

# minutes

NEC/7A/10

meeting of: National Executive Council (sixth meeting)

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place: University of London Union

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date and time: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010

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**Present:**

**Members:** Name

**President** Aaron Porter (President)

**Zones** Shane Chowen & Toni Pearce(Further Education);  
Usman Ali (Higher Education);  
Susan Nash & Samantha Kennedy (Society & Citizenship);  
Ed Marsh & 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** Trevor Dallimore-Wright & Sean Rillo-Raczka (Mature Students);  
Christina Yan Zhang (International Students);

**Nations** Liam Burns and Robin Parker (NUS Scotland)  
Katie Dalton & Luke Young (NUS Wales)  
Ciarnan Helferty (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); Graeme Wise, Nick Smith, Vic Langer

**Apologies:**

**Sections** Dante Micheaux, Paul Tobin

**Block** Rachel Wenstone

**Staff** Emma Cox, Simon Rayner



# minutes

## 1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Aaron Porter (AP) welcomed new NEC members and outlined his hopes for a productive National Executive for the year ahead.

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. It was noted that in addition to the noted actions that a statement to the membership outlining NUS' commitment to No Platform was to be written and circulated around the NEC.

**Action: Aaron Porter**

1.6 The appointments by the President were noted, with the addition that Vicki Baars (VB) was on the Anti-racism, anti-fascism committee.

## 2. Reports and accountability

2.1 The report on the priority campaign was moved to the end of the accountability section. AP reported on his other work.

Christina Yan Zhang (CYZ) asked what was being done about the rate of graduate unemployment. AP responded that the quick and deep cuts of public services was having an issue on graduate employment and that new opportunities needed to be created.

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

**Further Education** - Shane Chowen (SC) was asked what his priorities were considering the national budget cuts. Adult learning and mergers were major priorities.

**Higher Education** - Usman Ali (UA) was asked what work was being done with Unions other than UCU. This was picked up in the priority campaign report.

**Society and Citizenship** - Susan Nash (SN) reported that work was on going on clarifying the remit of society and citizenship among the membership.

**Union Development** - Ed Marsh (EM) responded to Toni Pearce's (TP) question on volunteer accreditation saying that best practice was being sought in FE and HE. Work was ongoing for making central NUS resources more accessible, increasing Students Union (SU) block grants and working with the Olympics committee. John Peart (JP) asked what work was being done on trade unions and work based learners and was reassured that this was work being taken seriously. Liam Preston (LP) asked if advice on managing redundancies would be produced. EM responded that specific advice could not be given, but broad resources on the issues of cuts would be produced. Ryan Wain (RW) asked what was being done to encourage an increase in students' union Block Grants if tuition fees increased. EM reported that the priority was to stop an increase in fees at this stage and that NUS should caution against universities suggesting increased fees would lead to an increase in students' union block grants.



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**Welfare** – Ben Whittaker (BW) answered Robin Parker’s (RP) question that accommodation would be a focus of the year ahead, but that it was important to fulfil other mandates also. Liam Burns (LB) asked what work was being done on alcohol provision. BW responded that NUS did not have a clear policy position as National Conference had not debated the motion but had not empowered the NEC to make a decision either. He would report back on alcohol provision and minimum pricing at the next NEC.

**Action: Ben Whittaker**

BW reassured Chris Jesson (CJ) that the student loans company was being properly monitored following last year’s failings. Pete Mercer (PM) asked BW to explain the housing strategy. Ben Whittaker would circulate the response to the HMO consultation to the NEC.

**Action: Ben Whittaker**

The Zone Convenors were asked to identify their priorities and development on them in future reports.

**Action: All Zone Convenors**

All Zone reports were approved.

2.3 The Liberation Officers presented their reports to note. Kanja Sesay offered a verbal report.

2.4 Christina Yan Zhang presented her report to note

2.5 The Nation Convenors presented their reports to note

The NEC returned to the Priority campaign report (2.1). AP outlined the policy position and that there was scope to hold a joint demonstration with the Universities and College Union (UCU). NEC asked that the strapline was harder than a “Love Education theme”. NEC voted to hold the demo on a Wednesday in November because it was the best day to maximise participation from academic staff, avoid disruption of teaching and learning time and would coincide with Prime Minister’s questions. Sabbaticals who supported student activities would be informed of the reasons for this decision when the date was released.

**Action: Aaron Porter**

Good practice from events such as ‘Love Music Hate Racism’, gay pride events and ‘Reclaim the Night’ should be used. NEC fed into staff about operational ideas to inform the strategy.

2.6 The NEC received the minutes from the Trustee Board. It was confirmed that the September and December NEC meetings will have an update on the membership development directorate review.

Action: Nick Smith

2.7 The Equality & Diversity report was received and approved



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## 3. Motions and Proposals

3.1 The NEC bye-laws for 2010/11 were approved.

3.2 The cycle of business for 210/11 was approved.

3.3 Matt Hyde (MH) presented the strategic themes noting that they were designed around agility to respond to a swiftly changing political and economic climate and asked for input from the NEC. Olivia Bailey (OB) noted that not just Vice Presidents could be leading on certain themes. RP asked that the enabling strategies needed more information.

The themes were welcomed and would be reported back on at the next NEC.

**Action: Matt Hyde**

3.4 Jim Dickinson (JD) presented the paper on budget allocations which was approved by the NEC. Officers agreed to look at areas of collaboration between themselves in their policy work to save money and have a collective impact.

The Senior Management Group were asked to re-prioritise finance to fund a 0.2 staff position in Wales to support Further Education Unions to combine with the Welsh Assembly's financing of an 0.8 staff position.

3.5 The NEC received the report on political actions of Daniel Randall, a Trustee Board member. The NEC confirmed its opposition to the Trustee Board as individuals or a whole opposing the political stance of the National Union and that Daniel Randall should be written to warning him of his actions and to be asked whether he plans to continue to make political statements as a Trustee Board member.

**Action: Aaron Porter**

3.6 The NEC passed a motion on working with UCU.

## 4. Any other Business

- NEC were reminded of their requirements to fulfil CRB checks and to ask for support in advance of NEC meetings
- VB asked NEC to lend their support to complaints to press reporting of LGBT Asylum Seekers

