

# minutes

NEC/13A/11

meeting of: National Executive Council (twelfth meeting)

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place: Marylebone Town Hall

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date and time: 17th May 2011

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## Present:

Members:	Name
President	Aaron Porter (President)
Zones	Shane Chowen (Further Education) Usman Ali (Higher Education) Susan Nash (Society & Citizenship) Paddie Stearn (Union Development) Ben Whittaker & Pete Woodward (Welfare)
Liberation	Kanja Sesay & Anil Sachdeo (Black Students) Rupy Kaur & Matt Bond (Disabled Students) Vicki Baars (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 (International Students);
Nations	Liam Burns (NUS Scotland) Katie Dalton (NUS Wales)
Block	Mark Bergfeld, Dannie Grufferty, Sophia James, Joshua McKenzie, Pete Mercer, Rachel Wenstone, Ryan Wain
In attendance:	
Staff	Jim Dickinson (Director Campaigns & Strategy); Nick Smith
Observers:	Michaela Neild
Apologies:	
Zones	Ed Marsh, Aakash Naik
Liberation	Alan Bailey
Nations	Luke Young
Sections	
Block	Thomas Graham, Fatima Junaid, John Peart, Liam Preston, Javed Sheikh
Staff	

# minutes

## 1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Shane Chowen (SC) opened the meeting

1.2 Apologies were noted

1.3 There were no conflicts as interest

1.4 and 1.5 The minutes were approved for accuracy. Vicki Baars noted that there was a demonstration in support of Alfie Meadows on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June.

1.6 There were no presidential appointments.

## 2. Reports and accountability

Note: As Aaron Porter (AP) was at a media engagement he arrived late and gave his report after the motions. The minutes include them here for ease of reading.

2.1 AP presented his report and asked for any questions or comments. Robin Parker (RP) asked for clarity on what was happening for the strategy for activism next year. AP said he believed the NEC should stick to the conference mandate.

The report was *approved*.

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

**Further Education** – SC updated the NEC on his work on apprentices, especially the event due on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

**Higher Education** – Usman Ali (UA) was discussing interest rates and the affect on widening participation. He confirmed that the zone was working within the Education task force.

**Society and Citizenship** – Susan Nash (SN) reported that she NUSSL had affiliated to the workers rights consortium. NEC members agreed to pass on case studies of international persecution to her. Pete Woodward (PW) asked about the level of student turnout in the Local Elections, but this was not available information.

**Union Development** – Ed Marsh was absent and so questions could be emailed to him.

**Welfare** – Ben Whittaker (BW) presented his report, noting the need to raise the issue of medical students. It was envisaged that next year the zone would have to consider the working of Mature and Part Time Students.

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.

2.5 The Nations presented their reports to note.

2.6 John Peart (JP) was absent but asked for councillors to email him with questions on the work of Comms Scrutiny. Rachel Wenstone (RW) updated ARAF work on the Holocaust Memorial visit.

# minutes

2.7 The Block of 15 members reported on issues in constituent members. They especially noted the importance of Block communicating issues on the White Paper.

Toni Pearce highlighted her statement on objectification and received applause from the NEC.

## 3. Motions and Proposals

3.1 The No Platform list was *noted*. There was some discussion on adding and removing people from the list, it was confirmed this was the property of National Conference.

3.2 The NEC received a tabled paper updating them on the Estimates following conference. It was asked that management accounts be tabled for information at future meetings.

3.3 Susan Nash presented the motion on supporting Bahrainian students in the UK.

3.4 The NEC debated the motions referred to them from National Conference 2011. Sean Rillo Razcka arrived at this point.

Motion	Speech(es) for	Speeche(es) Against	Result
310 League tables – if you can't beat them, join them.	Robin Parker	Sean Rillo Razcka	Passes
311 – deferred to July NEC			
312 National Nursing Campaign Parts to delete CR 1	Ben Whittaker	Mark Bergfeld	Parts removed
312	Ben Whittaker	None	Passes with parts removed
313 UK University Overseas Campus– Parts to remove CR3	Sean Rillo Razcka	Christina Yan Zhang	Parts removed
313	Christina Yan Zhang	None	Passes with parts removed
314 Support for European Students and UK Erasmus Students: Engage the ESU – Parts to remove CR1 and 4	Mark Bergfeld Rebecca Sawbridge	Robin Parker Susan Nash	Parts remain
314	Christina Yan Zhang		Passes with no parts
315 Journal Pricing	Paul Tobin	None	Passes
316 Professional Legal Funding – Remove all CR	Ben Whittaker	Paul Tobin	Parts remain
316 Professional Legal Funding	Pete Mercer	None	Passes with no parts
506 The Constitution – its	Mark Bergfeld	None	Passes

# minutes

certainly not for dummies			
507 NUS National Newspaper	Mark Bergfeld Matt Bond	Ryan Wain Sean Rillo Razcka	Falls
508 Mission Groups	Ben Whittaker	Sean Rillo Razcka	Passes
509 Wednesday Afternoons	Paddy Stearn	Toni Pearce	Passes
510 Engage the Alumni – Remove CR 6	Paddy Stearn	Christina Yan Zhang	Parts removed
510	Christina Yan Zhang	Robin Parker	Passes with parts removed
609 Money	None	None	Passes
610 Self Harm	Pete Woodward	None	Passes
611 Loud noise and hearing	Pete Mercer	None	Passes
612 Schedule 7	Usman Ali	None	Passes
405 Trade Union Internationalisation	Susan Nash		
405a	Sean Rillo Raczka	None	
405a – Parts to remove CR4	Susan Nash	Vicki Baars	Parts removed
405a – Parts to remove CR2	Robin Parker	Sean Rillo Raczka	Parts remain
405a			Passes with CR4 removed
405		None	Passes with amendment
406 Protest	None	None	Passes
408 Supporting effective environmental change	Susan Nash	None	Passes
409 Learner voice	Dannie Grufferty	None	Passes

Cont...

# minutes

Aaron Porter arrives and takes the chair

Motion	Speech(es) for	Speeche(es) Against	Result
410 Uprisings – Parts to remove CR2	Mark Bergfeld	None	Parts removed
410	None	None	Passes with parts removed
411 Freedom for Palestine – To remove CR 3 and 6	Usman Ali	Kanja Sesay	Parts removed
411 – To remove CB 5&6 and CR 2	Paul Tobin	Vicki Baars	Parts remain and move into substantive
411 – To remove CR5	Susan Nash	Vicki Baars	Parts remain and move into substantive
411	Mark Bergfeld Vicki Baars	Rachel Wenstone Susan Nash	Passes with parts removed
412 Local Action First	Matt Bond	Estelle Hart	Falls

#### **4. Any Other Business**

The NEC approved the sale of 3 & 4 Endsleigh Street.

NEC were thanked for their hard work throughout the year.

# resolutions

## **Bahraini students in the UK**

### **Conference believes**

1. That everyone has a right to protest and a right to education.
2. That Universities should do everything possible to ensure students have the opportunity to complete their course despite the political situation in their home country.
3. That students and their families have disappeared as a result of the protests in the UK.
4. That students are losing their state funded scholarships, and as a result are being forced to return to Bahrain due to visa regulations.
5. On return to Bahrain students have disappeared and it is therefore unsafe for students to return to Bahrain.
6. That Bahrain is not a safe country for graduates and students to return to.

### **Conference resolves**

1. To release a press statement to national and student media to raise awareness about the issue and condemning the actions of the Bahraini government.
2. To lobby the Bahraini government to continue the state funded scholarships they promised and to stop harassing the families of the students.
3. To call on our government to provide asylum status for any students needing to claim it due to the loss of their fees and the dangers they face when they return.
4. To lobby the UK government to add Bahrain to the list of countries that are "unsafe to return".
5. To help Students Unions lobby their institutions to provide scholarships that cover tuition fees and living costs.
6. To provide a blog or easily updatable online forum with the latest news and situations for Bahraini students.

## **League Tables: If you can't beat them, change them.**

### **Conference Believes:**

1. That students use league tables in The Guardian and The Times etc. To make their choices for University
2. The number of league tables has grown in number over recent years
3. Students, in the KIS consultation, called for more information
4. League tables rank university on different criteria, ranging from student to staff ratio to the price of beer on campus
5. A recent THE league table used samples as small as 0.5% of an institutions student body

### **Conference Further Believes:**

1. League tables are here to stay
2. League tables are arbitrary in their nature, the student experience shouldn't be determined by the Times, Guardian or whatever publication makes the table
3. The student experience should be decided by the potential student
4. Information is a good access tool but it must be used properly
5. An NUS league table would give greater leverage to SUs
6. A user-focussed league table would be better received than an arbitrary one
7. To create an NUS interactive league table, where potential students choose their ideal criteria and a league table is created
8. To publicise this as widely as possible to potential students

# resolutions

## **National Nursing Campaign**

### **Conference Believes**

1. There are huge problems with academic failure and lack of support for nursing students, across all institutions; they make up 20 % of cases at KUSU student support.
2. Many nurses are on placement for half the year and do not have the Wednesday afternoons off, as a result they are very unlikely to be involved with their Unions, societies and sports clubs.
3. Nursing placements are often some distance from the institute therefore reducing the amount of contact time for face to face support with their institution to a minimum
4. Students on nursing courses are often mature, with dependants and many institutions fail support those with these and other additional needs.
5. Nursing failures are of epidemic proportions, especially those on DipHe Nursing routes where the minimum entry grade can be as low as 5 A\*-C GCSE's.
6. Whilst on placement there is the added pressure to meet the demands submitting and preparing for assessments leads to academic failure, academic misconduct and stress related illnesses – especially students with learning difficulties.
7. Nursing students can be course terminated outside of academic failure through the means of 'fitness to practice'. These are quite rare (half of students at KU Nursing were subject to FTP) therefore students' union advice centres need better guidance to support these students.
8. Kingston Hospital are cutting 214 nursing posts and St Georges' Hospital are closing 3 wards and cutting 500 staff, including doctors, nurses and midwives.

### **Conference Resolves:**

1. To create an NUS Nursing Campaign to address the widespread problems with nursing
2. To look at integration of nursing across many Unions and their campuses to increase nursing representation
3. To provide students unions with information on 'fitness to practice'
4. To work with trade unions to protect placements and future jobs for current nursing students

## **UK University Overseas Campus**

### **Conference believes:**

1. A rapidly growing number of UK universities are establishing overseas campuses or creating joint degree programmes with overseas universities.
2. How to ensure high levels of education quality assurance and effectively represent students study in an overseas campus is becoming an issue for many UK based students unions officers
3. There is a lack of research and support from NUS on this new emerging area

### **Conference resolves:**

1. Mandate NUS VP HE, VP Union Development to work closely with the International Students Officer to work closely with QAA and other relevant organisations to ensure students based in UK universities overseas campus will enjoy the same level of high quality experience as students study in the UK.
2. Mandate NUS VP HE, VP Union Development to work closely with International Students Officer to produce a campaign toolkit to guide students unions to effectively engage and represent students based in distant campuses

# resolutions

## **Support for European Students and UK Erasmus Students: Engage the ESU**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Engaging the European Students Union should be a partnership effort between all the parts of NUS who rely on the ESU to create change on a European level.
2. The European Higher Education Area has affected many aspects of UK Higher Education.
3. Each year over 162,000 European students and over 27,000 academics become mobile within Europe to study or teach, including over 11,000 UK students.
4. European Union directives on freedom of movement and non-discrimination protect the right of any European Union Citizen to treatment under law and social security which is equal to that of a national of that country.
5. The Bologna Process of 1999 promised the elimination of all obstacles to freedom of movement for students, teachers and researchers.
6. The experience of studying in another European country and experiencing the society, economy and political culture of that country, enhances the social, political and economic development of both the host country and the students home country.
7. The ability to study in another European Country should be based on aspiration, not on ability to pay.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To work closely with the European Students Union to ensure targets in the Bologna Process are met by all countries in the EHEA to protect the rights of European students studying in the UK and the rights of UK students studying in Europe.
2. To ensure the broad engagement of European Students, within the International Students' Campaign and Member Unions, in the activities of the European Students Union.
3. To engage the national unions of other European Countries for assistance to address the issue of recognition of UK degrees across Europe and the transfer of credits for those students on exchange programmes facing difficulty upon returning home.
4. To protect the right of mobility within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by campaigning against any loophole or change in European law which could be used to treat students from other EHEA countries differently from the domestic students in that country.
5. To include in work by the VP HE on the widening access agenda in the HE sector, the issue of mobility for widening participation students and campaign for the right of every student to study in the EHEA.

## **Journal Pricing**

### **Conference Believes:**

1. Students at universities and colleges are dependent on academic journals for learning and research purposes.
2. The UK higher education sector spends almost £200 million per year on access to journals and databases.
3. Large journal publishers have abused their position to charge universities and colleges extortionate rates for access to journals.
4. Since 2000 annual journal price inflation has been double that of RPI, leading to increasing proportions of library budgets being devoted to maintaining journal subscriptions.
5. While libraries are facing budget cuts, big journal publishers continue to make handsome profits. Elsevier, who publish 2000 health and science journals (e.g. The Lancet), saw their profits grow from £600 million to £1.6 billion between 2005 and 2009.
6. Such huge increases in subscription costs, when combined with cuts to library budgets, lead to diminishing funds for books, staff and other facilities to enhance the student experience.
7. NUS should support the campaign of Research Libraries UK (who represent 29 of the largest research and university libraries) to reverse recent journal price increases and replace them with a long term agreements between universities and publishers that take into account the limited budgets of their libraries.

### **Conference Resolves:**

# resolutions

1. To publically endorse the Research Libraries UK campaign for journal pricing restraint.
2. To work with Research Libraries UK, universities and students' unions to pressure large journal publishers to abolish upfront payments, reduce subscription fees and allow payment in pound sterling.
3. To support CMs in meeting with Librarians, building campaigns and developing contingency plans to deal with changes in journal provision.
4. To work with mission groups (e.g. Russell Group) to investigate opportunities for universities and colleges to collaborate or share the costs of journal provision.
5. To produce toolkits and/or briefings for CMs on the issue of libraries and access to journals.

## **Professional Legal Funding**

### **Conference Believes:**

1. That a very large number of law undergraduates go on to study for a professional qualification through postgraduate study, to become a barrister or solicitor.
2. The Legal Practice Course can cost between approximately £9,000 and £13,000.
3. The Bar Vocational Course can cost between approximately £12,000 and 16,000 per annum.
4. Living costs are additional to these fees
5. The Legal Profession is incredibly competitive and completing the course on many occasions particularly as a Barrister does not result in employment.
6. NatWest has recently ended its Professional Loan Scheme which often was the only viable option for students to fund this study and has left several thousand students with places at law schools without funding.
7. The law as a profession should not be the preserve of the rich.
8. NatWest has in the wake of the financial crisis been largely nationalised through the public bail out.
9. Funding for law students should be protected so that students who do not have unlimited resources can pursue a career in the law.

### **Conference Resolves:**

1. NUS should work with the Bar Council and Law Society as well as the United Kingdom Law Students Association to campaign for the return of the NatWest Professional Loan Scheme
2. NUS should discuss these issues with the government and lobby them to put pressure on NatWest to renew the Scheme.
3. NUS should encourage other banks to offer similar schemes to students needing funding for professional study.

## **The Constitution, it's certainly not for dummies**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Constitutions are legally binding documents that clearly aren't written for the general public to refer to or work from
2. Students' Unions nationally (including NUS) talk about widening participation constantly, and see it as a key driver for improving representation, but expect students' to get involved when information like the constitution is unclear or written in complicated language
3. In many Union's nationally, a key area for improvement is democracy. How many members get involved in the democratic processes locally if they do not understand how to, or information is unclear.
4. NUS needs to grow the "average student" involvement both locally and nationally by making involvement easier to understand and break down
5. As Union's are becoming registered charities, they are expected to re-write constitutions to comply with charitable memoranda. This, again, is not an easy to digest document.

### **The Union Resolves**

1. NUS Should work with Unions to help produce "Student Friendly" constitution documents, clearly describing key sections, how to submit motions, and get involved in all areas of Union activity as outlined in the constitutions.

# resolutions

2. NUS should also make a "People Friendly" version of their governing documentation, meaning the "average student" can easily give feedback and input on policy locally and nationally.

## **Mission Groups**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Mission groups are a notable network for full time officers from similar institutions to share best practice and make impact on common academic issues that may face them.
2. Students' unions used to have strong regional networks before the governance review changes.
3. It often gets forgotten that some Students' unions don't belong to any mission group and they lose out on the benefits.
4. That there should be more collaboration and discussion between mission groups and those unions that don't belong to any in order to break down the barriers.
5. Many of the campaigns and issues we discuss are sector wide, not overstating our differences but appreciating and supporting mission groups' ability to distinguish specific issues and provide tailored support.
6. In a post-Browne world the importance of the student movement not allowing two tiers of sector to emerge, but for NUS to facilitate, support and aid discussions across different parts of the sector.

### **Conference Resolves:**

1. For NUS create a way of proactively supporting unions that may not currently have a network/mission group.
2. To encourage and help facilitate Students' union mission groups sharing best practice, detailing discussions and promoting positives.
3. That Education Information would be a good way of capturing a summary of discussions at mission group meetings and circulating to whole membership. This would allow the committees of mission groups to be better known as well as facilitating cross mission group best practice.
4. The need for mission groups' work to be better captured and communicated via NUS connect as some issues discussed are of great value and importance to the whole student movement.

## **Wednesday Afternoons**

### **Conference Believes**

1. That students need an opportunity to develop themselves outside of academia.
2. That a free Wednesday afternoon will provide opportunities for students to involve themselves in sport, societies, voluntary work, jobs, child care or even work experience.
3. That despite the above, there are still many students being penalised for taking part in recreational activities.
4. That a wide range of extracurricular activities makes a student more employable
5. Wednesday afternoons have traditionally been kept free of lectures by Universities for students to engage in extra curricular activities (particularly sport) to add value to their degrees
6. In recent years many Universities have began scheduling lectures for Wednesday afternoons, meaning students have to choose between their studies or their activity
7. Many Students' Unions have held campaigns to keep Wednesday's free in their institutions.
8. The membership understands the importance of students taking part in activities in addition to their studies and the employability benefits such activities bring.
9. There should be a nation wide campaign led by NUS to put pressure on Universities to keep this tradition

### **Conference Resolves:**

1. That NUS should lobby for Wednesday afternoons to be kept free for more reasons than simply participation in sport
2. That free Wednesday afternoons will aid student welfare
3. That a movement towards student engagement in the local community on a Wednesday will improve public perceptions of students

# resolutions

4. That the NUS should work in partnership with BUCS with an end goal of Universities agreeing to keep Wednesday's free for students.

## **Engage the alumni**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Alumni is an important part of UK university/college community, but are rarely discussed expect for fundraising activities of the university/colleges
2. Most alumni activities are country based, only met on an annual basis for networking purposes between alumni themselves

### **Conference resolves:**

1. Lobby university/college to create a prospective alumni database among current students to lay a good foundation of effective alumni network before they graduate
2. Lobby university/college career centre to create a Alumni Employability mentoring scheme, to link alumni who have years of real world working experience to mentor current students who are interested in working in the same professions as the alumni mentor, so as to enhance the employability of current students, while keep alumni closely linked with the university/college
3. Lobby university/college international office to create a country based alumni database, to use the global alumni network of the university to promote the recruitment of international students based on different nationality
4. Lobby for the joint partnership between students unions in the establishment of effective alumni network with the university/college.
5. Lobby for universities/colleges to create more initiatives to encourage alumni to contribute to the long-term sustainable development of students union through sponsoring various students' unions campaign, project and activities.
6. Lobby for NUS to create a campaign toolkit on effectively engaging Alumni, share best practice on how students unions can effectively engage alumni, to allow them to make greater contribution to the development of university/colleges, current students and students unions.

## **Money**

### **Conference Believes:**

1. That most international bankcards charge a fee when payments or withdrawals are made abroad;
2. That when sending international currency to British banks, banks will not always use the best exchange rate;
3. That this Mastercard charges students:
  - 2.25% per load via bank transfer or debit card from the UK or abroad.
  - 3.99% per load via credit card from the UK or abroad.
  - £1 to withdraw cash from a UK ATM and £2.25 from an ATM abroad.
4. That the Endsleigh Mastercard exchanges currency at the associated Mastercard marked up rate, which is less competitive than high street facilities such as the Post Office.
5. That if Endsleigh offers a suitable product for International Students, and this is popular, high street banks will be inclined to match this offer in due course.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To lobby Endsleigh to redesign the Prepaid Mastercard for International Students so that
  - It uses competitive exchange rates when transferring international currency into an account.
  - It does not charge users to withdraw money at British ATMs.

## **Self Harm**

### **Conference Believes:**

1. The UK has one of the highest rates of self harm in Europe, at 400 per 100,000 population (Self-poisoning and self-injury in adults, Clinical Medicine (2002) cited in Samaritans Self Harm and Suicide)

# resolutions

2. As many as one in five girls between the ages of 15 and 17 had self-harmed and just under one in five adolescents - both boys and girls - has considered self-harm. (The Priory, 2005)
3. The majority of people who self-harm are aged between 11 and 25 years, with between 1 in 12 and 1 in 15 young people self-harming.(Mental Health Foundation)
4. Gay young men are at a higher risk of self harm than the general population.(Crawford et al 2002)
5. The most common methods of self-injury reported by both male and female subjects were scratching or pinching with fingernails or other objects to the point that bleeding occurred or marks remained on the skin (51.6%), banging or punching objects to the point of bruising or bleeding (37.6%), cutting (33.7%), and punching or banging oneself to the point of bruising or bleeding (24.5%).(Cornell University 2006)
6. There has been a rise in the incidence of self harm in the UK over the last 10 years, particularly in young women and men aged over 55 .(Hawton et al 2003)

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. That self-harm rates will increase due to the current economic climate and competition to enter universities.
2. Those due to the strains of education, and possibly social pressures students are at high risk of developing self-harming behaviours.
3. That people self harm on a regular basis without realising as most people do not know the definition of self-harm.
4. That there are very few, if any provisions for those who self harm other than a counsellor or nurse on college and university campuses.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. That March 1st is recognised as Self-Harm Awareness day in line with the U.S. campaign.
2. That NUS work on campaigning for better support for those who self harm and educate students on:
3. The causes and consequences of self-harm;
4. The alternatives to self-harm;
5. The help available to those who self harm.
6. That NUS work with the NHS and other relevant organisations to collect statistical data on self-harm.

## **Loud Noise and Hearing**

### **Conference Believes**

1. That many students are unaware of the danger loud music can be to their hearing.
2. That there are a number of simple ways to protect your hearing when listening to loud music.
3. That protecting your hearing does not mean needing to turn music down or to stop listening to it all together.
4. That exposure to loud noise above 85 decibels –can damage hearing over time.
5. That music played at clubs, gigs and concerts and on personal music players can reach volumes well above that level.
6. That hearing loss and tinnitus are currently irreversible.
7. That noise induced hearing loss is completely preventable.
8. That exposure to very loud noise is the biggest avoidable cause of permanent hearing loss, according to the World Health Organisation.
9. That most Students' Unions run events and entertainment for its students where noise levels will be high, risking damage to student hearing.
10. That RNID promote several safe listening practices to enjoy music safely:
  - Wear filtered earplugs to reduce the amount of sound energy reaching your ears without losing the quality of the music
  - Avoid standing too close to loud speakers in pubs, clubs and gigs
  - Take regular breaks from loud music and use chill out rooms, where available, to give your ears a rest
  - Think before you turn it up. What may seem like a small change in volume may actually be a big increase in the amount of sound energy reaching your ears.

# resolutions

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To support RNID's Don't Lose the Music campaign.
2. To mandate the VP Welfare Officer to make sure that information about safe listening practices are available to all Students' Unions Welfare Officers.
3. To mandate the VP Welfare Officer to promote safe listening practices at all zone and national Welfare conferences at workshops.
4. To mandate the VP Welfare to send safe hearing guidelines to Students' Unions before the start of each academic year.

## **Schedule 7**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Schedule 7 of Terrorism Act 2000 allows police officers at UK ports to detain, question and search people without any reasonable suspicion that they are terrorists.
2. Detainees do not have the right to remain silent or wait for their solicitor to arrive.
3. From January 2004- September 2009, there were over 10,400 examinations and only 43 convictions. People perceived to be from Asian backgrounds were disproportionately targeted.
4. The ECHR ruled against the UK's DNA and fingerprints retention which failed to distinguish between innocent and convicted people.
5. The coalition government proposes to retain the biodata of innocent people examined under Schedule 7
6. An independent reviewer of these powers noted power can be significantly reduced without impacting national security.

### **Conference Further Believes**

1. Schedule 7 is a draconian terrorism detention power of innocent people and ethnicity data shows it is being used discriminately.
2. Schedule 7 is an important tool for counter-terrorism but this lies in its being used proportionately.
3. Detaining those without reasonable suspicion for further examination is unjustified.
4. That the retention of biodata fails to distinguish between innocent people merely detained for questioning and those arrested or convicted of a terrorism offence.
5. Students are more likely than most people to be detained under Schedule 7 due to their frequent travel patterns and to countries under the spotlight.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. NUS should campaign for proportionate port policing policy that strikes a clear distinction between innocent people and those suspected of terrorism.
2. To campaign for a review of the current police powers under Schedule 7 with all the relevant stakeholders.
3. To campaign especially for the right of innocent people to refuse to have their DNA & fingerprints.
4. To write to the Home Office, DBIS, IPCC and other relevant bodies to affirm the above.

## **405**

### **Trade unionisation internationally**

#### **Conference believes:**

1. Trade unions are integral to democracy to give workers a voice.
2. A significant number of countries across the world are attacking the rights of students and trade unionists.
3. Trade unionists and activists, especially those involved in campaigns to promote and safeguard public education or human rights, in certain countries, are at greatest risk.
4. That campaigns to unionise students will only be effective if the unions are seen as a force through which workers can fight and win.

# resolutions

## **Conference resolves:**

1. To name and shame companies that prevent workers from joining trade unions.
2. Pressure companies to change its way through lobbying and boycotting.
3. Work together with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to highlight the importance of trade unions amongst our members.
4. Produce a series of resources to encourage students to become trade unionists.
5. To encourage students' unions to join their local Trades Council.
6. To lobby individual Students' Unions to support the work of the Workers Rights Consortium.
7. To campaign to ensure that all affiliates do likewise.
8. To fight poverty pay in our students' unions by campaigning to ensure that all affiliates pay all their workers at least £8 an hour.
9. To campaign for the abolition of all the anti-union laws, which make trade unionism only semi-legal in Britain. We will oppose the introduction of any new anti-union laws by the Coalition government. We demand a positive legal chart of workers' rights: to strike, picket, take solidarity action.

## **Protest**

### **Conference Believes**

1. The student protests of 2010 saw tens of thousands of students taking to the streets, across the UK.
2. Many of these students were our members
3. That protesting is a form of political power that the people have a right to exercise.
4. That protesting has won many battles over the years and should continue to be upheld as useful and relevant.
5. That many students and young people have been dealt with by the police and authorities in a manner that is meant to intimidate them.
6. That the NUS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL rightfully condemned police violence at the relevant time.
7. That some sentences given by the law as a result of actions by individuals at the protests have been excessive in a manner to deter others from future protests.
8. That there have been cases of dawn raids to arrest students known to be involved in organising protest and this is unacceptable.
9. That everyone has a right to protest.
10. Recent student protests have been met with astonishing and violent tactics from the police, including routine use of kettling, batons and charges by mounted police.
11. A Defend the Right to Protest campaign has been initiated by London Region UCU and supported by MPs and leading trade unionists.

### **Conference resolves:**

1. For NUS National Executive Council To Continue to defend the right to protest as a principle of our National Union
2. Provide training to student activists and union about direct action.
3. Training such as information on how to make direct action accessible and the importance and skills of legal observers.
4. To support the ongoing 'Defend the right to Protest' Campaign.
5. To defend all those protesters who have been arrested, bailed or charged and are fighting to clear their names.
6. To condemn police brutality and the use of violence on demonstrations and to call for an end to 'kettling' and all other crowd control tactics that intimidate and threaten the right to protest.
7. To continue to demand a public enquiry and an investigation into the arrests and other brutalities on demonstrators, including an investigation into the police officers involved.
8. To affiliate to the Defend the Right to Protest campaign.

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## Supporting Effective Environmental Change

### Conference believes:

1. That we see the environment as one of the major challenges for the generation we represents.
2. That S&C understands that this challenge can only be realised when we work with partners from across the environmental movement.
3. Green Impact has improved its ability to act as a tool for change and further strengthen its role as an effective accreditation system.
4. People and Planet is an effective tool in addition to Green Impact, in helping officers within our constituent unions to establish targets to improve their environmental performance.

### Conference Resolves:

1. That NUS actively creates partnerships with organisations with expertise to help students' unions reduce their environmental impact.
2. That the People and Planet Green League is given more prominence within our movement.
3. That the Vice President Society & Citizenship further reforms Green Impact and seeks to establish a central fund to support institutions that struggle to meet the requirements for accreditation.
4. NUS produces more effective and targeted information and publicity concerning working together with your institution on environmental issues, including best practice.

## Learner Voice

### Conference believes:

1. There is an increasing value placed on learner voice at every level of education.
2. While Student Councils in secondary school education aren't mandatory, they are recommended as best practice.
3. Students' Unions have experience of effective learner voice procedures, activism and campaigning, as well as political engagement.
4. The political engagement of secondary school students in recent years has shown that young people are not apathetic to issues that affect them.
5. Union Development and Society & Citizenship zone should work with the Democratic life coalition to fight against attempts to remove Citizenship from the National Curriculum as part of the ongoing review.
6. That learner voice should be supported and encouraged at all stages of education.

### Conference resolves:

1. All NUS zones and liberation campaigns should work together to develop a model of supporting political engagement within schools.
2. For the Union Development zone to work with the Further Education zone to facilitate Students' Unions to work with local schools to deliver sessions on learner voice, Students' Unions and political activism.
3. For the Society & Citizenship zone to support Students' Unions to liaise with schools to be invited to discuss with school students some of the issues raised and explored in Citizenship education.
4. For NUS to work with our trade union partners in the NUT and NASUWT to support learner voice activity in Schools and to help to develop active Student Councils as part of the school structure.
5. For NUS to support individual Students' Unions to work with local Secondary School Student Councils to encourage and develop Students' Unions with schools.

## Uprisings

### Conference Believes

1. That the mass uprisings for democracy, workers' rights and social justice across North Africa and the Middle East, particularly in Tunisia and Egypt, are deeply inspiring.
2. The important role played by youth and students in these struggles, and in earlier struggles in the region (e.g. pro-democracy protests in Iran).
3. That one exciting development is the setting up a new Egyptian Federation for Independent Unions,

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including workers such as the tax collectors whose militant struggles in the last decade paved the way for current events. In Tunisia, too, the unions have been central.

4. That these revolutions are part of the same struggle as the student protests here – the beginnings of an uprising by workers and youth against the neo-liberal capitalist order and governments' attempts to make us pay for the economic crisis through cuts and attacks on our rights. They show the kind of methods we will need to defeat the Coalition.
5. The pro democracy uprisings taking place in Egypt, Tunisia and across the Arab world are an inspirational example of people power and a cause for celebration for progressives across the world.
6. After enduring decades of torture, corruption and barbarity the people of Tunisia and Egypt have risen up and successfully ousted their Western-backed dictators Ben Ali and Mubarak. These heroic acts have cost the lives of hundreds of pro-democracy protesters and have further inspired millions of people across the Arab world and the Middle East to rise up against their own dictators.
7. The West have consistently supported dictatorships in the Middle East to serve their own interests and are now seeking to ensure these uprisings do not result in governments hostile to the West's colonial aspirations in the region.
8. There must be no US or British intervention in the Middle East and North Africa: the future of Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Yemen and the rest of the Arab world must be determined by the people of those countries alone.
9. The actions of the Egyptian and Tunisian people have shattered the racist myth peddled by the West that Arab people are backward, reactionary and need to be 'civilised' by US military interventions such as the Iraq war.
10. The British government should call for free and fair elections for all states in the Middle East – all opposition parties should be legalised and given full rights to organise and stand. Cameron's talk of 'reform' and not democracy reveals his lack of support for the people in the region and should be rejected.
11. 2011 has seen revolutions and uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East, characterised by mass protests, strikes and direct action in the face of deadly police repression. As of February 20 two dictators had been brought down.
12. The majority of the dictatorships concerned are allies of Britain and the US. Egypt is the second-highest recipient of US military aid in the world. British police have provided training to security forces in Bahrain and Libya which have murdered hundreds of demonstrators.
13. We stand unequivocally on the side of those risking their lives to fight for freedom, justice and dignity and against the regimes that repress them.

## **Conference resolves**

1. To build links with student and workers' organisations in Tunisia and Egypt.
2. To salute the millions of brave people in North Africa and the Middle East that are rising up against tyranny, oppression and dictatorship
3. To demand an end to the British and US support for dictatorships all across North Africa and the Middle East.
4. To actively oppose US and British military intervention in the region – no Iraq in Libya.
5. To congratulate those involved in revolutions against Ben Ali in Tunisia and Mubarak in Egypt and to campaign in solidarity with those struggling for change throughout the region.
6. To organise speaking tours of youth and student activists from these revolutions in our campuses.
7. To investigate and campaign against all support for these regimes by the British government and businesses and organisations based in Britain.

## **Freedom for Palestine**

### **Conference believes:**

1. Israel's continuing oppression of the Palestinians has been compared by South African trade unions and activists including Desmond Tutu to the Apartheid regime.
2. Israel does not allow Palestinian refugees or their descendents to return to the territory from which they were expelled in 1948. The population of the Gaza strip is subject to a blockade described by the Director of UNRWA Operations as a "Medieval siege".

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3. Palestinian organisations have called for a policy of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. The TUC supports a boycott of goods produced and companies operating in Israel's illegal settlements.
4. Israel's attack on Gaza, launched in December 2008 killed over 1,400 Palestinians - more than 300 were children. Gaza's general infrastructure including schools, universities, hospitals and homes suffered enormous damage.
5. Since 2007 Israel has imposed a blockade on Gaza which violates international law and leaves the people of Gaza short of food, medicines and other vital supplies such as cement. The damage caused by Israel's attack cannot be repaired.
6. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has had a detrimental impact on students. Gaza's electricity supply is controlled by Israel and shut-down for several hours most days, making it difficult for students to study. Moreover, the blockade means insufficient quantities of educational equipment, such as paper, desks and books, reach students.
7. The Trade Union Congress - representing 7 million people - has strongly condemned the siege on Gaza.
8. The National Union of Students has so far refused to join the growing movement in support of Palestinian human rights. For example, the NUS leadership refused to condemn Israel's war on Gaza in 2009 and failed to condemn the killing of 9 civilian peace activists onboard the Mavi Marmara - the international aid flotilla to Gaza - in May 2010.

## **Conference resolves**

1. To demand freedom for Palestine, calling for an end to the siege of Gaza and occupation of the West Bank and the right to return for all refugees.
2. To encourage unions to twin with universities in Palestine and to send an NUS delegation on future convoys to the Gaza strip.
3. To strongly condemn Israel's siege on Gaza and actively campaign for it to be lifted in accordance with international law.
4. To support the Palestinians' right to education by building links with students at the Islamic University of Gaza and other educational institutions in Gaza.

## **Local Action First**

### **Conference Believes:**

1. Students form a large part of the local community and therefore the Union should have a significant role as major stakeholder acting as a link and providing representation
2. The perception of students locally and nationally is vital for students to be accepted as valued members of society during their time of study
3. While many students maybe sympathetic to the causes of International and Global issues, much can be done locally that will be of direct benefit to our students
4. Global issues that do not directly affect students as students are hard or impossible for unions registered as charities to support
5. Local community and citizenship issues directly affect students as students

### **Conference resolves:**

1. To prioritise achievable local campaigns
2. To consider at how every campaign directly impacts students locally to make them relevant to all unions
3. To provide further resources to support work done around policies Neighbourhoods, Local Citizens and Safe and Cohesive Communities and make them useful and relevant for all unions