

# minutes

meeting of: National Executive Council (sixth meeting)

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place: Holloway Resource Centre

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date and time: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010

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**Present:**

**Members:** Name

**President** Aaron Porter (President)

**Zones** Shane Chowen & Toni Pearce (Further Education);  
Susan Nash & Samantha Kennedy (Society & Citizenship);  
Beth Woodthorpe-Evans (Union Development);  
Ben Whittaker & Carly Aslett (Welfare)

**Liberation** Kanja Sesay & Anil Sachdeo (Black Students)  
Rupy Kaur & Chris Jesson (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 Tobin Webb (Postgraduate Students);  
Christina Yan Zhang (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, Lynne Brown, Thea Graham, Thomas Graham, Dannie  
Grufferty, Sophia James, Fatima Junaid, Joshua McKenzie, Pete Mercer,  
John Peart, James Lee Pickin, Liam Preston, Javed Anjum Sheikh, Ryain  
Wain, Rachel Wenstone.

**In attendance:**

**Staff** Matt Hyde (CEO); Jim Dickinson (Director Campaigns & Strategy); Graeme  
Wise, Nick Smith, Vic Langer, Lisa Pool, Sarah Wayman (ACTS rep)

**Apologies:**

**Zones** Usman Ali, Carly Aslett, Charlie Leyland, Ed Marsh  
**Sections** Joy Elliott  
**Block** Javed Sheikh  
**Staff** Simon Rayner



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## 1. Introductory & Administration

- 1.1 Shane Chowen (SC) opened the meeting as Aaron Porter was at a media appointment.
- 1.2 Apologies were noted
- 1.3 There were no conflicts of interest recorded
- 1.4 & 1.5 The minutes of the last meeting were noted as a true and accurate record by those present.
- 1.6 Rebecca Sawbridge was welcomed as a non-voting member from the Mature and Part time student section.

## 2. Reports and accountability

Note – the report from the VP Further Education was received first, followed by the priority campaign report. For simplicity they appear in these minutes in the order on the agenda.

2.1 The report on the priority campaign was presented by Vic Langer (VL) and Lisa Pool.

- Work was ongoing at party conferences to gain support from MPs, though it was thought unlikely that Conservative or Liberal Democrats MPs would be present at the demonstration.
- It was noted that it was difficult to get students and to lobby MPS on specific cuts at this stage when they would not be announced until the comprehensive spending review.
- Schools were encouraged to send people to the demonstration but were responsible for their own safeguarding arrangements.
- UCU were jointly responsible for the speakers at the event. VL would refer requests for a range of students speaking, but the NEC approved the proposal for videos including students from HE and FE.
- The NEC approved the draft 'Winning the Arguments' document with some minor amendments.

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

**Further Education** - Shane Chowen (SC) was asked what work was being done on Adult Learning. He responded that cuts to EMA were a bigger threat as Adult Learning Grant take up was around 10% of the Maintenance Allowance, but he would bring an update on work to the next NEC

**Action: Shane Chowen**

**Higher Education** – Usman Ali (UA) was absent and questions were asked to be emailed to him.

**Society and Citizenship** – Susan Nash (SN) explained that work was continuing with 10:10, but was not being pushed to the detriment of the National Demonstration.

**Union Development** – Ed Marsh (EM) was absent and questions were asked to be emailed to him.



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**Welfare** – Ben Whittaker (BW) presented his report and was praised for including clear indication of his priorities.

All Zone reports were approved.

2.4 The Liberation Officers presented their reports to note.

2.5 The sections presented their reports to note. Mature and Part time students was meeting for the first time in the coming weeks.

2.6 Liam Burns and Katie Dalton presented their reports to note.

2.7 The Trustee Board minutes were not yet available to circulate and would come to the next NEC meeting.

2.8 Verbal reports from the Scrutiny Reports were received and approved.

2.9 The Block were given a chance to feed in any issues they had noted from constituent member unions. There was a focus in building for the National Demonstration across the UK which was positive.

Block members would stay in touch with constituent members over the course of the year ahead.

2.2 After lunch Aaron Porter (AP) took over the chair. His report was approved.

The NEC took 45 minutes to discuss student charters in advance of the meeting the next day.

### 3. Motions and Proposals

3.1 The budget for the year ahead was approved. NEC were specifically asked to consider the amount of money they spend on committees rather than campaigns and projects that benefit members directly.

3.2 The strategic framework for 2011-14 was approved. The NEC noted that diversity and campaigning were principles that ran throughout the plan.

3.3 Matt Hyde (MH) presented the operating plan which was based on feedback from convenors as well as his appraisal. The plan was approved with extra discussion about the involvement of liberation officers in its implementation.

**Action: Olivia Bailey**

3.4 The performance against 2009/10 KPIs was noted.

3.5 The NUS KPI scorecard for 2010/11 was approved. John Peart (JP) suggested that scrutiny on progress should be divided among the different scrutiny groups.

3.6 The NEC approved the membership engagement report.

3.7 The NEC received an update on the Trustee Board and political activity. It was felt that there was still confusion over the actions of standing on a platform and discussing



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politics as a trustee and blogging about meetings. The NEC asked that Dan Randall was written to again making it clear that the focus on the NEC's concerns is of a trustee board member speaking on a public platform against the policy of the NEC in their capacity as a Trustee Board member. This was deemed unacceptable and the NEC wanted reassurances that this was not to happen again.

**Action: Aaron Porter**

3.8 The NEC passed motions on the Right to Work Demonstration at the Conservative Party Conference, the Education Activist Network with the removal of CR 3 and to support College students' unions under threat.

The NEC also passed an emergency motion supporting zero tolerance on sexual harassment.

Aaron Porter thanked the work of Toni Pearce, Charlie Leyland, Sam Kennedy, Beth Woodthorpe-Evans and Carly Aslett who were retiring as the NEC members from the policy zone committees.

