Forum has recently launched the 'SRE: It's My Right' campaign.

NEC Believes:

1. NUS cannot and should not campaign for SRE in isolation and should be working in partnership with other organisations who champion this issue.
2. Becoming a member of the Sex Education Forum will strengthen NUS' position in campaigning for SRE, as well as meaning NUS has the opportunity to shape policy positions and campaigns that come from the Sex Education Forum.

NEC Resolves:

1. To apply to become a member of the Sex Education Forum.
2. To work with the Sex Education Forum in the run up to the General Election, and beyond.

Motion 2: Condemn the collective punishment and killings in Gaza (due to be composited)

Proposed by:	Malia Bouattia
Seconded by:	Zekarias Negussue, Zarah Sultana, Abdi-Aziz Suleiman, Aaron Kiely, James Elliott, Gordon Maloney, Edmund Schluessel, Vonnie Sandlan, Sai Englert, Rebecca Hall

NEC Believes:

1. As of writing around 170 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli bombings of the Gaza Strip as part of its Operation 'Protective Edge', the vast majority are civilians, and Israel has warned of more attacks to come.
2. Many of the Palestinians deaths have come from Israel's deliberate bombing of their homes, which has been condemned as illegal by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem. On Saturday 13th of July 21

people were killed when Israel bombed the home of a Palestinian police chief. [1] Others targeted have included special needs care homes, parks and charities [2] [3]

3. These latest attacks are in the context of the population of the Gaza strip being subject to a blockade described by the Director of UNRWA Operations as a "Medieval siege" and as a "prison camp" by Prime Minister David Cameron. [4] [5]
4. Israel's blockade has been described as "collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law" by the International Committee of the Red Cross. [6]
5. Due to longstanding effects of the blockade and the recent assaults, medical and electricity supplies have run critically low in Gaza, further worsening the humanitarian crisis. [7] [8]
6. Israel has vowed to ignore international pressure and to continue escalating, while the Palestinian government has called on the international community to take 'serious measures' to end Israel's violations. [9] [10]
7. A series of mass demonstrations have taken place across the UK against Israeli attacks, including over 10,000 in London.

NEC Resolves:

1. To condemn Israel's attacks on Gaza and to support calls for an immediate ceasefire.
2. To condemn the blockade of Gaza and support campaigns for it to be lifted in accordance with international law.
3. To continue to support existing NUS policy on companies like Veolia or Eden Springs which have been identified as being complicit in human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine. [11]

[1] <http://www.timesofisrael.com/21-said-killed-in-strike-on-gaza-police-chiefs-house/>

[2] <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=712476>

[3] http://www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10474:a&catid=36:pchrpressreleases&Itemid=194

[4] <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/features/lebanese-children-raise-funds-build-kindergarten-gaza>

[5] <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/palestinianauthority/7912095/Gaza-is-a-prison-camp-says-David-Cameron.html>

[6] <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/update/palestine-update-140610.htm>

[7] <http://www.firstpost.com/world/gaza-healthcare-services-on-the-verge-of-collapsing-who-1613911.html>

[8] <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=712153>

[9] <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/07/11/israel-wont-stop-gaza-offensive-despite-international-pressure-prime-minister-benjamin-netanyahu-says/>

[10] <http://alray.ps/en/index.php?act=post&id=4934#.U8Nqp7Gyo-d>

[11] <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/eden-springs-and-veolia/>

Amendment 1

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: N/A

Add new resolves 3

3. To demand Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories, and the creation of a really independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, with the same rights as Israel.

Amendment 2

Proposed by: Malia Bouattia

Seconded by: Susuana Antubam, Abdi-Aziz Suleiman, Zarah Sultana, Zekarias Negussue, Sai Englert, Piers Telemacque, James Elliott, Kae Smith, Shreya Paudel, Gordon Maloney, Vonnie Sandlan

Add Believes:

1. Within two weeks of launching Operation 'Protective Edge', the Israeli army has killed over 630 Palestinians, injured over 3800 and displaced over 118,000 with over 80% of deaths being civilians.[1]

2. The Israeli army stands accused of using illegal weapons including white phosphorus bombs and DIME (Dense Inert Metal Explosive) weapons on one of the most densely-populated regions of the world, and with targets consisting mainly of civilians.[2]

3. This disregard for human rights and international law stands consist with Israel's conduct during previous assaults on Gaza, including 2008/09's 'Cast Lead' and 2012's 'Pillar of Defence'.

4. That extensive funding and military aid to Israel from Western countries helps perpetuate Israel's abuses and relieves the financial pressure of warfare; the UK government also facilitates heavy arms trading and co-operation with Israel, marking their complicity in this and previous massacres.[3],[4]

5. That with leading Israeli politicians calling for effective genocide, ethnic cleansing of, and war crimes against Palestinians, appealing to their political establishment on a purely moral basis would be naïve.[5],[6],[7]

6. That with the British government unwilling to even condemn Israel for this assault, it is now incumbent upon the public and civil institutions to exert economic and political pressure to convince Israel to abide by international law.

7. That since the launch of the assault other countries have taken substantive action, such as Chile having suspended trade talks with Israel.[8]

8. There is precedent for economic leverage against Israeli crimes, with a further 12 EU countries recently following the UK's earlier move in issuing explicit warnings to investors against doing business with Israeli settlements due to their contravention of international law.[9],[10]

9. NUS has previously affirmed active opposition to companies complicit in human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine as negatively impacting on chances for a sustainable and just settlement.

10. NUS Black Students' Campaign, NUS London and NUS Scotland have voted to support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against companies and products supporting Israeli aggression and occupation.

Add Resolves:

1. To call on the British government to condemn Israel's current assault on Gaza, cease aid and funding to Israel, impose an arms embargo against Israel, and to demand a ceasefire brokered between legitimate Israeli and Palestinian representatives.

2. To issue a call to our membership to boycott companies and corporations complicit in financing and aiding Israel's military, including G4S and Hewlett Packard.

3. To provide information and resources to support student unions and student organisations campaigning for boycott and divestment of companies identified as supporting Israel materially, economically, militarily, and/or as helping maintain the illegal Israeli settlements.

4. To conduct an internal audit of NUS services, products and departments to ensure they do not, as far as is practical, employ or work with companies identified as facilitating Israel's military capacity, human rights abuses or illegal settlement activity, and actively work to cut ties with those that do.

[1] <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/victims-gaza-list-palestinians-killed-israels-ongoing-assault>

[2] <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/12939-israel-uses-illegal-weapons-in-gaza>

[3] <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/07/activists-demanding-israel.html>

[4] <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2014/nobel-celebrities-call-for-military-embargo-12316>

[5] <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/news/gaza-bombarded-as-israel-s-leaders-demand-blood-after-students-bodies-found#.U880LLGTHtI>

[6] <http://www.dailysabah.com/mideast/2014/07/14/mothers-of-all-palestinians-should-also-be-killed-says-israeli-politician>

[7] <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/expel-palestinians-populate-gaza-jews-says-knesset-deputy-speaker>

[8] <http://www.worldbulletin.net/world/140840/chile-to-suspend-trade-talks-with-israel-over-gaza-bombing>

[9] <http://euobserver.com/foreign/124873>

[10] <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/10507081/UK-warns-investors-against-doing-business-with-Israeli-settlements.html>

Motion 3: Getting Out The Vote

Proposed by: Joe Vinson

Seconded by: Robbie Young, Poppy Wilkinson, Amy Smith, Michael Rubin, Hugh Murdoch, Chantel Le Carpentier

NEC Believes:

1. The General Election is going to be held on Thursday 7th May 2015, less than a year away.
2. The European Parliament elections were held on Thursday 22nd May 2014.
3. The European Parliament elections were regrettably a success for the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), and that the far-right, anti-immigration, homophobic and racist organisation took the most seats.
4. The British National Party (BNP) lost both of their seats, and although this is to be celebrated, the rise of UKIP is still terrifying.
5. UKIP have been coined "The acceptable face of the BNP" by several media commentators.

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6. The values of NUS promote inclusivity, equality and fairness, and that UKIP's policies are in direct contradiction to those values.
 7. During the European Parliament elections in 2010, NUS sent out an email on polling day to every student email address on all of our databases warning them of the dangers of the BNP and UKIP.
 8. That this email encouraged students to go out and cast their vote, but warned them against doing so for the BNP or UKIP.
 9. This government is removing the block registration of students living in university accommodation, effectively disenfranchising thousands of students in a general election
 10. This government has launched an attack on students while simultaneously removing their right to recourse as seen in the lobbying bill and individual electoral registration
 11. NUS National Conference 2014 reaffirmed our organisational belief that the BNP is a racist and fascist organisation, but also for the first time determined UKIP as a racist party.
 12. NUS must play a big role in preventing the rise of racism, fascism and homophobia in society, especially in our country's political system.

NEC Resolves:

1. For the National President to email every student contact we have (including but not limited to the NUS Extra database and the CRM) on polling day of the General Election, urging them to use their votes but warning them of the dangers of the BNP and UKIP and urging them to boycott these political parties at the ballot box.
2. NUS will encourage and support Student Unions in electoral registration drives developing resources encouraging students to register and offering clear guidance about Student Unions role in ensuring students can vote

Motion 4: Shahrokh Zamani and Reza Shahabi solidarity

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: Shreya Paudel, James Elliot, Vonnie Sandlan, Sai Enghlert, Zekarias Negussue

NEC Believes:

1. The ongoing imprisonment and severe mistreatment of Iranian trade unionists Shahrokh Zamani (painters' union) and Reza Shahabi (Tehran bus workers' union).

NEC Resolves:

2. To express our solidarity with comrades Shahrokh Zamani and Reza Shahabi, write to the Iranian government and embassy demanding their release, ask Constituent Members to do the same.

Motion 5: Iraqi Solidarity

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: Zekarias Negussue, Clifford Fleming.

NEC Believes:

1. That as in Syria, where a Shia-sectarian regime clashes with Sunni-sectarian Islamist militias, the conflict in Iraq is a sectarian conflict between a Shia-dominated government and Sunni militias.
 2. That although ISIS is noticeably worse, both sides are reactionary and repressive and encourage sectarian violence in the region.
 3. That we should support non-sectarian groups including workers', women's, student etc organisations.
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4. That we should support the right of Iraqi Kurdistan to separate and form an independent state, along with the same right of self-determination for all the Kurdish people in the region.
 5. That the ongoing sectarian conflicts prove that NUS was right to oppose the US-UK invasion and occupation of Iraq, and also right to oppose the idea that the various sectarian militias which opposed the occupation represented any kind of liberatory alternative.

NEC Resolves:

1. To support Iraqi students that may be negatively affected by the violence in their country.
2. To support any other students that may be negatively affected by sectarian violence in the region, including continual support of Syrian students.
3. To ask the VP Society & Citizenship and International Students' Officer to investigate how to build solidarity with students, workers' and women's organisations in Iraq and bring a report to the NEC.

Amendment 1: Iraqi Solidarity

Proposed by: Edmund Schluessel

Seconded by: N/A

Replace believes 1 with:

1. Religious sectarianism is an important feature of the Iraq conflict, along with issues of ethnicity and language. The West, as perpetrators of the bloody, widely-condemned 2003 invasion of Iraq, has much to answer for. Much of the fighting, as well as foreign military intervention, is driven by lust to control Iraq's natural wealth – wealth which by all rights should be owned collectively and managed for the common good.

Add believes:

a. Foreign military intervention has no track record of success in stopping the mass bloodshed of conflicts in the Middle East. A long-term solution to Iraq's problems can come only from the oppressed peoples of Iraq, working collectively and democratically.

Add resolves:

a. To oppose foreign military action in Iraq and to lend our voices to protests against such action.

Motion 6: Support the NHS Lobby

Proposed by: James Elliott

Seconded by: Daniel Cooper, Vonnie Sandlan

NEC Believes:

1. That a coalition of NHS campaigners, trade unionists, Labour Party activists and other is organising a lobby of Labour Party conference on 21 September, to win a clear commitment on rebuilding the health service.

NEC Resolves:

1. To sponsor and advertise this lobby.
-

Motion 7: Fighting for free education and decent jobs for all

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: Megan Dunn, Clifford Fleming, James Elliot, Kirsty Haigh, Maddy Kirkman, Abdi-aziz Suleiman, Dario Celaschi, Sai Englehert, Zekarias Negussue, Malia Bouattia, Vonnie Sandlan, Shreya Paudel, Edmund Schluessel

NEC Believes:

1. National Conference 2014 voted by a substantial majority, after a long and passionate debate, to "oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax' which is nothing more than a euphemism for 'student debt'." It voted "to make the case for free education and demand that free, accessible, quality education, and decent wages, public services and benefits, are funded by:

"a. Ending tax evasion and avoidance and cracking down on tax havens

"b. Imposing serious taxes on the incomes, inheritance and capital gains of the rich

"c. Taking the banks, and their wealth, under democratic control"
2. National conference voted to campaign around the slogan "Fund decent jobs for all", by fighting for "expanded public services to create socially useful, secure, well-paid jobs", with associated demands around job security and the Living Wage.
3. Since National Conference, a coalition of student groups & campaigns have come together to call a national demo on November 19th under the banner of 'Free education: no fees, no cuts, no debt.'

NEC Further Believes:

1. With a year until the general election, there are clear opportunities to make substantial gains for students, if we put out a clear message and mobilise the movement.
2. Based on policy passed by conference, we should be campaigning for a free, well-funded education system at every level and the creation of secure jobs with decent rights and a living wage. These policies entail a radical redistribution of wealth and power by taxation of the rich and big business.

NEC Resolves:

1. To affirm that NUS will campaign on these themes over the next year, using slogans such as "Fund free education – tax the rich" and "Fund decent jobs for all – tax the rich" when we march with the TUC on October 18th.
 2. To formally endorse the national demonstration on November 19 and encourage unions to mobilise for it, and to advise the demonstration organisers on necessary safety measures to put in place
 3. To also emphasise how cuts, unemployment and debt hit the most oppressed hardest, and the liberation aspect of these policies.
 4. To issue a press release setting out support for the demonstration and the politics in this motion.
 5. To support a 'student bloc' at the demonstration of the Tory party conference and a lobby at Labour Party conference around these themes.
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Motion 8: Anti-casualisation & living wage speaking tour

Proposed by: Edmund Schluessel

Seconded by: Sai Englert, Ste Smith

NEC Believes:

1. NUS Postgraduate Conference 2014 voted "to mandate the pg NEC reps to bring a motion to NEC to organise a speaking tour bringing together living wage campaigners and anti casualisation campaigners in conjunction with trade unions"
2. Industrial action by trade unions in 2013/14 won the living wage in the UK's universities
3. A movement is building throughout the US and UK for living wages & higher minimum wages, as exemplified by the successful "15 Now" campaign in Seattle, Washington, USA and the Fast Food Rights campaign in the UK.
4. A growing number of trade unions support the demand for £10/hour minimum wage, including GMB, bakers' union BFAWU and Unite.
5. Disparate sections & campaigns within NUS have policy supporting living wages or better minimum wages & against casualisation but no consensus position exists.
6. Disparate sections & campaigns within NUS have varying positions on zero hour contracts.
7. Opposing casualisation is in the interest of all NUS members.

NEC Resolves:

1. To authorise NUS Postgraduate Campaign to organise & promote the speaking tour as specified on behalf of NUS as a whole, on the basis of zero cost to NUS and a broad representation of campaigners & campaigning groups.
2. As a minimal position we support an end to age banding of the minimum wage & an increase in the minimum wage to reach the Living Wage Campaign's calculated hourly living wage (£7.68 outside London and £8.80 in London in 2014);
 - a. we prefer a minimum wage level of £10/hour, as determined by the level needed for a single-income family with two children to live above the poverty line while in full-time employment;
 - b. The position outlined in this motion does not override policy set by NUS's sections;
 - c. We remain committed to an overall goal of a society where all people can contribute & make best use of their potential without having to fear deprivation, shortage or oppression.
3. We support flexibility in working conditions as long as the benefit from this flexibility is for the worker, not for the employer.

Motion 9: Illness is NOT a criminal offence

Proposed by: Dario Celaschi

Seconded by: Clifford Fleming, Hannah Graham, Daniel Cooper, Kae Smith

NEC Believes:

1. Drug addiction is an illness, and no illness should be criminalised.
 2. Currently within the U.K. use of illegal drugs is a criminal offence.
 3. That non-violent drug offenders are often given warnings, cautions and imprisoned within the U.K due to the criminalisation of drugs and this gives them worse prospects in life.
 4. The criminalisation of drugs is often used to victimise and target those from minority ethnic background and LGBT+ people.
 5. The decriminalisation of drugs is the most effective method of harm reduction.
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6. Drug use illegal and legal is on the rise amongst the student and general population.

NEC Resolves:

1. The VP Welfare is to conduct research into students' experiences of drug use.
2. NUS is to campaign for the decriminalisation of all drugs in the lead up to the general election, aiming to have the decriminalisation as one of the central priorities in party's manifestos/policies.
3. NUS is committed to the belief that 'Drug addiction is an illness, and no illness should be criminalised' and this shall be the driving belief behind a decriminalisation campaign.

Motion 10: Knowing our membership

Proposed by: Dario Celaschi

Seconded by: Clifford Fleming, Hannah Graham, Daniel Cooper, Kae Smith

NEC Believes:

1. Gender and sexual identity is not currently monitored by UCAS
2. Gender and sexual identity is not currently monitored by most institutions.
3. We would have a greater understanding of how many LGBT+ students there are if this was monitored which would aid the LGBT campaign.

NEC Resolves:

1. Mandate the VP HE and FE to campaign for UCAS and institution enrolment systems to monitor gender and sexual identity and to consult with the LGBT officers and committee whilst carrying out this process.

Motion 11: A Trans* inclusive UCAS and enrolment systems

Proposed by: Dario Celaschi

Seconded by: Clifford Fleming, Hannah Graham, Daniel Cooper, Kae Smith

NEC Believes:

1. UCAS currently doesn't recognise preferred gender and titles or gender neutral titles and gender options, only legal gender and titles are recognised by UCAS.
2. Many institution enrolment systems don't recognise preferred gender and titles or gender neutral titles and gender options, only legal gender and titles are recognised.

NEC Resolves:

1. Mandate the VP HE and VP FE to campaign for UCAS and all institution enrolment systems to include preferred gender and titles including gender neutral options, alongside legal gender and titles.
2. Whilst the VP HE and FE are carrying out this campaign they are to work to self-defining Trans*people on NEC and within NUS LGBT. They are also to work with the NUS London Area Trans* Officer to ensure that they are thoroughly informed on Trans* issues.

Motion 12: Time for Peace (due to be composited)

Proposed by: Charlie Agran



Seconded by: Toni Pearce, Joe Vinson, Michael Rubin

NEC Believes:

1. On June 12th 2014 three Israeli teenagers, Eyal Yifrach, Naftali Fraenkel and Gilad Shaar, were kidnapped and murdered in an act of terror
2. On July 2nd 2014 Palestinian teenager Mohammed Abu Khdeir was kidnapped and murdered in an act of terror
3. The recent escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine has caused significant damage to civilian life for both Israelis and Palestinians
4. Both the escalation of rocket fire from Gaza into cities in Israel as well as the concentrated military operation, Protective Edge, in Gaza has put civilians on the front line, resulting in loss of homes and life, and are barriers to peace
5. In response to the current situation there has been an increase in Islamophobic and anti-Semitic incidents within the region and the wider world, including Europe and the UK

NEC Further Believes

1. NUS over the years has a history of fighting for justice and showing solidarity with those suffering in Israel and Palestine
2. NUS should actively support students studying in the UK who are affected by the current situation in the region
3. NUS should seek to provide a platform for all students to express their thoughts and engage with the situation in a respectful way, without violence or intimidation

NEC Resolves

1. To promote a message of peaceful coexistence amongst all people in the region, and invite a Palestinian student and an Israeli student to speak at NUS National Conference 2015
2. To reach out to and provide support for Israeli and Palestinian students studying in the UK whose time in the UK may be affected by the current situation with particular regard to visa and financial difficulties
3. To actively raise awareness of and combat all forms of racism including but not limited to, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, that may and have occurred in response to recent events in the region
4. To support grassroots activism on campuses between Israeli and Palestinian students (incl. allies), such as coexistence projects and campaigns that seek to open dialogue and respect in a safe space.

Amendment 1: Palestinian and Israeli International Students (due to be composited)

Proposed by: Shreya Paudel

Seconded by: Megan Dunn, Dan Cooper, Colum McGuire, Clifford Fleming

NEC Believes:

- 1) Whilst there has been much damage in civilian lives and property in Palestine-Israel conflict and hence more possibility that international students from there must be more directly affected, for us, the life and well-being of every international student studying in the UK is precious.
 - 2) International students finishing their studies this summer will come to the end of their Tier 4 visa, and will be required to leave the country. It is deeply wrong to expect any student to leave the UK when returning home would put them at risk of serious harm.
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- 3) We recognise that all students returning to their homes in areas of conflict are put at increased and unacceptable risk of harm, regardless of nationality, passport, community or religion.
 - 4) Crises can cause the infrastructure of a country or region to fail. This can include bank transfers, qualifications checks and other administration. Many UK universities notify their students they are at risk of expulsion if they do not pay their fees on time.
 - 5) It is within the power of the UK government to extend student visas for students from countries and regions in crisis. As the government has the ability, it also has the responsibility and duty to do so.
 - 6) As the duty of NUS is to represent and support all students, it should ensure that the plight of affected international students in the UK is not overlooked by the British government.

NEC Resolves:

- 1) To lobby the government to grant any affected international students an extension to remain in the UK on their current student visa and to ensure no affected international student must return to a conflict zone to alter their visa status
- 2) To lobby the government to inform students of their right to seek asylum and make it easier for the affected students to seek asylum if they wish to
- 3) To call on all UK universities and colleges to waive or reduce the fees or extend the payment periods for all the students affected by the conflict, whether sponsored or self-funded, so that they can complete their studies.
- 4) To call on all UK universities to make hardship grants, scholarships and bursaries available to all the affected students, whether sponsored or privately funded, to cover their living expenses.
- 5) To call on all UK universities and the UK education sector to make available appropriate support structures to ensure affected students have access to the health, well-being and academic support they require in this time of crisis.

Emergency motion: Birmingham Suspensions

Proposed by: Piers Telemacque

Seconded by: Malia Bouattia, James Elliott, Daniel Cooper, Kirsty Haigh, Clifford Fleming, Kae Smith, Zarah Sultana, Abdi-Aziz Suleiman

NEC believes:

1. That the University of Birmingham has suspended two students for 9 months in relation to their involvement in an occupation in November 2013
2. That a third student will be suspended if they break any further regulations
3. That the process has taken 8 months and concerns have been raised about procedural irregularities
4. That the University of Birmingham originally recommended expelling one of the students
5. That the occupation was calling for the implementation of the living wage and for the university to stop lobbying for fees to be increased amongst other demands
6. National conference resolved in Amendment 203b to "Create a legal fund to support students facing charges or legal costs as a result of repression"

NEC further believes:

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1. That students have a right to protest and occupations are a legitimate tactic in defence of our education
 2. That these students have been victimised for their political activity
 3. That this is an attack on the right to protest and freedom of expression and an attempt to suppress dissent by preventing these students from taking part in protests and deterring others from doing the same
 4. That this sets a dangerous precedent for the ability of students across the country to engage in protest without fear of repression

NEC resolves:

1. To support the campaign to overturn the suspensions and defend the right for students to protest on campus
2. To use money from the legal fund to help these students pay for legal costs
3. To work with the suspended students, the Guild of Students and Defend the Right to Protest to hold a demonstration against the suspensions and in defence of the right to protest

Emergency motion: Home Office action against Tier 4 Visa Sponsors: Sanctions, Suspensions and Revocations

Proposed by: Shreya Paudel

Seconded by: Megan Dunn, Colum McGuire

NEC Believes:

1. Home Office action has led to sixty institutions having their ability to recruit international students suspended, and it is clear that in some of these cases there will be full licence revocation meaning that students cannot finish their courses and may be detained and deported.
 2. This week the Prime Minister announced further tightening of the student visa regime, stating that in future if more than ten percent of applicants to an institution are refused a visa, that institution will lose its licence. Last week another university suspended international student recruitment, and it became clear that in some cases deportation processes related to this issue have already begun. The Immigration Minister has made it clear that further investigations are likely to result in more institutions losing their licences. These recent events amount to a developing emergency in the student visa system and the treatment of international students.
 3. The institutions involved are spread across the higher and further education sectors and across public and private status institutions; the students involved are united by the common issue that they have no control over the causes of these actions and that they are being held to be guilty until proven innocent.
 4. The Immigration Minister's choice to announce action against these universities and colleges in Parliament was a wholly inappropriate way to inform international students their futures were in jeopardy.
 5. The government's attempts to pass the blame for fraud within the immigration system onto international students and UK education institutions is inappropriate and shameful, given the company responsible was licensed by the government itself.
 6. Thousands of international students have been wrongly criminalized by the Immigration Minister and the media for a system they are helpless to change or avoid and it is appalling that no political party stood up for international students as this announcement was being debated in the House of Commons.
 7. Until the education sector is certain the investigations are complete and all action that will be taken has been, international students cannot be certain that the institutions they move to will not also be subject to suspension and/or revocation of their Tier 4 license for this reason.
 8. As more institutions have their licenses revoked, the UK education system will be flooded with tens of thousands of international students urgently seeking a new place to study, and as the burden becomes
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too much for the sector, international students will be forced to leave the UK without the qualifications they came for.

9. Both the government and the UK education sector have learned nothing from the terrible experiences of London Metropolitan international students in 2012 when their institution had its license revoked.
10. International students deserve to have refunds for a qualification they cannot finish, to not have to pay for a second visa that they did not plan for, and to receive help and support to move from an institution without a Tier 4 license to one with a Tier 4 license.
11. This action is a clear and deliberate attempt by the government to decrease net migration figures from "hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands" at the expense of international students.
12. International students are left in a system with no recourse, no refunds and no rights simply because of their nationality, a clear case of state sponsored discrimination.

NEC Resolves:

1. To condemn any Members of Parliament who use anti-immigration rhetoric and inaccurate information in a discriminatory campaign against international students.
 2. To lobby the government for practical solutions for the affected international students such as refunds of tuition fees, scrapping of visa renewal cost and lowered maintenance requirements
 3. To lobby universities and colleges to fully, financially and practically, support a system to move any affected international students to a new institution to continue their course without financial or emotional burdens.
 4. To lobby the UK education sector and the government to create a workable tuition fee protection scheme paid for by the sector, which protects all future international students in this situation.
 5. To lobby MPs and political parties to support international students in the current situation and change the Tier 4 immigration system so it gives rights and a voice to international students who study in the UK.
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