

minutes

meeting of: National Executive Council (tenth meeting)

place: British Medical Association

date and time: 1st February 2011

Present:

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| Members: | Name |
| President | Aaron Porter (President) |
| Zones | Shane Chowen & Toni Pearce (Further Education)
Usman Ali & Stevie Wise (Higher Education)
Susan Nash & Aakash Naik (Society & Citizenship)
Ed Marsh (Union Development)
Ben Whittaker & Pete Woodward (Welfare) |
| Liberation | Kanja Sesay & Anil Sachdeo (Black Students)
Rupy Kaur & Ana Da Silva (Disabled Students)
Vicki Baars & Alan Bailey (LGBT);
Olivia Bailey & Estelle Hart (Women's); |
| Student Sections | Rebecca Sawbridge & Sean Rillo-Raczka (Mature & Part Time Students);
Dante Micheaux and Paul Tobin (Postgraduate Students);
Christina Yan Zhang & Joy Elliott (International Students); |
| Nations | Liam Burns and Robin Parker (NUS Scotland)
Katie Dalton & Luke Young (NUS Wales)
Ciarnan Helferty & Adrienne Peltz (NUS-USI) |
| Block | Mark Bergfeld, Thomas Graham, Dannie Grufferty, Sophia James, Fatima Junaid, Joshua McKenzie, Pete Mercer, John Peart, James Lee Pickin, Liam Preston, Javed Anjum Sheikh, Ryain Wain, |
| In attendance: | |
| Staff | Matt Hyde (CEO); Jim Dickinson (Director Campaigns & Strategy); Nick Smith, Vic Langer |
| Observer | Jack Matthews |
| Apologies: | |
| Zones | Paddy Stearn |
| Liberation | |
| Sections | |
| Block | Sophia James, Rachel Wenstone |
| Staff | |



minutes

1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Aaron Porter (AP) opened the meeting and noted his thanks for all who took part in the recent demonstrations in Manchester and London. He informed the NEC that his decision not to speak at the Manchester Rally was after police recommendation that they believed it could lead to a disturbance of the peace.

Sean Rillo-Raczka (SRR), Vicki Baars VB and Mark Bergfeld MB all condemned the actions of protesters who sought to intimidate Aaron and also Shane Chowen (SC) when he was speaking. It was important that hard left groups should not be seen as racist or homophobic. Aaron agreed that his experience of such student groups was that they were not racist or homophobic.

1.2 Apologies were noted

1.3 There were no conflicts of interest noted at this stage, but later it was noted that Joy Elliott and Mark Bergfeld were members of UCU

1.4 The minutes of the last meeting were noted as a true and accurate record by those present with the exception that John Peart & Mark Bergfeld had sent apologies and that Paul Tobin was wrongly recorded as 'Tobin Webb'.

1.5 In matters arising it was reported that the TUC were being asked to include an education block in their 26th March rally.

1.6 There were no presidential appointments.

1.7 It was decided that future minutes awaiting to be approved by the NEC should be circulated with 'draft' watermarked on them.

Action: Nick Smith

2. Reports and accountability

2.1 AP presented his report and asked for any questions or comments. The following are his responses to key questions.

- AP acted in the boundaries of the resolution passed at the January NEC meetings concerning the demonstration in London. He did not discourage attendance at the London Demonstration
- Given the resolutions of the Emergency NEC, AP would continue to offer NUS support only for protest events that could guarantee they had taken due consideration for access needs and participant safety and that violence would be condemned if it occurred. Both of NUS' organised and supported actions complied to those criteria.
- Not as much time and resource had been put into the Manchester Demo as the November London Demonstration because the organisation had 6 months to organise the London demonstration and six weeks over the Christmas period to support the Manchester one.
- Some fee setting decisions were already being made in local universities. Students' unions had a right to influence those decisions, but had to make a decision, preferably through their governing bodies, about how they made those arguments and expressed their position on fees and funding.
- There was concern that FE partner colleges might become used by universities to fulfil their widening participation criteria.



minutes

2.2 The Zone Convenors presented their reports there were the following questions and issues arising.

Welfare – Ben Whittaker (BW) presented his report. The zone was praised for securing further funding on alcohol awareness and student safety and also the work on the hate crime survey.

BW would update NEC on the BMA bursary review at the next NEC

Action: Ben Whittaker

Further Education – NEC congratulated the work of City College Norwich on their transport campaign. Shane Chowen (SC) confirmed that pressure was being put on Simon Hughes to fulfil his commitment to widening access. SC was thanked by the NEC for his work.

Higher Education – Usman Ali (UA) reported that his priority at the moment was work on Aim Higher and ensuring that no hidden costs were added to fees set in local institutions.

Society and Citizenship – Susan Nash (SN) offered her report. Unions were encouraged to engage in 'get out the vote' style activities but that NUS and local unions had no line on whether they were for or against AV.

Union Development – Ed Marsh (EM) reported that Durham returned to membership of NUS and Cambridge voted to remain members. The decision of Castle College Nottingham to treat their FE officer as a staff member rather than a student had been overturned.

All Zone reports were approved.

2.3 The Liberation Officers presented their reports to note.

2.4 The International Students and Postgraduate students presented their reports to note. SRR reported that the Part time and Mature students committee had not met because it was difficult for them to engage but that he was willing to answer questions from individual students who emailed him.

2.5 Katie Dalton presented their reports to note.

2.6 John Peart (JP) presented the report and motions from the Communication Scrutiny Group which were approved.

Aakash Naik left the meeting

2.7 The Block of 15 members reported on issues in constituent members, specifically ensuring work continued supporting International students and the UK Borders Agency changes for VISAs.



minutes

3. Motions and Proposals

The NEC approved the new Strategic Themes document that had been altered following discussions with officers, the board and NEC over the last 6 months. It would come back for final approval after National Conference.

The NEC received a presentation on the HE White Paper. The NEC would use it to debate proposals to National Conference at the next meeting.

3.1 AP presented the update on the Priority campaign. He confirmed that NUS did not support cuts in education. The dual approach of evidence-based arguments had won many concessions, for example for part-time students. Ciarnan Helferty (CH) noted that everything in the update had been endorsed by National Conference 2010 or previous NEC meetings.

3.2 ESU Affiliation was approved, but the discussion should become part of the cycle of business for NEC.

Action: Nick Smith

3.3 The paper proposing how the NEC should send motions to National Conference was approved.

3.4 The update on the Estimates were received. It was confirmed that the reduction in 'Democracy' was due to a re-assignment of a staff position to another part of the organisation.

Vicki Baars (VB) questioned whether the priority campaign for the year should affect the budget of the zone from which the campaign motion came from. For example, whether the education funding campaign should mean a reduction in the budget for the education zones.

The NEC approved the draft Estimates to come back to the next NEC.

3.5 Motion

Mark Bergfeld spoke for the motion 'Support for UCU strikes'

Thomas Graham spoke for the Amendment

Sean Rillo-Raczka spoke against the Amendment

Ciarnan Helferty and Alan Bailey took open contributions.

Ed Marsh called for parts to delete Conference 6 "To evaluate support for specific industrial actions and their timings on the extent to which they maximise impact upon decision makers and minimise the overall impact upon students' education"



minutes

Recorded vote

For removal	Pete Mercer, Sean Rillo-Raczka, Anil Sachdeo, Joshua McKenzie, Kanja Sesay, Alan Bailey, Vicki Baars, Mark Bergfeld, Fatima Junaid, Dante Micheaux, Javed Sheikh, Ed Marsh
Against removal	Liam Burns, Ciarnan Helferty, Olivia Bailey, Dannie Grufferty, Paul Tobin, John Peart, Toni Pearce, Pete Woodward, Stevie Wise, Susan Nash, Thomas Graham, Luke Young, Estelle Hart, Usman Ali, Ben Whittaker, Katie Dalton, Shane Chowen, Rupy Kaur
Abstain	Joy Elliott, Adrienne Peltz

The parts remained.

Vote on the Amendment (amendment deletes all of the motion and replaces)

Recorded vote

For removal	Pete Mercer, Liam Burns, Ciarnan Helferty, Olivia Bailey, Dannie Grufferty, Paul Tobin, John Peart, Toni Pearce, Pete Woodward, Stevie Wise, Susan Nash, Thomas Graham, Luke Young, Estelle Hart, Usman Ali, Ben Whittaker, Katie Dalton, Shane Chowen, Rupy Kaur, Adrienne Peltz
Against removal	Sean Rillo-Raczka, Anil Sachdeo, Joshua McKenzie, Kanja Sesay, Alan Bailey, Vicki Baars, Mark Bergfeld, Fatima Junaid, Dante Micheaux, Javed Sheikh
Abstain	Joy Elliott, Ed Marsh

The motion as amended was passed.



resolutions

Support for UCU strikes

NEC Believes:

1. That we cannot simply sit back and accept higher fees and damaging cuts;
2. That the fight against cuts and higher fees must not end now;
3. That we must take the initiative in the fight against cuts;
4. That action must be different and bolder than it has been before;
5. That the relationship between students and university staff is key if we are to jointly reverse some of the damaging changes, including the massive funding gap for universities and colleges;
6. That industrial action is at its most effective when staff and students understand the issues and support each other;

NEC Resolves:

1. To work with UCU to defend the interests of students and staff, up to and including industrial action;
2. To support UCU's campaign against forced redundancy of university and college staff, to insist that employers negotiate rather than hide behind the government and to reiterate NUS's strong support for a national agreement on job security between employers and unions;
3. To recognise that cost cutting attacks on staff salaries, terms and conditions will make it more difficult to recruit and retain high quality staff and will have implications for the quality of education received by our members;
4. To fraternally request UCU to work through and consult with the official national and local elected student representative bodies and structures rather than other bodies in order to maximise unity of purpose at this time of crisis;
5. To mandate the President to agree a statement of mutual support with UCU on the current crisis including industrial action and which includes provision for working together at national, regional and local level;
6. To evaluate support for specific industrial actions and their timings on the extent to which they maximise impact upon decision makers and minimise the overall impact upon students' education

