

minutes

meeting of: National Executive Council (second meeting)

place: Camden Town Hall, Council Chambers

date and time: 7th September 2009 1pm – 5pm

Present:

Members:	Name
President & Chair	Wes Streeting
Zones	Aaron Porter & Steve Topazio (Higher Education); Shane Chowen & Toni Pearce (Further Education) Susan Nash (Society & Citizenship); Ben Whittaker & Caroline Rose (Welfare)
Liberation	Bellavia Ribeiro-Addy (Black Students) Daf Adley & Lucy Brookes (LGBT); Olivia Bailey & Estelle Hart (Women's); Adam Hyland (Disabled Students)
Student Sections	Trevor Dallimore-Wright (Mature Students); Chris Jenkinson (Postgraduate Students) Saima Yousaf (International Students' Officer), Madalena Ngongola (International Students' Representative)
Nations	Katie Dalton & Llew Williams (NUS Wales) Liam Burns (NUS Scotland); Ciarnan Helferty and Shane Brogan (NUS-USI)
Block	John Peart, Natalie Tremlett, Fraser Nesbitt, Usman Ali, Alice Bouquet, Jak Codd, John Cox, James Haywood, Yemi Makinde, Ed Marsh, Tobin Webb, Liz Williams
Staff	Matt Hyde (CEO); Jim Dickinson (Director Campaigns & Strategy); Elaine Bruce (DSC); Graeme Wise, Elaine Bruce, David Malcom, Sacha Zarb

Apologies:

Zones	Richard Budden
Liberation	Naa-Anyima Quaye, Karena Younson
Student Sections & Nations	Joy Elliot, Tom Spencer
Block	Eleanor Brown, Phemie Matheson, Christina Yan Zang



minutes

Introduction & Administration:

Wes Streeting opened the meeting and welcomed NEC and others to the second meeting of the Council. Apologies for absence were noted. NEC agreed the Chair shall take steps to implement a fair process for co-opting or removing a committee members who do not attend meetings (within reason and without sending apologies) or respond to communications.

Action: Wes Streeting

There were no declarations of interest raised. The minutes from the last meeting (30th June 2009) were agreed as true and accurate record subject to some minor changes. Constituent membership applications shall be circulated and approved by NEC via email.

Action: Elaine Bruce

President's Report:

Wes Streeting referred the Council to his report and confirmed that the daily expense rate for volunteers was removed from the volunteer policy by finance committee last year and will be raised at the first Audit, Risk and Remuneration Committee. Wes also agreed to confirm how the Finance Committee decision was made. NEC approved the report.

Action: Wes Streeting

Zone Convenors' Reports:

Each Zone convener gave an overview of their written reports and invited questions. No report motions were raised. Convenors reports were approved by the Council. Wes Streeting clarified that the purpose of submitting a written report to each meeting is to encourage feedback and buy in from the whole council and to ensure value for money.

Nations, Students Sections and Liberation Convener Reports:

Each convener gave an overview of their report and invited questions. In relation to Liberation convener reports, Wes Streeting further clarified that policy delivery and accountability of autonomous campaigns is left to their respective autonomous committees. The Council are not permitted to submit report motions to censure or commend autonomous campaigns but the Council members should be free to ask questions of the convenors. Liberation campaign convenors were asked to update the Council on their work on Education Funding as part of their update. There was some discussion regarding staff support for the Disabled Students' Campaign and Black Students' Campaign. Bellavia Ribeiro-Addy agreed to circulate a list of activities for Black History Month, taking place in October.

Action: Bellavia Ribeiro-Addy



minutes

Saima Yousaf gave a verbal report on International Students' Campaign. Vice Presidents of Society and Citizenship, Higher Education and Welfare were asked to discuss their work on issues relating to international students with the International Students' Officer.

Action: Aaron Porter, Susan Nash, Ben Whittaker and Saima Yousaf

NUS Budget 2009/10:

Jim Dickinson presented the Council with an overview of the budget process and referred the Council to the budget paper for a detailed look at income expenditure and the cuts made to achieve a break even budget. Council were encouraged to ask questions and make comments. Wes Streeting agreed to look into the cost of liberation campaign attendance and running a stall at National Conference.

Action: Wes Streeting

Wes Streeting agreed to circulate each convenor's budget submissions as additional context to illustrate the cut made in each area of the organisation.

Action: Wes Streeting

Wes Streeting confirmed a commitment to presenting the budget before the start of the next financial year on 1st July 2010. Members of Council commented that it is difficult to decide on figures for the coming without reference to the previous year's allocations as a comparison. It was noted that this year's budget process was not ideal but there is an organisational commitment to ensure that is improved.

There was some discussion about the International Students' Campaign budget for the coming year. It was confirmed that the budget is set at £12k, taking into account last year's expenditure, the change from a part time officer to a full time officer and the reduction in committee size.

Wes Streeting agreed to communicate a steer from NEC to the Board to look at developing business opportunities and a diverse income for the long term.

Action: Wes Streeting

NEC approved the budget for 2009/10.

Strategic Plan 2009 – 2012:



minutes

Matt Hyde referred NEC to the strategic plan for 2009 - 2012, noting that this is a working document resulting from a wide consultation over the summer. Key Performance Indicators (KPI) will go live once they have been approved by NEC and Trustee Board.

NEC approved the strategic plan.

Developing a Vision for Membership Development Directorate paper will be referred to the next meeting.

Marketing and Communications Strategy:

This paper will be looked at in detail by the Communications Scrutiny committee and referred to the next meeting of NEC.

Corporate Governance:

Matt Hyde referred the Council to his paper on corporate governance and encouraged any "no go" areas to be raised before undertaking a cost benefit analysis. Due to time constraints at the meeting, NEC members are encouraged to raise any specific questions with Matt.

Funding Our Future Campaign Update:

Wes Streeting gave an overview of the policy agenda, objectives and key messages to show how each reflects the mandate set at conference.

Nominations Committee:

Council agreed to conduct an electronic vote for the two block of 15 members to sit on nominations committee.

Welfare Zone Policy Debates from Annual Conference 2009:

NEC passed motion 708: "Miss University" Beauty Pageants and Sexist Environment for Women in Education. Due to time constraints, the remaining Welfare Zone motions will be referred to the next meeting.

