



NATIONAL CONFERENCE n u s 2012

Minutes, Resolutions
and Election Results

CD13

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format contact NUS on 0845 5210 262
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Key information

Purpose of this document

This document is a report of the debates, actions, motions and elections of NUS National Conference 2012. It is split into 3 sections.

- The Minutes are a record of the meeting, who spoke and how motions were amended and whether they passed or not.
- The Resolutions outline the policy passed, taking into account any amendments during the debate or sections that were removed as 'Parts'. This policy is current until 2015.
- The Election Results outline who was elected at the Conference.

What you need to do

Delegates at the start of National Conference 2013 will be asked to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting in 2012.

The policy in the resolutions section should be used to hold the Zone Committees and Vice Presidents accountable on their work. This will also be available in the Zone Report Conference Document and www.

Checklist

I am confident that the minutes accurately reflect the last National Conference

Delegates from my union to National Conference know they will be asked to accept these minutes

Delegates from my union know they can use these resolutions along with the Zone report document to hold the elected officers accountable for the work they have been set

Read through the document and need more help?

If you require additional information please contact one of the following people:

- For issues relating to the administration of conference, including registration, access needs, room bookings and stalls contact the Events Team events@nus.org.uk
- For issues about delegate entitlement, zone committees, reports and policy, amendments to zone policy proposals & Cross Campus Ballots contact democracy@nus.org.uk

All the above can be contacted at:

- NUS, 4th Floor, 184-192 Drummond Street, London, NW1 3HP
Telephone: 0845 521 0262

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National Conference 2012 | Minutes

CB – Conference Believes
CFB – Conference Further Believes
CR – Conference Resolves
CRO – Chief Returning Officer
DPC – Democratic Procedures Committee
NEC – National Executive Council
PM – Procedural Motion
SA – Students' Association
SU – Students' Union
UU – University Union

Estelle Hart opened Conference

Liam Burns offered his opening speech

Paul Blomfield MP gave his speech

Omar Mohamed gave his speech

Conference adopted the order paper

Honor Cohen the CRO opened nominations for committee places

Zone 100 | New Members

The following Unions were **ACCEPTED** into membership of NUS

- Blackpool Sixth Form College
- Blake Hall SU
- Crossways 6th Form SU
- Freeman College SU
- Greenbank SU
- Longcroft School SU
- Reading College SU
- University of Sunderland SU
- Yale College SU

Minutes of last conference were **ACCEPTED**

A member of DPC explained policy lapse

100 | Constitutional Ratifications

Incorporation

Introduction Speech: Democratic Procedures Committee – waived to Ed Marsh, NEC

Speech Against: – Mark Bergfeld, NEC

Speech For: – Aiden Mersh, Hull

Speech Against: – Alan Borgard, Hertfordshire SU

Speech For: – Charles Barry, Newcastle University SU

Speech Against: – Simon Furze, Birmingham Guild

Procedural motion H – that this be changed to different part of conference (ie AGM)

Case to hear: PASSED

Speech for: Aaron Sturs, Surrey

Case against: property of DPC waived to Ed Marsh, NEC

Vote on PM: fell

Summation: Democratic Procedures Committee – waived to Liam Burns, NEC

Vote: PASSED

Priority campaign report and questions – Liam Burns, NEC

The priority campaign report was **ACCEPTED**

Union Development Zone report and questions – Ed Marsh, NEC

The zone report was **ACCEPTED**

500 | Union Development Policy

Recommendation No: 501

Policy Area: Don't Just Widen Participation – Deepen Participation (501)

Introduction: Rebecca Bridger, NEC

Amendment: 501a

Submitted by: Wolverhampton SU

Speech For: waived to Christina Yan Zhang, NEC

Speech Against: Chris Allen, UWE SU

Parts: to discuss CR 1 & 2 separately

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Billy Marsh, Loughborough SU

Speech against: Christina Yan Zhang, NEC

Vote: PASSED – parts are deleted

Summation: Wolverhampton SU – waived to free; Ed Bending, Brighton SU

Vote: PASSED

Speech Against: - none

Summation: Ken Harris, Wolverhampton SU

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 502

Policy Area: SU Development; More Important Now Than Ever

Submitted by: UD Zone Committee

Introduction: Tom Hollick, City College Norwich SU

Amendment: 502a

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: University of Leicester SU

Speech For: University of Leicester SU – Thomas French, U Leicester SU

Speech Against: Josh Rowlands, NEC

Summation: Chris Everett, U Leicester SU

Vote: FALLS

Speech Against: none

Parts: remove CR 1

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Tom Peel, Hull UU

Speech against: Aiden Mersh, Hull UU

Vote: FALLS

Summation: Tom Hollick, City College Norwich SU

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 503

Policy Area: NUS; Developing Students as well as Unions

Submitted by: UD Zone Committee

Introduction: Aiden Mersh, Hull UU

Amendment: 503a

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Swansea Met SU

Speech For: waived to Luke Young, NEC

Speech Against: - none

Summation: waived

Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 503b

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Hull University Union

Speech For: waived to Rachel Wenstone, NEC

Speech Against: none

Summation: waived

Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion

Speech Against: none

Parts: to delete CB 2

Vote to hear case: FELL

Summation: Victoria Winterton, Hull University Union

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 504

Policy Area: Building a Generation Ready To Shout 'I AM THE CHANGE!'

Submitted by: UD Zone Committee

Introduction: Ed Marsh, NEC

Amendment: 504a

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: NUS LGBT Committee

Speech For: Vicki Baars, NEC

Speech Against: - none

Summation: waived to free

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Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 504b
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Kingston University Union, Queen Mary University of London, Kings College Union
Speech For: waived to James Woodcock, Goldsmiths UU
Speech Against: Tom Peel, Hull UU
Summation: waived to Jamil Keating, Xaverian College
Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: - none
Summation: waived to James woodcock, Goldsmiths UU
Vote: PASSED

Motion No: 505
Policy Area: NUS is not the National Union of Sabbatical Officers but there should be one!
Submitted by: NUS LGBT Committee
Introduction: Vicki Baars, NEC
Speech Against: Steph Lloyd, NUS Wales
Summation: Vicki Baars
Vote: FALLS

Motion No: 506
Policy Area: Supporting Small and Specialist Unions
Submitted by: Writtle College SU, University of the Creative Arts SU
Introduction: Peter Illman, Writtle College SU

Amendment: 506a
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Leeds Trinity Union
Speech For: Samantha Garratt, Leeds Trinity U
Speech Against: Steve Martin, U Creative Arts

Parts: Remove CR 1
Vote to hear case: FELL

Summation: Peter Kennedy, Mid-Kent College SU
Clarification: 'national liaison' means an NEC member
Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: - none
Summation: waived to Vicki Baars, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Motion No: 507
Policy Area: Democratic SUs
Submitted by: Kingston University Union, Queen Mary SU, Kings College London
Introduction: waived to Jaz Blackwell Pal, Goldsmiths UU

Amendment: 507a
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: University of Central Lancashire Union; Hull University Union; Kent University SU, University of Sheffield SU
Speech For: Reni Eddo-Lodge, University of Central Lancaster SU
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Procedural Motion C: that a rule or regulation be suspended for a specific length of time

Case to hear: Staffordshire University U
Vote: PASSED

Statement on accessibility, Staffordshire University U

Amendment No: 507b
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Royal Holloway SU, Liverpool Guild of Students
Speech For: Ruth Nicolson, Royal Holloway
Speech Against: - none

Parts: Delete CR 1b
Vote to hear case: FELL

Summation: waived to Michael Chessum, NEC. Not present so waived.
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 507c

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Liverpool Guild of Students & Royal Holloway SU
Speech For: waived to Ed Bauer, Birmingham Guild

Chair's announcement: Royal Holloway have withdrawn their name from this motion

Speech Against: - Jo Vinson, Cornwall College
Summation: Bob Sutton, Liverpool Guild
Vote: FALLS

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: Mark Bergfeld, NEC
Summation: waived to free; Reni Eddo-Lodge, UCLan SU
Vote: PASSED

Motion No: 508
Policy Area: Prioritise Further Education Students Unions
Submitted by: Basingstoke College of Technology SU
Introduction: waived to Christina Yan Zhang, NEC
Speech Against: none

Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Motion No: 509
Policy Area: New Income, Financial Management, RAG
Submitted by: Wolverhampton SU
Introduction: waived to Christina Yan Zhang, NEC
Speech Against: Rob Scully, City University London SU

Parts: discuss CR 1 & 2 separately
Case to hear parts: passed
Speech for: Archie Dallas, Durham SU
Speech against: Christina Yan Zhang, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Parts: Discuss CR 4 separately
Case to hear parts: passed

Speech for: Matt East, NEC
Speech against: Christina Yan Zhang, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Summation: Ken Harris, Wolverhampton SU
Vote: FALLS

Motion No: 510
Policy Area: Right to Protest on Campus
Submitted by: University of Sheffield SU, Royal Holloway SU, Liverpool Guild of Students
Introduction: Harry Horton, U Sheffield SU
Speech Against: Liam Knight, Petroc U
Summation: University of Sheffield SU
Vote: PASSED

PM: to extend the guillotine by 30 minutes
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Dennis Esch, Lancaster SU
Speech against: Mark Foster, DPC
Vote: FALLS

PM: that the question, as specified, be put to another body ie remaining motions be referred to NEC
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Ed Marsh, NEC
Speech against: Sean Rillo-Razcka, Birkbeck SU
Vote: PASSED

Guillotine falls: 17.15

FE Zone policy report and questions - Toni Pearce, NEC
The zone report was **ACCEPTED**

HE Zone policy report and questions - Usman Ali, NEC
The zone report was **ACCEPTED**

PM C: that rule or regulation be suspended for a specific reason ie Estelle Hart, NEC to make a statement

Vote to hear case: passes

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Case for statement: Estelle Hart, NEC

Case against: none

Vote: PASSED

Statement: Estelle Hart, NEC

DPC announcement on open contributions

200 and 300| Education Policy

Recommendation No: 201
Policy Area: Keeping Colleges in check
Submitted by: FE Zone Committee
Introduction Speech: Benjamin Thompson, FE Zone/Derby College SU
Open Contribution: Joe Vinson, Cornwall College SU
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Debate begins 20.05
Recommendation No: 301
Policy Area: Postgraduate Funding and Support
Submitted by: HE Zone Committee and Sheffield Hallam SU
Introduction Speech: Sophie Richardson, Queen Mary SU

Amendment: 301a
ADD amendment
Submitted by: University College London Union
Speech for: University College London Union – waived to Michael Chessum, NEC
Speech against: free – none
Summation: waived to Dante Micheaux, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 301b
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: NUS Postgraduate Committee
Speech For: Michael Young, NUS Postgraduate Committee
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 301c
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Leeds University Union
Speech For: Mark Sowards, Leeds University U
Speech Against: – none

Parts: CR 2
Vote to hear case: FELL

Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 301d
DELETES CR 1 and 3 of main motion (301)
Submitted by: Leeds University Union, Hull University Union, Nottingham University SU
Speech For: waived to Rachel Wenstone, NEC
Speech Against: - none
Summation: Jon Chambers, Hull UU
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 301e
Submitted by: Queen Mary Students Union, Kingston University SU, University of Essex University SU (CR1), University College London Union (CRB1,2, 5-7 CF1-6 and CR 2-7); School of Oriental and African Studies SU (CB 3&4)
Speech For: waived to Michael Chessum, NEC
Speech Against: Nick Pringle, Manchester University SU

Parts: remove CR 3
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Georgia Thresh, Nottingham SU
Speech against: James Woodcock, Goldsmiths University SU
Vote: PASSED

Summation: waived to James Woodcock, Goldsmiths SU
Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: none

Summation: waived to Michael Chessum, NEC

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 202
Policy Area: Offender Learning
Submitted by: FE Zone Committee
Introduction Speech: Heather Dower, Canterbury College
Open Contribution: Chris Barrie, Oxford University SU
Speech Against: none
Summation: Charlotte Knight, Cornwall College
Vote: PASSED

PM: that the questions as specified be delayed to a later point in the agenda (ie. Move all FE motions to after all HE motions)

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Arran Steers, Surrey University Union
Speech against: DPC waive to Liam Burns, NEC

Vote: FALLS

Recommendation No: 302
Policy Area: The Public Role of Higher Education
Submitted by: HE Zone Committee and Salford University SU
Introduction Speech: Usman Ali, NEC

Amendment: 302a
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Hull University Union, University of Manchester SU, Leeds University Union; Swansea Metropolitan University SU, Liverpool Hope SU and City College Norwich SU
Speech For: waived to Ed Marsh, NEC

Speech Against: none
Summation: waived

Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 302b
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Loughborough SU
Speech For: Rebecca Bridger, Loughborough SU
Speech Against: – Mark Bergfeld, NEC

Parts: delete CB1
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Jack White, Surrey SU
Speech against: none
Vote: PASSED

Summation: Ed Marsh, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 302c
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: University College London Union
Speech For: Luke Durrigan, UCLU
Speech Against: Reni Eddo-Lodge, UCLan U

Parts: remove CR1
Vote to hear case: falls

Parts: remove CR2
Vote to hear case: falls

Summation: waived to Michael Chessum, NEC
Vote: FALLS

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: - none
Summation: Rebecca Bridger, Loughborough SU

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 203
Policy Area: Free Education
Submitted by: FE Zone Committee
Introduction Speech: Toni Pearce, NEC

Amendment: 203a
Submitted by: Royal Holloway SU, Birmingham Guild of Students
Speech For: waived to Rosie Huzzard, Sheffield College SU
Speech Against: – Josh Rowlands, NEC
Summation: waived to Demaine Boocock, King George V College

Vote: PASSED

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Amendment: 203b
Submitted by: Kings College London SU and Queen Mary College London SU
Speech For: waived to Jamil Keating, Xaverian College
Speech Against: Chris Allen, UWE SU
Speech for: Mike Williamson, Edinburgh University SA
Speech against: Peter Kennedy, Mid-Kent College SU

Vote to hear additional round of speeches: FELL

Parts: delete CR 1

Vote to hear case: FELL

Summation: Kings College London SU - waived to Dexter Hill, Sheffield College SU

Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion

Speech Against: Charles Barry, Newcastle University SU

Vote to hear extra round of speeches: fell

Summation: waived to Jamil Keating, Xaverian College SU

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 303

Policy Area: Student engagement in teaching excellence

Submitted by: HE Zone Committee and Sheffield Hallam SU (section of CR2)

Introduction: Caroline Dangerfield, Salford SU

Amendment: 303a

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Loughborough SU

Speech For: Rebecca Bridger, Loughborough SU

Speech Against: - none

Summation: waived

Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 303b

ADD AMENDMENT

IF amendment 303b passes amendment 303c will not be debated.

Submitted by: School of Oriental and African Studies SU

Speech For: waived to Mark Bergfeld, NEC

Speech Against Dom Anderson, University of Derby SU

Conference closed: 22.00

Conference opens: 9.30

Adoptions

LGBT Policy Campaign – Vicki Baars and Alan Bailey

Disabled students – Rupy Kaur

Black Students – Kanja Sesay

Women's – Estelle Hart

Postgraduate students – Dante Micheaux

Mature/Part-time students – Fee Woof

International students – Christina Yan Zhang

Statement on UJS Stall and Anti-semitism

Liam Burns, NUS National President

Procedural motion C

Move ordinary motions before education recommendations ie 306 onwards to before 303

For: Jasmin Lovell, Loughborough College

Against: DPC – Simon Darvill

Vote: FALLS

Procedural motion C

Move 305 to discuss now

For: Aaron Kiely

Against: Simon DPC

Vote: FALLS

Amendment: 303b

Request extra round speeches – granted

For: Arianna Tassinari

Against: Matthew Barrow, Hull

Summation: Arianna Tassinari, School of Oriental and African Studies SU

Vote: FALLS

Amendment: 303c

IF amendment 303b passes this amendment will not be debated. If amendment 303b falls it will be discussed

Submitted by: Birkbeck College SU

Speech For: waived to Simon Furse, Birmingham Uni

Speech Against: Ken Harris, Wolverhampton SU

Parts CR 1

Chair did not see 100 delegates

Summation: Kristian Bruun, SOAS

Vote: FALLS

Back to the main motion

Speech Against: Mike Williamson, Kings College SU

Summation: None

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 204

Policy Area: Lifelong learning

Submitted by: FE Zone Committee, Disabled Students Committee, City College Norwich SU

Introduction Speech: Roshni Joshi, FE Zone Committee

Speech Against: None

Summation: none

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 304

Policy Area: Access and Admissions

Submitted by: HE Zone Committee and NUS Disabled Students'

Introduction: Renni Eddo-Lodge, HE Zone Committee

Amendment: 304a

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Loughborough SU, Hull University Union

Speech For: Zoe Lloyd, Loughborough SU

Speech Against: None

Summation: None

Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 304b

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: FE Zone Committee and NUS Disabled Students' Committee

Introduction: Toni Pearce, FE Zone Committee

Speech Against: Hannah Wilkinson, Oxford University

Parts CR5

Not 100 delegates

CR1,2

Not 100 delegates

Summation: FE Zone Committee

Vote: PASSED

Elections – National President

Amendment: 304c - withdrawn

Amendment: 304d

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: NUS NEC

Speech For: Kelly Temple, NUS NEC

Speech Against: None

Summation: None

Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion

Speech Against: None

Summation: none

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 305

Policy Area: Higher Education Bill

Submitted by: HE Zone Committee and Sheffield Hallam SU, Kent Union, Sheffield University SU

Introduction: Luke Durigan, HE Zone Committee

Amendment: 305a

DELETE and ADD AMENDMENT

Deletes CR1 of Main Motion

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Submitted by: University College London Union, Royal Holloway SU, Liverpool Guild of Students, School of Oriental and African Studies SU, Essex University SU, Queen Mary SU, Birmingham Guild of Students, Edinburgh University Students' Association, Kings College London SU, Kingston University SU

Speech For: Jamie Woodcock, Goldsmiths

Speech Against: Steven Donnelly, Edinburgh SA

Speech For: Nathan Bolton, Essex University SU University

Speech Against: Graeme Osborne, York

Summation: Luke Durigan, University College London Union

Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 305b

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Essex University SU, Queen Mary's University of London SU, Royal Holloway SU, Liverpool Guild of Students, University College London Union, Edinburgh University Students' Association, NUS Black Students Committee, Birmingham Guild of Students

Speech For: Kanja Sesay, NUS Black Students Committee

Speech Against: Billy Marsh, Loughborough

Speech For: Michael Chessum, NEC

Speech Against: Paul Mason, Oxford Brookes

Speech For: Amir Al Astewani, Manchester

Speech Against: Jamil Keating, Xaverian College

Summation: Queen Mary's University of London SU

Vote: PASSED

PM extend guillotine half an hour

For: Luke Harman, Derby College

Against: Pete Mercer, NEC

Passes

Welfare Zone Report: Pete Mercer, NEC

The zone report was **ACCEPTED**

Elections VP FE and UD

Conference reconvenes 14.33

PM: C – that a rule or regulation be suspended for a length of time for a specific reason (to make a statement about whooping' and hollering')

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Kat Bateman, Inverness College

PM: C – that a rule or regulation be suspended for a length of time for a specific reason (to have 309-313 debated now)

Vote to hear case: FELL

Amendment: 305c

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Kingston University SU, Kings College London SU, Queen Mary, School of Oriental and African Studies SU, Essex University SU

Speech For: Nathan Bolton, Essex SU

Speech Against: Matthew Barrow, Hull UU

Speech For: Samir Karnik Hinks, KCLSU

Speech Against: Chris Everett, U Leicester SU

Parts: Remove CR2

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Edmund Schluessel, Cardiff

Speech against: Mark Bergfeld, NEC

Vote: PASSED

Parts: Move CR4 into main motion

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: James Woodcock, Goldsmiths

Speech against: none

Vote: PASSED

Summation: Ross Speer, Queen Mary's University of London SU

Vote: FALLS

Guillotine falls

PM: request for extension to guillotine until end of debate on 306

Election announcement:

VP (FE): **Toni Pearce elected**

VP (UD): **Vicky Baars elected**

Back to procedural motions

Clarification: extend guillotine by 20 minutes

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: James McCash, Edinburgh University SA

Speech against: waived to Dannie Grufferty, NEC

Vote: FALLS

PM: I – that the questions as specified be remitted to another body – ordinary motions to NEC

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Fiona Wood, NEC

Speech against: Aaron Steers, U Surrey SU

Vote: PASSED

Vote on 305 as amended up to this point

Speech against (free) – none

Vote: PASSED

600 | Welfare Policy

Recommendation No: 601

Policy Area: The Pound in Your Pocket

Submitted by: Welfare Zone Committee, University of Manchester SU

Introduction: Pete Mercer, NEC

PM: C – suspend rules for specific purpose – to discuss 610 now

Vote to hear case: FELL

Amendment: 601a

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Reading University SU, Kingston University SU, Surrey University SU

Speech For: Jack White, U Surrey SU

Speech Against: Alan Borgars, U Hertfordshire SU

Parts: Delete CR 5

Vote to hear case: FELL

Parts: CR1

Vote to hear case: FELL

Summation: Karl Hobley, Reading SU

Vote: PASSED

PM: C – suspend rules – debate 604 now

Vote to hear case: FELL

Amendment: 601b

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: Oxford University SU

Introduction Speech: Tom Rutland, Oxford U SU

Speech Against: Charles Barry, Newcastle U SU

Summation: Tom Rutland, Oxford U SU

Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion

Speech Against: none

Summation: waived

Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 602

Policy Area: Localism

Submitted by: Welfare Zone Committee, Edinburgh Students' Association, University of Kent SU

Introduction: Colum McGuire, Kent Union

Amendment: 602a

ADD AMENDMENT

Submitted by: King's College London SU, Kent Union

Speech For: Ayodele Akinyemi, King's College London SU

PM: C – suspend rules – debate 605 now

Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Cameron Giles, Prior Purglove College

Speech against: Steven Findlay, DPC

Vote: FALLS

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Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 602b
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Birmingham Guild of Students
Speech For: Zuki Majuwana, Birmingham Guild
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 602c
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Kent SU
Speech For: Colum McGuire, Kent Union
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 602d
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: University of Manchester SU
Speech For: Maggie Suissa, U Manchester SU
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 603
Policy Area: Faith and sexuality
Submitted by: Welfare Zone Committee
Introduction: Leo Boe, Warwick SU

Amendment: 603a
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Birkbeck SU
Speech For: Birkbeck SU: not available –**amendment FALLS**

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: Sean Robinson, Oxford U SU
Summation: waived to Roshni Joshi, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 604
Policy Area: Prevent
Submitted by: Welfare Zone Committee
Introduction: Pete Mercer, NEC

Amendment: 604a
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Kings College London SU, QMSU
Speech For: waived to James Woodcock, Goldsmiths U SU
Speech Against: Pete Mercer, NEC
Summation: waived to Moses Milner, U East London SU
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 604b
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Leeds University Union, University of Manchester SU
Speech For: Dan McKenzie, Leeds UU
Speech Against: Anil Lafor, U Manchester U SU
Summation: waived to Emma Meehan, Edinburgh U SA
Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

PM: B - that the chair's ruling be overturned - no debate of 603b
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: waived to Mike Williamson, Edinburgh U SA
Speech against: Joe Oliver, NEC, Chair
Vote: FALLS

Motion No: 605
Policy Area: Stop and Search

Submitted by: Mid Kent College, Cornwall College, NUS Black Students
Campaign Introduction Speech: Mid Kent College SU
Speech For: waived to James Philips, Mid-Kent College SU

Amendment: 605a
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: NUS Black Students' Campaign
Speech For: Aaron Kiely, NEC
Speech Against: none

Parts: Delete CB5 and CR1
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Bob Sutton, Liverpool Guild
Speech against: Vicki Baars, NEC

Speech for: Chris Everett, U Leicester SU
Speech against: Izzy John, Warwick SU
Vote: FALLS (parts pass into main motion)

Summation: Mark Bergfeld, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Society and Citizenship report and questions: Dannie Grufferty, NEC

The zone report was **ACCEPTED**
Conference reconvened at 18.20

PM C: to suspend rules – to make a statement about mature and part-time students
Vote to hear case: FELL

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: - none
Summation: NUS Black Students' Committee – Aaron Kiely, NEC
Vote: PASSED

PM: challenge chair's ruling re: whether there were 100 delegates to hear the statement about mature and part-time students
Vote: PASSED

Speech for: Dante Micheaux, NEC
Speech against: Joe Oliver, NEC, Chair
Vote: PASSED

Statement: Fiona Wood, NEC

Motion No: 606
ADD AMENDMENT: Support for students' taking a year from study
Submitted by: University of Manchester SU
Speech for: University of Manchester SU – Jeremy Buck, U Manchester SU
Speech Against: - none
Summation: University of Manchester SU - waived
Vote: PASSED

Motion No: 607
Policy Area: Cyber Bullying
Submitted by: Mid Cheshire College, Wolverhampton SU, Staffordshire University SU
Introduction: Victoria Catherwell, Mid-Cheshire College SU
Speech Against: – Martin Olearym, Lambeth College SU

Parts: remove CR5
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Hunein Shiwani, U Nottingham SU
Speech against: Peter Kennedy, Mid-Kent SU
Vote: FALLS

Summation: Staffordshire University SU – Vic Casambros, U Staffordshire SU
Vote: PASSED

PM: remit undiscussed motions to NEC
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Bangor University
Speech against: Cardiff University
Vote: PASSED

PM: C – suspend standing orders to make statement about post-study work
Vote to hear case: PASSED

ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

VP (HE): **Rachel Wenstone elected**
VP (Soc/Cit): **Dannie Grufferty re-elected**
VP (Welfare) **Pete Mercer re-elected**

Statement: Dushyant Kanungo, U West of England Union

400 | Society and Citizenship proposals

PM bring 407 forward
Vote to hear case: FELL

Policy Recommendations
Recommendation No: 401
Policy Area: Access and Citizenship in the Community
Submitted by: Society and Citizenship Zone Committee
Introduction: James Heywood, Goldsmiths U SU
Speech Against: none
Summation: waived
Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 402
Policy Area: Defend the Right to Protest
Submitted by: Society and Citizenship Zone Committee
Introduction: Jo Johnson, Leeds Met

Amendment: 402a
DELETE and Replace amendment
Submitted by: Essex University SU University SU, University SU, Kings College SU, Royal Holloway SU, QMSU, Liverpool Guild

Speech For: waived to James Woodcock, Goldsmiths U SU
Speech Against: Philip Chartell, Sussex U SU

Parts: delete CR9
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Tom Follett, Leeds U Union
Speech against: Michael Chessum, NEC
Vote: FALLS – parts move to substantive

Summation: waived to Mark Bergfeld, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 402b
DELETE and Replace amendment. This deletes CB 8 and CB9, CR1 and CR 3

Submitted by: Oxford University SU
Speech For: Sean Robinson, Oxford U SU
Speech Against: Charlotte Nichols, Liverpool Guild

Call for extra round of speeches - denied
Summation: Sean Robinson, Oxford U SU
VOTE: FALLS

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: Lekan Adebajo, Nottingham Trent SU

Request for extra round of speeches – vote passed

Speech for: Reni Eddo-Lodge, UCLan SU
Speech against: Chris Allen, UWE SU
Summation: Estelle Hart, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Guillotine falls

PM: remit remaining motions to NEC
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Dannie Grufferty, NEC
Speech against: Bruce Rothberg, Leeds UU
Vote: FALLS

Chair's ruling: not enough clarity about implications of motion – hold a revote
Vote to hear case: PASSED

Speech for: Jake Kitchener, Sheffield Hallam
Speech against: Liam Bromley, U Brighton SU
Vote: PASSED

Revote on procedural motion: passed

Zone | AGM

AGM opened 19.15

Nominations Committee Report – Liam Burns, NEC

Mike Alcock recommended
Speech against: Sean Rillo Raczka, Birkbeck SU
Mike Alcock APPOINTED for 3 years

Dianne Nelmes recommended
Speech against: Rosie Huzzard, Sheffield College
Dianne Nelmes APPOINTED for 3 years

Alistair Wilson recommended
Speech against: Mike Williamson, Edinburgh U SA
Speech for: Gerard Tully, Cambridge University SU
Speech against: Charlotte Nichols, Liverpool Guild
Alistair Wilson APPOINTED for 2 years

Honor Cohen recommended as Chief Returning Officer
Speech against: Joe Armer, York College SU
Honor Cohen APPOINTED for 2 years

Committee Report: ACCEPTED

Guillotine falls on AGM 20.04

Thursday Morning open 9.13

Nations Reports
NUS Scotland – Kelley Temple
NUS-USI Report – Adrienne Peltz
NUS Wales – Luke Young

Statements
Lucy Drummond – Stirling – Safe Space policy

NEC Report – Liam Burns
Committee Report: ACCEPTED

Accounts and Estimates – Liam Burns
NUS Accounts and Estimates were ACCEPTED

Trustee Report – Liam Burns
Committee Report: ACCEPTED

Block of 15 Elections

Chief Returning Officer Report – Honor Cohen
Committee Report: ACCEPTED

DPC Report – Steven Findlay
Committee Report: ACCEPTED

Statements on Whooping and mature students
Robyn Brockie, Leeds Uni

Statement on last nights re-vote
Ed Bending, Brighton SU

Statement on International students
Dennis Esch, International students committee

Statement on referring motions to NEC
Aaron Kiely

Statement Spotify
Liam Burns, National President

Statement President's Advert
Sean Rillo-R

PM 709 up the agenda
For: Samir Kahnik- Higgins, Kings College
Against: Steven Findlay, DPC
Vote: FALLS

Motion to hear a statement
Not two-thirds

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PM to make a statement – safe space
Jess McDonald,

Statement candidate's election speeches
Georgina Laming, Southampton Solent

700 | AGM Policy

Recommendation No: 701
Policy Area: Rules Changes
Submitted by: Democratic Procedures Committee
Introduction: Yemi Makinde, Democratic Procedures Committee -
Amendment: 701a
ADD AMENDMENT
Submitted by: Birkbeck College SU
Speech For: Sean RR, Birkbeck College SU
Speech Against: Steven Findlay, DPC

Parts CR 2, 3, 4
For: Josh Rowlands, NEC
Against: Mark Bergfeld, NEC
Parts deleted

Summation: Birkbeck College SU
Vote: PASSED

Amendment: 701b
ADD AMENDMENT.
Submitted by: Canterbury College SU
Speech For: Josh Rowlands, Canterbury College SU
Speech Against: Steven Findlay, DPC
Speech For: Burkina Burnani, Sheffield Hallam
Speech against: Gary Obrien, Brunel
Summation: Josh Rowlands, NEC

Parts all resolves except CR1
For: David Howells, Bath SU
Against: Sean, Oxford Uni

Parts move to main motion
Vote: PASSED

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: Simon Furse, Birmingham
Summation: Josh Rowlands, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Statement On Moving motion 705 up order paper
For: Estelle Hart, NEC
Against: Rustam Majainah, RHUL
Vote: FALLS

Recommendation No: 702
Policy Area: Zones and the Guillotine
Submitted by: Democratic Procedures Committee
Introduction: Mark Foster, Democratic Procedures Committee

Amendment: 702a
Deletes CR2
Submitted by: Birkbeck College SU
Speech For: waived to free Alan Borgarz, Herts
Speech Against: Steven Findlay, DPC
Summation: Sean RR, Birkbeck College SU
Vote: FALLS

Back to the main motion
Speech Against: Matthew Mccaffrey, Bedfordshire Uni
Summation: None
Vote: PASSED

Recommendation No: 703
Policy Area: Administration of elections at politically autonomous events
Submitted by: Democratic Procedures Committee
Introduction Speech: Dan Pendergast, Solent
Speech Against: Kanja Sesay, NEC
Summation: Estelle Hart, NEC
Vote: PASSED

Motion No: 704
Policy Area: Password protection a barrier to a layer of untapped talent!
Submitted by: NUS LGBT Committee
Introduction: Jack Matthews, Oxford Uni

Speech Against: -
Summation: None
Vote: PASSED

PM question as specified by now put on all remaining motions
For: Rustam Majainah
Against: Stephen Donnelly, EUSA
Vote: FALLS

Guillotine falls

Objections to policy lapse: Carnage

For: Thomas Renhard, UWE
Against: Jack Kitchen, Hallam
Policy LAPSES

Student employment
For: Aaron Steers, Surrey
Against: Chris Hallan, UWE
Policy LAPSES

PG study
For: Aaron Steers, Surrey
Against: Michael Chessum, NEC
Policy LAPSES

Elections – DPC

Constitutional Ratifications

Incorporation

Conference Believes

1. Incorporation is the creation of a legal vehicle that limits liability and can offer tax benefits.
2. Annual Conference 2008 passed a motion that NUS should consider incorporation as a charitable company limited by guarantee.
3. Annual Conference 2009 was informed that a sole charitable vehicle could limit campaigning ability.
4. At National Conference 2010 the NEC submitted 'How the National Unions will Deliver Surfing the Wave' that proposed that NUS incorporate and that a charity was created.
5. National Conference 2010 approved the principle of NUS incorporating and the creation of a separate charity to maximise funding opportunities and tax benefits in.
6. That this motion comes after 3 years of discussion and approval at NUS sovereign bodies, the Board and the NEC.
7. The Constitution includes clause "9.25 incorporate and transfer all its assets to a limited liability legal entity". This allows incorporation.
8. That many major national campaigning organisations including Oxfam, the refugee council and the Red Cross are companies.
9. That incorporation requires a number of technical and legal changes to its governing documents to align in with company law.
10. To use this opportunity to clear up formatting errors in the governing document.
11. That the text in the resolutions in [brackets] explains the reasons for the resolution and is not part of the text to be passed.

Conference resolves

1. For NUS to incorporate as a company limited by guarantee without shares.
2. For the members of the company to be every students' union in membership where they themselves are incorporated and a designated member of every students' union (usually the president) where they are not incorporated. This is the same principle as NUS Services.
3. That the purpose of company meetings will be the ratification of changes to the governing documents approved by National Conference.
4. To make a number of insertions & alterations into the articles of governance to ensure compliance with Companies House as follows.
 5. To **rename** the "Articles of Governance of the National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (an Unincorporated organisation)" to "**Articles of Association of National Union of Students (United Kingdom)**"
 6. **To rename "4. Aims and objects" simply "4. Objects"**
 7. **Delete** Clause 9.25 as the organisation will be incorporated it will not need a clause to do so.
 8. To **add** "10.8 An Officer, Committee Member or Trustee may receive payment under an indemnity from the National Union in accordance with the indemnity provisions set out at Article 114"
 9. [To deal with who is the membership of NUS during transition period between passing the incorporation and incorporating] to **replace** Section 12 with
 12. Until and including the Effective Date the Members of the National Union shall be the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association of the National Union. Thereafter, the Members of the National Union shall be as follows:
 - 12.1 Constituent Members;
 - 12.2 Individual Members;
 - 12.3 Student Organisations in Association, Partner Organisations in Association, Individuals in Association and NUS Areas (together the "Associate Members"); and
 - 12.4 Honorary Members.
 - 12.5 The Constituent Members are the Company Law Members of the National Union for the purposes of the Companies Acts. The Individual Members, Associate Members and Honorary Members are not Company Law Members.
10. to **replace** section 13 with:
 13. Members' details (other than Individual Members) shall be entered in a register of Members. These details shall include, where relevant, details of the nominated representative which is a Member of the Union on behalf of an unincorporated Constituent Member under Article 15.1
11. to **add** to section 15:
 - 15.1 An organisation admitted to Constituent Membership which is unincorporated shall be a member through the person of its nominated representative from time to time. Every such organisation must notify the National Union in writing of the name of its nominated representative and may, subject to the right of the National Conference or the National Executive Council to decline to accept any person as a member, replace such nominated representative at any time by giving notice to the Union. The membership rights may be exercised by the nominated representative or by the organisation which she represents.
 - 15.2 An organisation admitted to Constituent Membership which is an incorporated body ("a Corporate Member") may by resolution of its directors or other governing body authorise a person or persons to act as its authorised representative or representatives at any meeting of the Union. Evidence of the appointment of the representative must be provided in the form of:
 - 15.2.1 An original or certified copy of the resolution of the directors or other governing body of the Corporate Member;
 - 15.2.2 a letter confirming the appointment of the representative on the letterhead of the Corporate Member signed by a duly authorised individual and submitted with evidence of the authority under which it was signed; or
 - 15.2.3 Such other form as required by DPC

13. to **add** to section 31:

Insolvency of Constituent Members

31.1 A person who is the nominated representative of an unincorporated Constituent Member in accordance with Article 15.1 shall cease to be a Constituent Member if the unincorporated organisation goes into liquidation or has an order made or a resolution passed for its winding up, other than for the purpose of a solvent reconstruction or amalgamation.

31.2 A Constituent Member that is a Corporate Member shall cease to be a Constituent Member if it goes into liquidation other than for the purpose of a solvent reconstruction or amalgamation, has an administrator or a receiver or an administrative receiver appointed over all or any part of its assets, or has an order made or a resolution passed for its winding up.

14. o **replace** Section 71 with:

71. Those persons notified to the Registrar of Companies as the first directors of the National Union, shall be the first Trustees until and including the Effective Date. Thereafter, the Trustees shall be appointed or elected in accordance with these Articles and the Rules and shall be made up of the following persons:

71.1 Not more than five Officer Trustees, of whom one shall be the National President;

71.2 Not more than six Student Trustees; and

71.3 Not more than four Lay Trustees.

15. to **replace** Section 85 with the following:

If the National Executive Committee refers back a report of the work of the Trustee Board in accordance with Article 42, the Trustee Board shall, subject to Article 69, take steps to revise the work and report back at the next National Executive Council Meeting.

16. To **add** to the end of section 101 "as long as such regulations shall not be inconsistent with these Articles or the Rules". This clarifies that the Trustees cannot alter the articles of association without National Conference approval.

17. to **replace** section 102 with the following:

Conflicts of Interest

102. Subject to Article 102.5, whenever an Officer, Committee Member or Trustee has a Personal Interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting, and whenever an Officer, Committee Member or Trustee has an interest in another organisation whose interests are reasonably likely to conflict with those of the National Union in relation to a matter to be discussed at a meeting, she must:

102.1 declare an interest before discussion begins on the matter;

102.2 withdraw from that part of the meeting unless expressly invited to stay;

102.3 in the case of Personal Interests, not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting; and

102.4 in the case of Personal Interests withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter and Article 102 shall apply in particular to any matter that may directly or indirectly relate to the position of an Officer Trustee who is or is to be remunerated by the National Union as an employee of the National Union.

102.5 An Officer, Committee Member or Trustee is entitled to participate in the decision-making process, to be counted in the quorum and to vote in relation to a decision that could result in the Officer, Committee Member or Trustee or any person who is connected with her receiving one of the following benefits:

102.5.1 The payment of premiums in respect of indemnity insurance effected in accordance with Article 9.26;

102.5.2 Payment under the indemnity set out at Article 114; and

102.5.3 Reimbursement of expenses in accordance with Article 10.6.

18. to **replace** section 106 with the following:

106. The Trustees shall comply with the requirements of the Companies Acts as to maintaining a Members' register, keeping financial records, the audit or examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies of annual reports, annual returns and annual statements of account.

106.1 At each annual meeting of the National Conference, the Board of Trustees shall present to the National Conference a statement of account and balance sheet for the financial year ending on the 30th June of the previous year.

19. to **replace** sections 109-112 with the following:

Communications by the National Union

Methods of communication

109. Subject to the Articles and the Companies Acts, any Document or information (including any notice) sent or supplied by the National Union under the Articles or the Companies Acts may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for Documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by the National Union, including without limitation in Hard Copy Form, in Electronic Form, or by making it available on a website.

109.1 A Document or information may only be sent or supplied in Electronic Form or by making it available on a website if the recipient has agreed that it may be sent or supplied in that form or manner or is deemed to have so agreed under the Companies Acts (and has not revoked that agreement).

109.2 Subject to the Articles, any notice or Document to be sent or supplied to a Trustee in connection with the taking of decisions by Trustees may also be sent or supplied by the means which that Trustee has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or Documents for the time being.

Deemed delivery

110. A Member present in person or by proxy or via their authorised representative if a Corporate Member at a meeting of the Members shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and the purposes for which it was called.

110.1 Where any Document or information is sent or supplied by the National Union to the Members:

110.1.1 Where it is sent by post it is deemed to have been received 48 hours (including Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays) after it was posted;

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110.1.2 where it is sent or supplied by Electronic Means, it is deemed to have been received on the same day that it was sent; and

110.1.3 Where it is sent or supplied by means of a website, it is deemed to have been received:

(a) When the material was first made available on the website; or

(b) If later, when the recipient received (or is deemed to have received) notice of the fact that the material was available on the website.

110.2 Subject to the Companies Acts, a Trustee or any other person may agree with the National Union that notices or Documents sent to that person in a particular way are deemed to have been received within a specified time, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

Failed delivery

111. Where any Document or information has been sent or supplied by the National Union by Electronic Means and the National Union receives notice that the message is undeliverable:

111.1 If the Document or information has been sent to a Constituent Member or

Trustee and is notice of a Company Law Meeting of the National Union, the National Union is under no obligation to send a Hard Copy of the Document or information to the Constituent Member's or Trustee's postal address as shown in the National Union's register of members or Trustees, but may in its discretion choose to do so;

111.2 in all other cases, the National Union shall send a Hard Copy of the Document or information to the Member's postal address as shown in the National Union's register of Members (if any), or in the case of a recipient who is not a Member, to the last known postal address for that person (if any); and

111.3 The date of service or delivery of the Documents or information shall be the date on which the original electronic communication was sent, notwithstanding the subsequent sending of Hard Copies.

Exceptions

112. Copies of the National Union's annual accounts and reports need not be sent to a person for whom the National Union does not have a current Address.

112.1 Notices of Company Law Meetings need not be sent to a Constituent Member who does not register an Address with the National Union or who registers only a postal address outside the United Kingdom, or to a Constituent Member for whom the National Union does not have a current Address.

20. To add

Liability of Constituent Members

113. The liability of each Constituent Member is limited to £1, being the amount that each Constituent Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the National Union in the event of its being wound up while it is a Constituent Member or within one year after it ceases to be a Constituent Member, for:

113.1 payment of the National Union's debts and liabilities contracted before it ceases to be a member;

113.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and

113.3 adjustments of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

21. [o delete sections 116 -123 and add:

Secretary

117. A Secretary may be appointed by the Trustees for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and may be removed by them. If there is no Secretary:

117.1 anything authorised or required to be given or sent to, or served on, the National Union by being sent to its Secretary may be given or sent to, or served on, the National Union itself, and if addressed to the Secretary shall be treated as addressed to the National Union; and

117.2 Anything else required or authorised to be done by or to the Secretary of the National Union may be done by or to a Trustee, or a person authorised generally or specifically in that behalf by the Trustees.

22. to add:

Irregularities

118. The proceedings at any meeting or on the taking of any poll or the passing of a written resolution or the making of any decision shall not be invalidated by reason of any accidental informality or irregularity (including any accidental omission to give or any non-receipt of notice) or any want of qualification in any of the persons present or voting or by reason of any business being considered which is not specified in the notice unless a provision of the Companies Acts specifies that such informality, irregularity, want of qualification or lack of specification shall invalidate it.

Exclusion of model articles

119. The relevant model articles for a company limited by guarantee are hereby expressly excluded.

23. To add.

Company Law Meetings

120. The Trustees may call a Company Law Meeting at any time.

121. The Trustees must call a Company Law Meeting if required to do so by the Constituent Members under the Companies Acts.

122. A Company Law Meeting will only be required where the National Union wishes to pass a company law resolution (other than by way of written resolution) in accordance with the Articles and/or the Companies Acts, for example a resolution to amend the Union's Articles of Association.

Calling and holding Company Law Meetings

123. A Company Law Meeting of the National Union shall be called and held in accordance with the Companies Acts, these Articles and the Rules.

Quorum for Company Law Meetings

124. No business (other than the appointment of the chair of the meeting) may be transacted at a general meeting Company Law Meeting unless a quorum is present.

125. The quorum shall be [20%] of the total Constituent Membership (represented in person, via an authorised representative in the case of a Corporate Member or by proxy). (If two or more persons are authorised representatives of the same Corporate Member they

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shall together count as one person for the purposes of this Article).

125. [If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place, or to such day, time and place as the Trustees may determine, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting those present and entitled to vote shall be a quorum.]

Chairing Company Law Meetings

126. The National President or in his or her absence some other member of the National Executive Council [nominated by the Trustees] National President shall preside as chair of every Company Law Meeting.

127. If neither the National President nor any member of the National Executive Council nominated in accordance with Article 126 is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting and willing to act, the Constituent Members present in person, or via their authorised representative if a Corporate Member, or by proxy and entitled to vote must choose one of the Constituent Members or authorised representatives of a Corporate Member present in person to be chair of the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, a proxy holder who is not a Constituent Member or authorised representative of a Corporate Member entitled to vote shall not be entitled to be appointed chair of the meeting.

Voting at Company Law Meetings

128. A resolution put to the vote of a Company Law Meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the Rules.

129. On a vote on a resolution at a meeting on a show of hands, unless a poll is duly demanded, a declaration by the chair of the meeting that the resolution:

129.1 has or has not been passed; or

129.2 passed with a particular majority is conclusive evidence of that fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution. An entry in respect of such a declaration in minutes of the meeting recorded in accordance with Article 103 is also conclusive evidence of that fact without such proof.

Votes on a show of hands

130. On a vote on a resolution which is carried out by a show of hands, the following persons have one vote each:

130.1 Each Constituent Member present in person;

130.2 Each proxy present who has been duly appointed by one or more persons entitled to vote on the resolution; and

130.3 each authorised representative of a Corporate Member present; provided that if a person attending the meeting falls within two or more of the above categories, she is not entitled to cast more than one vote but shall instead have a maximum of one vote.

Votes on a poll

131. On a vote on a resolution which is carried out by a poll, the following persons have one vote each:

131.1 Every Constituent Member present in person;

131.2 Every Constituent Member present by proxy; and

131.3 Every authorised representative of a Corporate Member (subject to Article 132) present.

132. On a vote on a resolution at a meeting which is carried out by a poll, if more than one authorised representative of a Corporate Member purports to vote on behalf of the same Corporate Member:

132.1 If they purport to vote in the same way, they will be treated as having cast one vote between them; and

132.2 If they purport to vote in different ways they are treated as not having voted.

General

133. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the Chair of the meeting shall not be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote he or she may have.

Amendments to resolutions

134. An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a Company Law Meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if:

134.1 notice of the proposed amendment is given to the Union in Writing by a person entitled to vote at the Company Law Meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chair of the meeting may decide); and

134.2 The proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the Chair of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.

135. A special resolution to be proposed at a Company Law Meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if:

135.1 The chair of the meeting proposes the amendment at the Company Law Meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed; and

135.2 The amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.

136. If the chair of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chair's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

Written resolutions

137. The Constituent Members may pass resolutions as written resolutions in accordance with the Companies Acts and the Rules.

24. To define clearly who can interpret the articles of association by **adding**

Interpretation

138. If a question as to the meaning and effect of the Articles or the Rules arises during a meeting of the National Conference or a Company Law Meeting of the National Union, that question shall be decided by the Chair. The decision as to whether or not a question relates to the meaning and effect of the Articles or the Rules shall also be decided by the Chair. Subject to Article 140, the decision of the Chair in both these cases shall be final and shall not be open to challenge.

139. All matters relating to elections including the meaning and effect of any part of the elections Rules shall be decided by the Chief Returning Officer. Whether or not a particular rule is one relating to elections shall be decided by the Chief Returning Officer. In all such matters, the decision of the Chief Returning Officer shall be final and shall not be open to challenge.

140. If there is a dispute as to the interpretation of any part of the Articles or the Rules, the ruling of the President shall be sought. If there is a challenge to the President's ruling, the decision shall be referred to the National Executive Council. If there is a challenge to the National Executive Council's ruling, the decision of the National Conference shall be final.

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25. To define the rules concerning amending the articles by **adding**

Amendments to the Articles

141. The Democratic Procedures Committee shall review these Articles every three years, with effect from the date that these Articles of Association come into effect, and they may review them at more frequent intervals if considered appropriate.

142. An amendment to the Articles shall require the following:

142.1 The circulation by a Constituent Member, the Board of Trustees or the Democratic Procedures Committee of a proposal to amend the Articles to all the Constituent Members (the "Proposal");

142.2 A period of time (as set out in the Rules) during which any amendments to the Proposal may be submitted to the Democratic Procedures Committee;

143.3 A special resolution of the Constituent Members approving the Proposal (and either accepting or rejecting any amendments to the Proposal); and

142.3 A resolution passed at a meeting of the National Conference by a two thirds majority vote approving the Proposal (and either accepting or rejecting any amendments to the Proposal), as long as the resolution to approve the Proposal shall have been circulated by the Democratic Procedures Committee to all the Constituent Members along with the other proposals for that meeting of the National Conference.]; and

142.4 A special resolution of the Constituent Members making the amendments to the Articles that have been approved by resolution of the National Conference in accordance with Article 142.3.

26. To resolve a formatting error in 9.26 by deleting it and **replacing** it with the following 2 clauses

9.26 pay out of the funds of the National Union the cost of any premium in respect of any indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Trustees (or any of them) which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they maybe guilty in relation to the National Union provided that no such insurance shall extend to any claim arising from any liability incurred by the Trustees to pay a fine imposed in criminal proceedings; or a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (however arising); any liability incurred by the Trustees in defending any criminal proceedings in which the Trustees are convicted of an offence arising out

of any fraud or dishonesty, or wilful or reckless misconduct;

9.27 form a charity or charities with identical or similar objects to the National Union and transfer to it or tem assets and liabilities of the National Union;

27. To renumber all sections as required

28. To empower DPC to update the index of definitions as required

29. To add to the index of definitions:

"Company Law Meeting" | a general meeting of the Company Law Members of the Union for the purposes of the Companies Acts;

"Company Law Members" | members of the National Union for the purposes of the Companies Acts;

Union Development Policy

Don't Just Widen Participation – Deepen Participation

Conference Believes

1. If widening participation is about getting students to study further in education, then deepening participation is about getting those students to engage more whilst they are at university or in further education.
2. When we talk about 'widening participation students' we really mean traditionally disengaged students and that we must have different solutions to related problems for pre-arrival and post-arrival.
3. That a variety of different barriers including, but not limited to social, cultural and economic inhibit the engagement of traditionally disengaged students and that it is the duty of students' unions to remove those barriers
4. That students' unions are diverse organisations whose strengths lie in the ability of people of all backgrounds being able to mix, learn and create the environment within which everyone exists. This relationship is not one-way, but that all students from all backgrounds are active contributors.
5. A students' union in further or higher education will be effective if it increases the ability of its members to mix, learn and create their experience within their institutions – this requires strong, inclusive students' unions.
6. Students will respond most positively where they feel able to co-create their environment; this requires a concerted effort to deepen participation in our students' unions; engaging current members more and engaging new members for the first time in a way that allows them to contribute effectively to their experience.
7. Students' unions are engines of social change; deepened participation further increases the opportunity and propensity at which change will occur.
8. Traditionally disengaged students will have markedly different experiences depending on their university, college and students' union experience and will need different support once they have made the decision to stay in education; we need to have a better understanding of some of the unique challenges that are faced and awareness of the diversity of needs, and cultures of these students.
9. There is a demand from the membership for NUS to provide examples of best practice in deepening participation.
10. No student should feel as though they have to change to be involved with their Students' Union.
11. For some student officer roles (e.g. womens officer), the corresponding national officer provides support pack to guide the elected student through the role.
12. These packs are currently only provided by individual national officers but we would like to see this being rolled out to all student officers, including sabbatical roles.
13. Not only that, the current support packs are not advertised well and when someone requests one they are asked what out of it they would like, which is difficult to respond to if you do not know what is available.
14. NUS hasn't been effective in engage average students in the students movement besides the NUS Extra Discount card.
15. Lots of innovative IT platforms have become available to better engage students who are traditionally less engaged with students union
16. Massively Multiplayer Online Computer Games (MMOG) is one of the most interactive virtual platforms in the world. It is widely considered to be the future generation of the internet to allow people to interact virtually with each other globally through the use of Avatars and virtual environments.
17. More than 100 UK universities already have use MMOG, such as Second Life to effectively engage their students in the teaching and learning process in their virtual campus.

Conference Resolves

1. A research project will be undertaken by NUS to explore the impact that higher education has upon the identities and experiences of WP students across the UK, the barriers they faced, and the reasons they continued to study at the institution from a variety of different demographics
2. NUS will support students' unions to work with their parent institutions to have access to detailed demographic information which will allow them to fully understand the profile of their members which will act as a catalyst for focussed work to deepen the participation of all members.
3. NUS will work with students' unions, umbrella organisations and institutions to ensure they are aware of the role they need to play in supporting students' unions
4. NUS will work alongside Students' Unions to ensure they are aware of the benefits that deepening participation will have upon their membership
5. NUS will work with Students' Unions to engage local, national and international businesses in order to secure funding and sponsorship that can be used to remove financial barriers that may prevent students from taking part in services such as societies, sports clubs etc.
6. NUS will take the evidence found through the best practice search and use this to assist a small selection of pilot unions to implement similar changes before rolling out key advice nationally.
7. NUS to commission research into the barriers and assumptions made about engagement in order to see who is involved and why. This research will look at levels of involvement of traditionally disengaged students and will draw upon qualitative and quantitative research to ensure that good practice can be identified wherever it exists. Similarly this research should also look at why people don't get involved in volunteering and other aspects of students' union life.
8. Thus, as part of the support packs being created for all roles an inventory list for each pack should be available to allow individuals to request what they need out of the packs through NUS connect or by contacting their corresponding officer.
9. Expand NUS Directory into "NUS Social Media", link student activists based on interest, backgrounds, nationality etc to better involve in NUS Zones, Liberations, Sections, Nations; empower activists for joint local, regional, national campaigns

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10. Work with NASTA to create an NUS TV Channel, linking all SU TV nationally
 11. Ensure as many NUS events as possible are recorded, live streamed, accessible by 7 million students through NUS TV online Channel.
 12. Encourage all NUS full time officer to do video blogs on a regular basis, to be included into NUS TV online channel.
 13. Create NUS Induction Video, introduce NUS zones, liberations, sections, nations, Block officers etc in May when all officers are elected, and their campaign plan to involve SU officers & students earlier.
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Students' Union Development; More Important Now Than Ever

Conference Believes:

1. There should be a similar method of evaluating the effectiveness of students' unions, which is like the key information sets in universities.
2. There should be mechanisms in place for people to trigger a strategic review of their students' union. This review should be able to be triggered by ordinary students or the university.
3. That the Young Britons Foundation still seek to make the case for the end of automatic membership to students' unions and regularly challenge the legitimacy of students' unions: this is an ideological attack. As unions we should be held accountable by our members and we should deliver for our members; whilst it is appropriate for external organisations to be interested in our work, we are ran by students for students and this principle is inalienable from our core beliefs.
4. At this time, we must stop talking about building stronger links between HE and FE Students' Unions and forge those links now, helping to make the route between involvement in FE and involvement in HE easier by cutting down "barriers" to deepen participation. TO achieve this we must ensure that Further Education Students' Unions have reliable processes and access to NUS, as the majority of NUS members exist in the further education sector.
5. That for this to happen HE has a very valuable role to play in aiding these Students' Unions in developing and building strong links across cities and geographical regions.
6. At the current time, both FE and SSU's (Small and Specialist Unions) feel set apart from the movement due to attitude and funding, amongst other issues.
7. That this will strengthen NUS with a wider amount of participation from FE. This participation will also be of greater impact due to a greater understanding of NUS amongst the Further Education sector.
8. FE and SSU's must be able to work with local HE Unions and the wider sector in order to develop, progress and fulfil their purpose despite occasional problems between institutions and unions.

Conference Resolves:

1. That all HE work that involves bidding for funding, whole or part, from NUS must be done in conjunction with at least one FE Students' Union and if possible a small and specialist Union as well. Internal guidance on bidding for funding should be amended to incorporate this and this policy should be enforced rigorously by NUS.
 2. That NUS should invite the Convenor of the National Student Fundraising Association to join the Union Development Zone Committee as a non-voting ex-officio member.
 3. That further education unions should be matched with partner HE unions, where possible, to ensure that where collaboration, partnership and cooperation can occur, it is encouraged and facilitated by NUS
 4. That within twelve months a pilot further education students' union evaluation scheme should be created
 5. That the model constitution for further education unions should be enhanced to ensure that all types of students' union can be incorporated into it; if a single constitution is thereby not possible, a series of model documents should be created.
 6. That there should be a mapping exercise of different types of union in further education to record the diverse range of organisations that exist which should inform the development of unions in future.
 7. That NUS should work to demonstrate the value of students' unions to their members and to the broader public.
 8. That NUS should research the detrimental effect of 'opt-in' membership to students' unions in Australia
 9. That NUS should support students' unions to survive and challenge education and broader public sector cuts.
 10. That NUS will evaluate legal routes which may not relate to becoming charities or remaining unincorporated associations, but looking at alternative options such as becoming a social enterprise in FE.
 11. NUS will record the type, amount and impact of student volunteering in all its forms across the UK in order to create a national picture of what's going on to assist students' unions in demonstrating value, impact and change.
 12. The relationship between SUEI and the intervention work the charity undertakes to help struggling unions must be outlined;
 13. NUS should produce a briefing on 'How to make the argument about the worth of students unions' for students to use with institutions.
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NUS; Developing Students as well as Unions

Conference Believes

1. That NUS is in a unique position to create a step-change in the areas of volunteering, student fundraising, student media, societies and sports clubs.
2. That there should be an NUS Student Skills Strategy, which encompasses the organisations work on employability and skills development looking specifically at the development of students' skills involved in student activities within students' unions. It should also comment on entrepreneurial skills, internationalisation and sustainability and

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outline how NUS will develop student skills work over the next three years.

3. That there should be an NUS Student Development Strategy looking at forming strategic partnerships with other organisations to help enhance NUS' capacity to deliver for students in these areas and outlines how NUS will develop student development groups over the next three years.
4. That there should be an NUS Student Media Strategy which helps develop the work NUS does already with student media groups and professional organisations outlining how NUS will develop students media groups over the next three years.
5. The network student sports clubs provide contribute hugely to access and retention in universities but do so in an ad-hoc and as yet unmeasured way.
6. Researching how sports clubs currently contribute to access and retention, whether consciously or not, and then articulating and rolling out these initiatives so that new ones are created across the UK, would not only widen and deepen access in education, but also provide new funding routes for sports clubs as well as placing them at the centre of key institutional strategies.
7. Colleges often have under developed student activities. Stimulating partnerships so that college students can access university sports clubs, as well as researching new ways for college students to access the additional social and cultural capital that comes from being involved in sports clubs, could be revolutionary in terms of levelling the playing field in access, retention and employability.
8. We as a movement are bringing students together more regularly but rarely in a context of student activities
9. Student activities are not a luxury but are crucial to providing social bonding and social bridging opportunities that enhance students lives
10. The student activities conference at the end of the Union Development zone conference was a successful pilot however was attended mainly by officers

Conference Resolves

1. NUS will work with students' unions to broaden the perspective of employability from a UK perspective to an international perspective, pursuing projects and schemes which further these aims.
2. NUS produce a society toolkit, similar to the course rep toolkit, which will provide resources for societies all around the UK.
3. NUS will work with a range of student-led organisations to provide national awards and recognition for students around the UK.
4. NUS should assist students' unions in the introduction of alumni-mentoring schemes within activities departments to help improve the employability of students
5. NUS will begin to map the work students' unions and universities are doing in relation to employability in order to provide a clear picture of national activity highlighting best practice to others
6. NUS will work to ensure that student volunteering progresses in the UK and work to provide infrastructure support to student-led volunteering within unions.
7. NUS should raise the profile of student activities nationally in the press to assist students' unions in doing the same locally and to open new funding streams as a result through the NUS Student Media Strategy
8. NUS should continue to work with BUCS and Sport England (and equivalent bodies in the nations) on projects to help improve student sport at an elite and participatory level across the UK
9. NUS should target specific employability work at small and specialist students' unions including seeking ways to reduce any administrative burden for those unions
10. NUS should run a national volunteering conference open to all student volunteers and staff members, which profiles opportunities to get involved, debates and training with other expert organisations.
11. Following the Olympic games legacy funding will be available and NUS should create a national student development bursary fund or similar for those students who aren't able to participate in activities because of financial worries. By tracking the retention rates of students involved in activities and sport NUS can once and for all demonstrate the immense value of this activity to students, universities and society.
12. NUS should promote students' union run job shops as a service to members, based on various successful operations around the UK
13. NUS to release guidance on working together in student and staff volunteering and how best to manage that relationship
14. NUS to advocate sharing of services between unions and other organisations in order to increase the ability of students to volunteer and unions to support that activity
15. NUS will increase access and retention of students in colleges and universities by working with students' unions and relevant organisations to research the impact of sports clubs on student retention and access, mapping both current activity and stimulating new initiatives across the UK.
16. NUS will improve access and enhance employability by encouraging partnerships that enable college students to access university sports clubs as well as creating initiatives to revolutionise how college students access student activities that increase access to social and cultural capital.
17. To run an expanded student activities conference where NUS brings together the inspirational volunteers across the student movement who run clubs, societies, RAG committees, media and volunteer projects to share best practises and recognise their contribution

Building a Generation Ready To Shout 'I AM THE CHANGE!'

Conference Believes:

1. There are broadly three types of student-led change that should be addressed, they are; student-led change,

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- students' unions enacting change and change at a national level
2. NUS should facilitate i student-led change whether by recruiting developing and then networking individual students who want to make a difference. NUS should help student activists communicate with one another from around the UK on similar issues or where they can share valuable lessons
 3. NUS should facilitate students' union-led change by helping unions identify their activist base, to constructively challenge them to constantly improve and innovate and to support students' unions to work with existing networks of activists such as anti cuts groups and political societies
 4. NUS should provide student-led leadership by co-ordinating student officers and students' unions who want to see the same change, by embedding and joining up change work in all that we do and encouraging the decentralisation of power from organisations to student-led groups, NUS should take a lead in decentralising influence
 5. It is important that NUS takes a lead in developing a culture of activism across the whole of our movement
 6. Were possible NUS should work with other organisations who have expertise in this field
 7. It is important to join up all of the work which NUS undertakes in developing activists, across the zones, liberation campaigns, sections and nations so that we are all sharing best practice and maximising the number of people being supported to lead change across the movement.
 8. NUS needs to understand the different routes that people take in first getting involved and then making change, for this to happen longitudinal tracking off those who have attended NUS activism events, registered through the 'I am the change' website or have received local training needs to occur
 9. That Active Political Leadership (re-named for the forthcoming event as Lead to Change) is an annual four day event run by NUS in order to train the next intake of sabbatical officers.
 10. FE leadership is the 3 day flagship training event for FE student officers.
 11. That student officers are elected by their constituent student bodies in order to represent their voices and campaign to achieve change on their behalf.
 12. That the vast majority of sabbatical officers are white, straight, non trans, non disabled men and that women, LGBT, black and disabled students are subsequently underrepresented at sabbatical level.
 13. That the vast majority of liberation officers in HE Students' Unions are part-time and unpaid whereas the majority of sabbatical officers are full time and paid.
 14. That in FE institutions, liberation officers are not as likely to be present and student officers have significantly less capacity due to the lack of established autonomous unions, making it more difficult for them to implement liberation activity.
 15. That so far at APL, training relating to NUS' four liberation campaigns (for LGBT, women, black and disabled students) has failed to be a part of the four day program.
 16. The cuts to public services and education are the key issue in British politics
 17. We need to build stronger alliances with the trade union movement in order to implement our strategy around the HE Bill and education cuts

Conference Further Believes:

1. That APL and FE Leadership are invaluable events and should be developed year on year to ensure that sabbatical officers are adequately equipped to lead and represent their constituent students.
2. That part-time liberation officers and society leaders should not be the only students in the union campaigning for the liberation of students.
3. That the liberation and empowerment of students should be at the heart of NUS' work.
4. That sabbatical officers should have a good understanding of liberation issues and an ability to advocate on their behalf regardless of whether or not they belong to the liberation groups as they act as the voice of these students in their Unions.
5. That information and training around the NUS liberation campaigns could and should be incorporated into Lead to Change and FE Leadership this year and in the years to come.

Conference Resolves;

1. Based on the success of student activism 2011, NUS should ensure that in 2012/13 it develops this area to ensure that its delivers a programme of work that involves more people.
2. NUS should fully evaluate the activist partnership funding and roll-out best practice guidance based on the evaluation. It should also fund a similar scheme again in 2012 with more funding being made available directly to student groups.
3. NUS should ensure it maintains the momentum created with the activist training days it has delivered and seek to increase the capacity to be about to deliver more training on a local level.
4. To run a national networking event for people who want to lead the way on activism
5. To run a master-class for student officers aimed at supporting them to develop activism through working with existing activists, such as political societies and anti-cuts groups
6. To provide specific training and support on 'working with activists' for staff in FE Unions
7. For the VP UD to work with officers from across Liberation, Nations and Sections to develop a cross-organisational approach to activist support and development
8. That so far at APL, training relating to NUS' four liberation campaigns (for LGBT, women, black and disabled students) has failed to be a part of the four day program.
9. To mandate the Vice-President for Union Development to work with NUS' liberation officers to devise training that will be incorporated into this year's Lead to Change event and FE leadership.
10. That this training should be revised year on year with subsequent officers to keep it up to date
11. To use the campaign to facilitate the activities of the priority campaign
12. To give student activists training in organising walk-outs, occupations and other tactics of the student's movement

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13. To use the campaign to win students to the work of the trade union movement
14. To explore partnerships with already existing trade unions.

Supporting Small and Specialist Unions

Conference Believes:

1. That any substantial policy referring to small specialist unions is due to lapse after conference 2012.
2. That NUS policy referring to small specialist unions has failed to bare any long term benefits.
3. That there are currently many small and specialist college unions affiliated to the NUS.
4. That these unions have specific needs and requirements due to their typically small budgets, the fact that many do not have sabbatical officers and those that do may operate as the single sabbatical officer with little or no staff support
5. Small specialist Student Unions are under represented in national student politics.
6. That the NUS strategic plan 2012-14 ensures to give value for money.
7. That in 2009 Conference passed policy to support arts and small & specialist unions.
8. That this policy has yet to be enacted and is due to lapse this year.
9. That these unions have specific needs and requirements due to their typically small budgets, the fact that many do not have sabbatical officers and those that do may operate as the single sabbatical officer with little or no staff support.
10. In the current funding climate the right to study niche subjects and the arts in particular are under attack.
11. National communication in the case of smaller unions is lacking significantly. Smaller institutions can often require more resources to achieve similar goals as the larger ones.
12. The national liaison for each institution should be providing regular support to their delegate union whether for a specific campaign or the day-to-day running of the council.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That the special needs of many students' union's from small and specialist colleges are not properly taken into account in much of NUS' policy and training.
2. That this happens because many officers from these unions cannot afford and/or don't find the large summer training events relevant and thus they don't engage in the NUS throughout the year.
3. That NUS fails to properly grant access to officers and activists of these unions, despite the fact that they are eager to engage in, and can contribute to, the NUS.
4. That specialist institutes of higher and further education are vulnerable and require protection from educational cut backs.
5. That the requirements of a small and specialist union are very different to those of larger unions and the National Union need to be able to support them.
6. That the special needs of many students' union's from small and specialist colleges are not properly taken into account in much of NUS' policy and training.
7. That this happens because many officers from these unions cannot afford and/or don't find the large summer training events relevant and thus they don't engage in the NUS throughout the year.
8. That NUS fails to properly promote access to officers and activists of these unions, despite the fact that they are eager to engage in, and can contribute to, the NUS.

Conference Resolves

1. That a sub group of guild HE institutes should be instated to discuss the relationship between specialist institutes and the NUS.
2. That the findings from the sub group should be published in a strategic plan and executed in co-ordination with the VP Union Development.
 1. We propose that a system is put in place for Guild HE unions, where by the national liaisons visit their delegated union at least once a year, at the beginning of the councils' term.
 2. This would include regular contact, be it by phone, letter or email - at least once a month to check on progress.
 3. This should also include providing training for each individual officer at the beginning of their term in the union council, to allow them to fulfil their duties effectively.
3. The national liaison for each institution should be the one to initiate first contact, particularly when the liaison has changed (this includes the new liaison, should their be a change during the term, informs the union to ensure there is not confusion).

Democratic Students' Unions

Conference Believes:

1. Since the opening up of our education to the private sector, organisations that are centred on profit have begun to move into the Higher Education sector.
2. The number of these organisations is only likely to increase.
3. The legal obligations of the Education Act 1994 currently only apply to universities that receive public funding.
4. Students' Unions are an important part of the Higher Education framework and provide an essential protection for

students.

5. Students should be guaranteed access to a democratic and independent students' union
6. The Secretary of State can by virtue s21(1)(f) Education Act 1994 designate private providers of Higher Education as obliged to comply with ss20-22 Education 1994, thereby requiring them to meet the same standards as public universities.
7. That students studying at UK institutions abroad should not be regarded as cash cows
8. That, whilst in principle we oppose the concept of the private university, in practise students who study at private institutions deserve strong, self-organised, independent student representation
9. That every student deserves representation regardless of where they study
10. That the 1994 Education Act does not clarify if students' union membership applies to students studying at private UK institutions abroad
11. That a significant number of UK higher education institutions either already have or are moving towards opening private institutions abroad
12. That many UK led overseas campuses are for profit ventures
13. That the 1994 Education Act recognises every student at a UK higher education institution's right to be as member of a students' union that is recognised by their institution
14. That, due to resources, it will be unlikely that UK based student union sabbatical officers can effectively represent the views of students at their institution based in an entirely different country
15. In a time where public money is being withdrawn from our public universities, public money should never be diverted to loans for private provision.
16. Students should always be partners in knowledge creation.
17. That NUS should seek to represent every learner in the UK.

Conference Resolves:

1. To lobby the government to apply this designation to private HE providers.
2. To consider and investigate the use of judicial review as a tool for ensuring this change.
3. That member unions should lobby their local MPs to write to the Secretary of State requesting this statutory instrument be ordered.
4. To lobby the government for the same students' union recognition under the law for students at private UK universities abroad as the students studying at the UK campus equivalent
5. To provide student unions with support for winning the arguments for students' unions who are putting forward the case for overseas student representation to their institutions
6. To provide support for students unions facing challenges in developing strategy for student representation in overseas campuses
7. To work with the International Union of Students on this issue
8. To support students and students' unions in private providers of education (where the providers already exist).
9. To help SUs in private providers to affiliate to the NUS.
10. That no Students' union should be ever be denied affiliation to NUS because it may be part of a private institution
11. 1. To campaign for SU democracy including:
 - a. A constant flow of easily accessible information to members (minutes, public reports from senior staff as well as elected officers etc);
 - b. Regular, well-built General Meetings; when SU councils exist they should be open to all to attend, speak and put motions;
 - c. Important decisions should be made by students and their elected representatives.

Prioritise Further Education Students Unions

Conference Believes:

1. The largest membership in NUS are FE colleges students unions, however, most of them are under-funded, under-staffed, under-developed, need a lot more support from NUS
2. With the 9000 pound fee, more and more HE courses will be delivered in a local college. More need to be done to support HE students study in FE colleges.
3. Lots of mergers of colleges have taken place or are planned in many different parts of the UK, such as in Scotland, Wales etc. More dedicated support is needed to help those students unions to address those challenges
4. There is no reserved place for FE representation in NUS International Students Section, NUS Postgraduate Students Section, NUS Mature Students Section etc.
5. There is no national guidance on better finance strategy for strong and effective FE students unions

Conference Resolves:

1. Mandate NUS to prioritise FE representation and engagement in the forthcoming NUS Governance Review, to ensure effective FE representation across all NUS Nations, Liberations Campaigns, Sections and Zones
2. Mandate NUS to prioritise FE in the 2013 NUS Estimate and Budget Allocation through creating a separate funding bid to encourage collaborative work between NUS FE zone and all NUS Nations, Liberations, Sections and Zones
3. Mandate NUS to work with Association of Colleges and other relevant sector organizations to create funding to engage more collaborative work between FE and HE student unions.
4. More dedicated NUS support to any FE college going through mergers.
5. Lobby for a reserved place for FE representation in NUS International Students Section, NUS Mature and Part Time Students Section.
6. Mandate NUS VP FE and NUS VP Union Development to collaborate and develop a Project on "Financing FE

- Student Unions". Identifying key financial issues of FE students unions and new income opportunities.
7. Explore the opportunity to develop a long term plan to campaign for legislation guaranteeing autonomous FE students Union
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Right to Protest on Campus

Conference Believes:

1. That the right to peacefully protest is a human right.
2. That the term 'protest' encompasses a myriad of activities and any attempt to give a definition to 'protest' is impossible.
3. That any action by a University or Students' Union to create a list of protocol to determine what protesting is allowed is therefore pointless.

Conference Further Believes:

1. This year has seen a worrying trend of universities attempting to crack down on peaceful protest on campus with legal actions.
2. That this legal action or blanket policies banning 'protest' taken against peaceful protesting on campus by Universities is a disproportionate reaction.

Conference Resolves:

1. To condemn any legal action a University takes against their students who want to peacefully campaign or protest on campus.
 2. For NUS to provide a clear toolkit and training for SUs to work positively with their institution in order to effectively defend students' basic rights to peacefully campaign and protest.
 3. To provide a good practice guide and training in order for SUs to work with students wanting to peacefully protest and against legal sanctions wanting to suppress these peaceful protests.
 4. To provide SUs with free legal advice in emergencies when they are faced with injunctions, orders or other legal actions against peacefully protesting by a University.
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Education Policy

Keeping Colleges in check

Conference Believes:

1. There is inconsistent practice across the sector regarding the appointment of student governors and many colleges do not fulfil the requirement to have them elected
2. It must be compulsory for all further education providers to have at least two elected student governors on their governing body. This should include sixth form colleges, general further education colleges, academies, university technical colleges and private providers
3. Student governors should have access to quality training and support programmes
4. The decision by Ofsted to remove the restricting grades for safeguarding and equality & diversity sends out a message to the sector that these areas are no longer of as great importance to the government
5. A lack of emphasis around extra curricular activities in Ofsted inspections, alongside a cut in funding for these activities sends a clear message to colleges that these are not priorities for the government
6. It is not acceptable for any colleges to be able to go uninspected for extended periods of time, regardless of whether they were judged outstanding or good at their most recent inspection
7. Colleges should be inspected regularly on all aspects of their work and quality of their provision, not just around teaching and learning, and when measuring outcomes for learners, Ofsted should be aware of the scope of these outcomes, from preparing young people and vulnerable adults for independent living, to progression into higher education or employment
8. There should be greater provision for informal "formative" inspection of the further education sector, including spontaneous "spot checks" by Ofsted and peer review and mentoring programmes
9. The further education sector should have an independent complaints and appeals procedure outside of internal institutional structures.
10. There is currently no nationally benchmarked satisfaction survey for 16-19 students in the UK

Conference Resolves

1. To lobby the government, sector agencies and providers to extend the NUS/LSIS Student Governor Support Programme to all providers across the UK – The NUS further education zone should support NUS Wales, NUS Scotland and NUS-USI to roll out this programme across the nations
2. To lobby the government to reinstate the compulsory requirement for all further education providers to carry out the Learner Satisfaction Survey
3. To produce a range of resources to support effective class rep systems, with support and advice at a local, regional and national level to facilitate effective scrutiny of quality teaching and learning provision
4. To lobby the government for a national complaints ombudsman for the entire further education sector, including work based learning providers and private providers
5. To produce and disseminate best practice provision around local complaints systems for further education providers

Postgraduate Funding and Support

Conference believes:

1. That the government's promise to monitor access to postgraduate courses is too little too late when the repercussions of the undergraduate fee hike and cuts to the teaching grant are clear.
2. That upfront fees for postgraduate taught courses are a contradiction of the principles of equality of opportunity in access to education.
3. That financial support and information for postgraduate taught courses is insufficient and inaccessible and that there is not enough information on how this affects access for underrepresented groups and those groups with more complex financial support needs.
4. That funding councils should fund research wherever excellence is found, whether it is large, research intensive institutions, an early stage researcher or a small and specialist institution with a small research portfolio.
5. Postgraduate study is a public good, enabling individuals to develop intellectually to their fullest capacity and supporting pathways to the professions and to research careers.
6. Access to postgraduate study should be determined by ability, not ability to pay. Currently well-qualified individuals are not able to access postgraduate study.
7. Postgraduate knowledge and skills benefit wider civic society; the UK needs more home postgraduates and should be prepared to invest to achieve this.
8. Universities currently focus recruitment tactics on international postgraduates, knowing that the UK market holds limited opportunities for growth.
9. Funding is not the determinant of fair access to postgraduate study; it is the precondition for determining how and why different groups participate.
10. Current information suggests that postgraduates are not representative of the wider student population in terms of socio-economic class, gender, disability or ethnicity.
11. Funding and provision of generic information, advice and guidance are only the beginning of the ways in which we can think about widening participation in postgraduate study.
12. Postgraduates at some Higher Education institutions are required to pay an application fee to apply for a taught postgraduate degree. This measure is in place in order to control numbers to reduce staff administration costs.
13. That an application fee is not an effective way of controlling postgraduate application numbers.

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14. The fee will deter some students from applying who are academically capable but do not have the ability to pay.
15. This will lead to a market of uncapped application fees with institutions benchmarking themselves against their competitors.
16. A higher application fee will be misconstrued as a mark of quality.
17. WP should not end at the undergraduate level; we need fair and equal access and support to postgraduate study.
18. Career Development Loans (commercial loans) are not sustainable, damage access to postgraduate study and are unfair to students.
19. Commercial loans are dangerous, with high interest rates and strict pay-back periods, and can leave students in poverty.
20. PGT fees have risen three-fold in many universities since lifting the undergraduate cap in 2010.
21. That public funding for postgraduate teaching is under threat.
22. Public funding has been dramatically reduced for post-graduate teaching.
23. Postgraduate study is a social good. Attacks on access to it are detrimental to teaching, research and society as a whole.
24. That research council funding and PGR students' stipends have been frozen, resulting in significant real-terms cuts which are set to continue for a number of years.
25. That this is forcing PGR students to rely on private funding, juggle jobs they do not have time for, or even preventing them from studying in the first place.
26. That many PGR students do not even have studentships and are supporting themselves and paying fees while working for free on research that benefits society.

Conference Further Believes

1. That in order for the campaign against postgraduate fees to be successful in the medium to long term, it must be linked to a wider fight against fees and cuts, with clear aims.
2. We need a principled vision for PG funding around which we can unite the sector, as well as a set of interim measures. The existence of alternative funding models, for instance the Blueprint, has not always led to campaigning success.
3. That education is a social good: postgraduate education, like all education, should be funded by progressive taxation – not by forcing students to take on massive private debts, or cutting university places.
4. That cuts to PGR stipends are an attack on students and research.
5. That attacks on PGR students, who are often teachers, are attacks on teaching quality as well
6. That this area is an untapped opportunity for NUS and students' unions to work with the UCU

Conference resolves:

1. To develop an alternative funding model for all types of postgraduate course.
2. To lobby for better information, advice and guidance about the costs and financial support available for all types of postgraduate course.
3. To campaign for more Career Development Loans with lower interest rates and longer initial repayment start times.
4. To provide support and advice to students' unions who wish to campaign for increased institutional financial support for postgraduates and against further rises in tuition fees.
5. To work with relevant sector bodies to build a strong argument against the concentration of research funding and principles for funding research excellence wherever it is found.
6. To ensure that NUS participates in future consultations on research funding, arguing against its concentration and to provide guidance to students' unions about these arguments.
7. To campaign for increased opportunities for early stage researchers in funding allocation.
8. To develop principles around what good research-led teaching looks like and support unions to engage with this topic.
9. To articulate the case for public investment in postgraduate study.
10. To campaign for the development of a national strategy to widen participation to postgraduate study, adopting a student lifecycle approach including a national admissions process, development of best practice in postgraduate outreach, a significantly better understanding of equality and diversity issues at postgraduate level and support for postgraduate integration, retention and success.
11. To integrate postgraduate student engagement into the wider student engagement work of NUS and ensure that postgraduates are never overlooked in questions of representation and engagement.
12. To campaign for more, better and tailored information, advice and guidance from institutions so that prospective postgraduates are able to make genuinely informed decisions.
13. To gather information about where and how postgraduate students from underrepresented groups experience barriers and exclusions, and to act to tackle these.
14. To lobby Higher Education institutions to remove their postgraduate application fees.
15. To work with institutions that have problems processing applications to find a solution that doesn't require an application fee.
16. To develop and lobby for an alternative funding model for postgraduate taught courses that is low cost, fair and accessible to all those that want to access postgraduate study
17. That Commercial Development Loans, like all commercial loans, should never be pursued as a credible route to fund postgraduate education.
18. To fight for the abolishment of hidden course costs in PG study.
19. To lobby for regulations and limits for postgraduate fees.
20. To call for fully-funded postgraduate degrees and living grants open to graduates
21. To commit to campaigning around the following principles for PGT funding:
22. In the meantime, NUS will campaign to minimise the injustices of the present system, by calling for regulation of

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masters fees and an income-contingent loans and bursaries system – to cover full fees and living costs.

23. On a local level, universities should not rip off postgrads to cross-subsidise rather than speaking out against cuts; and transparency about where postgraduate fees are being spent, and how much postgraduate courses cost
 24. To launch a campaign, alongside UCU, to defend PGR students and their working and learning conditions.
 25. To launch a campaign encouraging all eligible postgraduates to join UCU
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Offender Learning

Conference believes:

1. education is a fundamental right, even for those in prison or on probation
2. those in prison and on probation should be given access to a full spectrum of learning choices, including 'academic' courses
3. little is understood about the wider benefits of learning for offenders outside of employability outcomes
4. the focus upon employability outcomes may detract from a focus upon the quality of education provision for offenders
5. further education can and should exist for its own sake, regardless of employability outcomes

Conference resolves:

1. NUS should work with sector partners to commission or conduct research into the experiences of education for offenders
 2. This research should place particular emphasis upon offenders' experiences of the quality and range of provision on offer, as well as access to provision
 3. To oppose the Government's plan to prioritise vocational and employability skills over other areas of prison education.
 4. To lobby the Government to provide a broad range of academic courses in prisons.
 5. To lobby the Government to drop their proposed reforms or ensure that more difficult rehabilitation cases will not be overlooked.
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The Public Role of Higher Education

Conference believes:

1. That the social return on investment is just as important to society as the financial one.
2. That the removal of public funding to arts and humanities courses is wrong and ignores the contribution that these disciplines make to the betterment of our communities- both locally and globally.
3. That whilst there are a variety of organisations and groups that are working to bring these issues to the public attention, there should be a national co-ordination of the campaign.
4. That the removal of the teaching grant for arts and humanities subjects could have a detrimental impact upon specialist institutions or those institutions with a substantial recruitment population within those subject areas.
5. The current government is attempting to commercialise Higher Education and force a market in the sector, ignoring the inherent public benefit of education.
6. Education is a social leveller, and access to education has a transformational potential for individuals and communities.
7. to effectively communicate the role of education we need to be part of a broad coalition with trade unions across the education sector, including the NUT, NASUWT, ATL, NAHT and UCU

Conference resolves:

1. To bring together a national coalition of relevant organisations, such as Arts Emergency, to campaign to reassert the public role of all higher education and ensure that adequate funding for HEFCE is reinstated and protected from future cuts.
 2. To undertake research into the social and economic impact higher education, including arts and humanities, have on local communities and wider society.
 3. To provide training and support for unions and institutions to run their own campaigns, working with local community projects to promote the value of higher education in their local areas.
 4. To fight to win public guarantees from all political parties to reinvest funding into HE.
 5. To empower students to take action locally in their HEIs
 6. Develop a compact for education with trade unions from across the education sector agreeing how collectively our members can effectively advocate the value of education to society
 7. provide resources for student unions to develop local partnerships with education trade unions
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Free Education

Conference Believes

1. Further education is a basic human right that is required to be able to gain employment, or even to live independently in the UK
2. The benefit of further education to the individual is far outweighed by the benefit to wider society

3. The introduction of a loans system in further education for over 24s studying at level three and above is damaging, particularly when coupled with a system which allows for uncapped fees.
4. Where fees are to be charged in further education, NUS advocates that a loans system is available
5. Removing the entitlement to a free first level three for over 24s is discrimination against those in this age bracket, who are much more likely to be from disadvantaged, debt averse backgrounds.
6. It is not acceptable to penalise adults by placing an arbitrary age limit on their access to free education
7. Arbitrary age limits on access to further education are exacerbated, if not caused, by discrepancies between the two further education funding bodies
8. Everyone should be entitled to free education up to full level three, at least for the first time, regardless of their age or previous access to education
9. "Free education", should be exactly that, without hidden costs, including those for transport, equipment, mandatory trips or examinations
10. Access to education and success for young people often relies not on their ability, or their ability to pay, but the willingness of their parents or families to support them
11. Further education should be funded by progressive taxation in the same way as other public services
12. The idea that some students should pay for further education whilst studying alongside others who are receiving the same course for free perpetuates the idea that one persons education is more important than others' because they are consumers
13. Further education should be completely free at every level, with the abolition of all fees
14. EMA helped working class pupils to continue in education and avoid dropping out.
15. Young people who were receiving EMA were more likely than other groups of young people to be making a contribution to housekeeping costs, transport and books and equipment for school.
16. Many of those interviewed in the Guardian/LSE study 'Reading the Riots' were either in FE or names the scrapping of EMA as one of the reasons for rioting.

Conference resolves:

1. the NUS Further Education Zone will continue to campaign against the introduction of a fees and loan system in further education
2. The NUS Further Education Zone will research the average cost of gaining basic qualifications for further education students
3. NUS will lobby for one funding body for the entire further education sector, including apprenticeships, work based learning and adults, and for planning to lie within one government department
4. NUS will lobby for the reinstatement of entitlements to free first level 2 and 3 qualifications for all, regardless of their employment status
5. To use the results of research into hidden course costs in further education to lobby colleges to be upfront about any "hidden costs" involved in any of their programmes, and to remove these wherever possible
6. To launch a bold new FE campaign demanding:
 - The abolition of all fees;
 - No hidden course costs;
 - A living grant/maintenance allowance for every full-time and appropriate financial support for part-time students;
 - Defend and improve the pay and conditions of workers in FE;
 - Stop the cuts to courses, departments and jobs: tax and business the rich to fund education.
7. To call for the immediate re-instatement of EMA.
8. To call a national day of walk-outs over EMA in the first term of 2012-13 and do everything possible to help FE students to mobilise.
9. To publish the stories of those who have lost EMA and produce a popular booklet for FE students.

Student engagement in teaching excellence

Conference believes:

1. Institutions should clearly demonstrate that excellent teaching is a valuable asset in delivering their strategic aims and objectives.
2. That excellence in teaching should be equally recognised in recruitment and promotion criteria of staff that are required to teach as part of their job description.
3. That, as a rule, all teaching staff should hold a teaching qualification and be provided with adequate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities throughout their careers. Effective CPD should always include developing knowledge and understanding of liberation, equality and diversity issues and ways of including these in the curricula.
4. That students should be involved in the assessment of teaching at every stage, including being on observation/peer review panels and recruitment/progression panels.
5. Including the student view of teaching practice is a core component of student centred learning and mechanisms and skills to achieve this should be included in CPD training.
6. That student feedback is an appropriate and valuable professional development tool for teachers in higher education.
7. That gaps in the feedback loop, miscommunications or misunderstandings about the nature and purpose of feedback can lead to student feedback being misused or misunderstood.
8. Universities can be intimidating places for people who come from different educational backgrounds
9. Students learn in different ways, using a variety of styles
10. The experiences which learners have had before going into university shape which learning styles will suit them

11. There is no right or wrong learning style and all learning styles should be catered for
12. Assessment methods can unfairly penalise those learners who have been away from academic education for a period of time

Conference resolves:

1. To continue to support unions in understanding key aspects of learning and teaching policy through briefings, training, sharing best practice and local support including support for unions to develop an evidence base of what good teaching looks like in their institution.
2. To support students' unions in lobbying their institutions to include teaching excellence in recruitment and progression criteria.
3. To work with students' unions and relevant sector partners to develop good practice and advice on including students at all stages of teaching assessment – including recruitment/progression panels and in observation/peer review panels.
4. That institutions should make publically available information on the proportion of teaching academics that hold teaching qualifications and/or fellowship of the HEA.
5. To work with the Higher Education Academy to provide examples of best practice of including the student view in development and assessment of student centred learning and also in efforts to ensure that good teaching is appropriately supported and rewarded, and that teachers are given sufficient time and support for CPD.
6. To continue the work on liberation, equality and diversity in the curriculum, making recommendations to ensure that relevant and useful training and development is provided for teaching and administrative staff and to assist unions to be able to deliver this training if they wish.
7. To conduct research into how student course feedback is gathered and used, how students' unions can support improvements in the quality of student feedback on teaching and how teachers and institutions can best respond to it.
8. For the VP HE to undertake a piece of research on the unfair impact that a breaks from assessment can have
9. To map which institutions are leading the way in championing alternative learning and assessment styles, and to publish this to reward good behaviour
10. To provide a tool kit for student officers to empower them to work with institutions to bring about change

Lifelong learning

Conference believes:

1. informal adult and community learning (IACL) is a vital stepping stone to community engagement, further education and employment for those who have been out of education, giving people knowledge, skills and confidence
2. our education system should provide equality of access to a high quality education for all learners, regardless of class, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, asylum status or employment status, including a statutory entitlement to learning in the workplace
3. our education system should provide universal access to basic skills, ESOL and ICT courses and a first level three qualification regardless of age
4. our education system should provide learner, teacher and community involvement in all levels of decision-making about their learning wherever it takes place
5. learning is vital for personal wellbeing and development
6. education should provide a path out of poverty and disadvantage including widening participation in higher education and the provision of a second chance later in life
7. universal access to education yields a stable, motivated and rewarded workforce of professional practitioners
8. the consultation on Universal Credit due to take place in 2012 should seek to resolve the barriers to learning resulting from the current benefits system
9. Accessing a course can negatively affect students' applications for benefits such as Disability Living Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance. This creates disincentives to study, even if it would improve an individual's employability in the long run
10. with the introduction of FE student loans to students 24 and over studying at level 2 or 3, older students will either be put off or forced to enter debt to continue their studies. FE Students' Unions will be disproportionately affected by this decision.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS should campaign for universal access to a first full level 2 and level 3 qualification
2. NUS should work with NIACE to create a set of guiding principles on access to informal, adult and community learning (IACL)
3. NUS should use the forthcoming BIS/DWP consultation on Universal Credit to highlight barriers to learning existent within the current benefits system
4. NUS will support the work of FE students' unions to campaign against not only the introduction of FE student fees. This devalues education and should be challenged and lobbied against.

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Access and Admissions

Conference believes:

1. That the current admissions system need to change as it is no longer appropriate for the way higher education operates in the UK.
2. A post qualification admissions system is an effective proposal as an alternative admissions system.
3. That the NSP does not meet its original aims and objectives in anyway and should be radically restructured in order for it to do so.
4. That the use of contextual data is a vital tool in ensuring that those who have the potential from low socioeconomic backgrounds are able to access education and that every institution should have a written policy on how they will use such data in their admissions processes.
5. That students' unions should be given the opportunity by OFFA to submit a commentary on their institution's access agreement.
6. That, as a movement, we need to build up a body of expertise on how widening participation activity should be delivered and how to effectively hold institutions to account on their access agreements. This expertise should go beyond understanding issues around increasing participation from low socio-economic background and include areas such as liberation groups, and other groups that are underrepresented in higher education, such as students from care.
7. Disabled students' issues are crucial within the Widening Participation agenda. For disabled students, higher education may pose a greater risk with lower potential rewards (graduate employment) than non disabled people. Ring fenced bursaries for disabled students are essential in enabling widening participation for disabled people.
8. That students from a WP background have the best appreciation of how to overcome the barriers which the higher education admissions process presents
9. Students Unions have a unique ability to tap into the resource of knowledge and experience which there members hold in this area
10. That peer to peer support is always the best solution
11. That engaging students from a WP background in student union led outreach projects, has a two way benefit, both in supporting the WP agenda, but also because it engages, empowers and champions the achievements of students from a WP background
12. Better access to HE starts in schools.
13. Both HEIs and SUs have a role to play in raising aspirations.
14. A higher education application system based on guesswork is fundamentally unfair
15. The current application system is designed around an outdated elitist model of higher education and is no longer fit for purpose
16. The current application system is based around an outdated idea of an homogenous higher education sector and is designed for progression in to universities but not into other forms of higher education, e.g. apprenticeships
17. The higher education clearing system puts students under unnecessary pressure and promotes snap choices over informed decision making
18. The current UCAS application system assumes a level of institutional support and access to technology that is not always available, particularly for "non-traditional" students
19. Students are being asked to take a gamble on admission to university by paying for the current UCAS application system
20. UCAS should move to a post-qualification application system
21. Applying to an institution after receiving grades still does not guarantee students a place in higher education; the post qualification application system should not limit students to choosing two higher education institutions.
22. Any new higher education application system should not be designed purely for A-level students; students on other qualification pathways have a right to a system that meets their needs.
23. Any change in exam scheduling to accommodate a post-qualification application system should not come at the expense of teaching time.
24. The clearing system also disadvantages students who are less confident at promoting themselves personally as well as those who do not have access to support networks of people who have gone through the process before
25. Student confidence in the operation and scrutiny of exam boards continues to fall
26. A system of competing, private, for-profit exam boards introduces perverse incentives when providers are choosing an exam board, often making value for money more of an incentive than quality
27. Exam boards charging for resources that help students to pass their exams places some students at a disadvantage if they cannot afford to purchase them
28. The clearing system disadvantages some disabled students, who may have to organise support and care packages, or adaptations to accommodation
29. The tertiary education landscape has never been so complicated. In England, the Government reforms have exacerbated a market in both admissions and financial support while simultaneously cutting funding for Aim Higher, Connexions and removing the statutory obligation for Schools to provide guidance provisions. In Scotland, discrepancies in implementing the Scottish Qualification and Credit Framework remain and widening access records are the worst in the UK. In Wales, the proposed merger agenda and recently announced Core and Margin system of numbers allocation will result in a very different higher education landscape. Northern Ireland has the highest levels of drop-outs and cross border flow has collapsed. Funding and financing policies across the UK are now vastly different and likely to diverge further. Information, Advice and Guidance has never been more important.
30. Coming from a family with no history of tertiary education, or studying at a school with little guidance provision, acts as a major barrier to accessing the right types of education for the individual. Cultural capital is key to accessing and navigating different types of learning.
31. While we retain a fundamental opposition to the current tuition fee system, no student should decide not to go to

university on the basis of misunderstanding the repayment system.

32. Successive Governments have failed to provide good contextual advice to prospective students, the sector is complicit in delivering an opaque admissions process and now universities are firmly driven by market/financial imperatives.

Conference Further Believes:

1. "Information" should be provided by agencies that collect relevant data themselves. "Guidance" should be delivered face to face, as early as possible. However students' unions could play a powerful role in offering good contextual "advice" to potential learners.
2. We should create an army of current students and experts willing to offer contextualised advice so that regardless of someone's background, they will be better equipped when making key decisions regarding tertiary education.

Conference resolves:

1. To campaign for, encourage and support a post-results application system.
2. To support unions in lobbying their institutions to develop policies on the use of contextual data in admissions.
3. To work with relevant partners to lobby the government to restructure the NSP, so it can be an effective recruitment and retention tool supporting those students that need it most, rather than a deadweight payment that has no impact on a student's choice of where and if to continue studying.
4. To lobby OFFA and the government to include the opportunity for students' unions to submit a two page commentary of their institution's access agreement at the same time as the access agreement is submitted to OFFA.
5. To create and deliver training and support for students' union officers and staff on critiquing access agreements and holding their institutions to account on their work in this area.
6. To continue work on supporting student led widening participation activity, allowing unions to gain practical knowledge on the challenges and opportunities relating to implementing effective widening participation activity.
7. To work with the Disabled Students' Committee to lobby universities to ring fence at least 10% of bursaries for disabled students who can demonstrate their disability has seriously impacted upon their participation.
8. For the VP HE to work with the VP UD to create a national WP outreach scheme, led by student unions
9. To create a toolkit for student officers which allows them to make the case for SU ownership over WP initiatives on campus
10. To conduct some research into which student unions are currently doing this well, and to tell the rest of the movement about those success stories
11. To help students' unions get input into their HEI's access agreement.
12. To work with the FE campaign on foundation degrees and 'less-conventional' ways into HE.
13. To work with the President and all zones to work on relevant areas of WP activity
14. To support proposals for a post-qualification application system to higher education and actively promote the benefits of such a system to bodies across the sector.
15. To work with UCAS to ensure any new application process takes the needs of all types of students into account, particularly for students on programmes that are not based around the traditional academic year
16. To campaign to protect guided learning hours for further education students, which may be put at risk in the implementation of some post qualification admission models
17. To campaign for a free, accessible higher education application process
18. To campaign for the introduction of a single state-run examination board for all further education qualifications
1. NUS should create a digital platform that demystifies student life and enables current students to support prospective students in deciding what type of learning is best for them, particularly those with no family background of tertiary education.
2. Principles underlying the platform should be:
 1. Advice that recognises the individual, not the sectors own definition of 'best'
 2. Acknowledgement that crude ranking mechanisms are subjective and don't recognise individual students needs
 3. It is not incompatible to explain the new fees regime in England, free of political judgement, while still campaigning for its reversal.
 4. We should seek to work with not-for-profit organisations, free of financial imperatives that may influence advice, ploughing any revenue generated into changing students' lives.

Policy Area: Higher Education Bill

Conference Believes:

1. The Government are legislating to open up the 'HE Market' to private providers. Experience from other countries suggests *for profit* education providers can have a negative effect on the quality of provision and the student experience.
2. A part of the forthcoming HE Bill the Government will seek to make changes to the way in which Information, Advice and Guidance is delivered to students. It is essential that IAG is both useful and meaningful for the user. Advice and guidance is an essential way of contextualising the complex information about higher education.
3. Terms and conditions of student loans are currently so loosely defined that the current package is to easily open to unilateral change.
4. Students are currently not at the heart of the HESystem.
5. The white paper is about making the fees regime work
6. That we are opposed to all private providers in education

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7. That we should highlight the danger that Coalition will introduce their attacks bit by bit without one legislative big bang
8. The focus on lobbying for amendments without providing any vision of how even these limited goals might be achieved is inadequate
9. We have an opportunity for a mass campaign against the Government which can defeat the HE bill
10. It should be the role of the elected leadership to find creative ways to unite and encourage broad opposition, not to demobilise it
11. That the 2010 national demonstration sparked the biggest student protests in Britain for two decades
12. That last November's NCAFC organised national demo was a success, but could have been much bigger with NUS support
13. That to defend public higher education NUS should stand with the campus trade unions, academics, administration staff and university sector

Conference Further Believes

1. That Education institutions should be publicly funded as public bodies
2. That the agenda of the Coalition government is to force an unworkable market in HE
3. That with the squeeze on student numbers and almost universal charging of £9k fees a vacuum has opened up which is being offered to the private sector
4. That education institutions should never be run for profit.
5. That the governments reforms point to an Americanisation of the HE system
6. That institutions like Harvard in the US because they are deemed 'public for profit', dodge billions of tax every year
7. That there is a threat that like the University of Phoenix in the US, institutions will increasingly expand spending on marketing with detriment to teaching and access

Conference Resolves:

1. That the public should never subsidise privately-owned places
2. That we condemn the privatisation and sell-off of our education
3. That we work with allies in the trade union, anti-cuts movement and Kill the NHS Bill movement to raise the profile about the sell-off of our education
4. To campaign for legislation to secure strong restrictions on the sales of assets purchased with public funding.
5. To defend the criteria for taught degree awarding powers based on the strength of academic community and pedagogical effectiveness.
6. To oppose any increases in the outsourcing of teaching activities to third parties.
7. To campaign to secure terms and conditions of student loans in statute.
8. To campaign for comprehensive provision of quality-assured advice and guidance for prospective students to support existing public information.
9. To lobby for the HE Bill to cement the role of students' unions in HE institutions and to campaign for fundamental reform of institutional governance reflecting the students' role not only as powerful partners but ultimately as funders of the system.
10. NUS will support students' unions to campaign for redistribution of power to ensure that they are partners with authority over key strategic decisions and documents.
11. NUS will campaign to ensure that bodies within new regulatory framework put student interests and matters at the forefront of everything that they do.
12. We will make sure that entrance and exit of private providers and others protects students both academically and financially.
13. To campaign against the government's whole HE agenda, including all private providers, and for a public university system.
14. To fully support UCU's initiatives against the White Paper.
15. To organise, as a matter of urgency, a publicity campaign on the implications of the White Paper.
16. To call for Willetts' resignation
17. To demand
 - a. No to the White Paper - for public universities
 - b. Students and workers unite – defend course, department and job
 - c. End student poverty
 - d. Tax the rich to fund education
 - e. To organise a year-long national campaign using mass-mobilising
18. To organise a national demonstration in the first term of 2012-13 against cuts, fees, high interest on student debts and privatisation
19. To call a day of blockades around the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills
20. To support a wide range of actions to defend public education including occupations & walkouts
21. To reaffirm our support for industrial action taken by education workers.

Welfare Policy

The Pound in Your Pocket

Conference believes:

1. Tuition fees are not the only threat to widening participation and adequate student support is a key driver for the access and retention, particularly of the most disadvantaged students.
2. Student support in both HE and FE in England has not risen at all over the past three years, despite sharp rises living costs – and the increase in the maximum maintenance loan available to new students in HE in 2012 only makes up for the value lost over that period.
3. Calculations reveal that, on average, students in HE experience an annual financial shortfall of £8,037, presumably to be made up by parental contributions, savings or income from part-time work.
4. EMA and ALG were vital sources of support for FE learners.
5. Threats to Care to Learn funding and local authority travel subsidy budgets open the most vulnerable students up to even greater barriers to accessing and remaining in education.
6. The loss of these sources of support is already taking effect – there have been significant decreases in college applications in at least 50% of colleges since the abolition of EMA
7. The implementation of the Article 4 Directions in the Private Rented Sector, which gives Local Authorities the power to restrict the number of rented properties in any given area, will inflate rent in typically 'student areas'.
8. In the new access agreements under the National Scholarship Programme (NSP), institutions should opt for forms of income support, i.e. bursaries and/or accommodation discounts, mainly because immediate maintenance support represents much greater value than fee waivers that will both depreciate vastly over time in value, but also not even be realised by a predicted 40% of graduates who will never repay these anyway.
9. The NSP, which was one of the few concessions of the new fee regime, promising students an injection of £300 million a year in student support, has now been undermined by the government's pressure on institutions to adopt fee waivers instead of bursaries, which actually represents a net real-term reduction of the money in students' pockets of roughly £70 million from the old system.
10. That the government and institutions would impoverish students and con them out of the much needed support that they were promised under the reforms, by trying to lessen the financial burden of fee loans on the treasury, is utterly disgraceful.
11. Student support needs to be considered within the wider cuts agenda; against the backdrop of the Coalition's attack on the welfare state; in particular on employment, disability, housing and childcare benefits. The impact of student income support generally - or rather lack of - hits those who are already disproportionately affected by the cuts, i.e. women, disabled, black and LGBT students.
12. Any working system of student support should not rely upon, or consist solely of, merit-based awards systems. They should be based on the needs of students rather than their attainment, and should consider the barriers that parental means testing poses, as well as how this money should be administered.
13. Disabled students should not be excluded from education. Universities and colleges must face up to the serious issues of participation and retention that are holding disabled students back.
14. Now more than ever, NUS must ensure that the Disabled Students Campaign is properly resourced and supported.
15. Disabled students face significant disadvantage within the education system. Compared to the general population, they are more likely to live in low-income households, less likely to have qualifications and have less prospect of getting a job.
16. The government's destructive cuts agenda is hitting disabled students hard, and the potential threat to the Disabled Students Allowance is a cause of widespread concern.

Conference Resolves:

1. To draw together all existing knowledge of the student support landscape and its various components in a comprehensive literature review.
2. To present an alternative vision of how student support should operate that supports those that need it when they need it - across the entire spectrum of post-16 education; from further education through to the post-graduate level.
3. To lobby the Government to increase state investment in student support, making a case against student hardship and student inequality, based upon this alternative vision.
4. To campaign to protect and extend the financial support provided to disabled students. Working with the Higher Education Campaign to lobby universities to ringfence at least 10% of their bursaries for those disabled students whose participation has been seriously affected by their disability.

Conference Believes:

1. That a wide disparity exists across the United Kingdom between the costs of living in the cheapest and most expensive areas of the country.
2. That large increases in the cost of rental and for-purchase accommodation across the United Kingdom over the past two decades have not been matched by an appropriate increase in the basic maintenance loans and grants available to all HE students.
3. That many students pay out their entire student loan/grant each term in rent.
4. That increasing living costs are adding further pressure onto students' personal budgets.
5. That NUS has found an average shortfall in students' personal budgets of above £7,000 nationwide.
6. That the greater number of students are in receipt of income that is very low in comparison with the national income scale and that this income is artificially low due to the reliance upon Government-sanctioned loans and

grants.

7. That there exists a recent trend for young people to rely more and more on financial support from their parents, well into their twenties and even thirties.
8. That international students and certain other demographic groups may find themselves on a yet lower income due to their inability to access UK Government loans and grants, or because of lack of parental support.
9. That students should be entitled to apply for maintenance loans and grants in line with their regional economies.
10. That the London weighting should be available to areas outside London with similar costs of living.
11. That officers of the NUS and its Constituent Members should make the case to Government that living and rental costs necessitate access to loans and grants in line with regional economies.
12. That prices paid by students should more closely reflect average student income than the average income of all residents of the area in which they live and study.
13. That both students and parents should expect less parental contribution (particularly in light of recent international economic difficulties).
14. That the buy-to-let bubble, successive Governments' trend away from social housing and house-building programmes and the on-going economic downturn have led to a crisis in housing provision and cost of accommodation.
15. That student financial support is not sufficient to cover summer vacations.
16. That imminent changes to universities' access agreements will lead to increased financial hardship for many poor students.
17. That a comprehensive solution to the aforementioned problems can be achieved only by attacking these problems from all angles, so as to relieve the need for total success in any one of the following resolutions and that some redundancy in this policy is accepted in pursuance of this article.
18. The basic maintenance loan should adequately support students in full-time education.
19. The current basic maintenance loan is too low for a number of areas of the country.
20. The government should consider loan weighting outside of London.

Conference Resolves:

1. That NUS and its Constituent Members shall directly lobby Government to introduce geographical weighting to student support arrangements with the aim of bringing student income in line with local costs of living.
2. That NUS shall directly lobby its Constituent Members, Government and educational institutions to commit to attaining prices on campuses commensurate with average student income, instead of the average income of working local residents.
3. That NUS shall lobby to obtain access to Housing Benefit for students.
4. That NUS shall lobby to obtain access to Jobseekers' Allowance for students during the summer vacation.
5. That NUS shall move to reduce students' reliance on parental financial contributions.
6. That NUS and its Constituent Members shall lobby local government and universities to provide more housing for students in line with average student incomes.
7. That NUS shall lobby for the introduction of a UK-wide national minimum standard on living space in line with other high-output European economies.
8. NUS to investigate the viability of weighting outside of London so that students in equally expensive cities are properly supported.
9. NUS to promote any positive findings to the government and lobby them to take action on this issue

Localism

Conference believes:

1. The localism agenda offers both an opportunity and a threat on the local and national level.
2. Local health services need to be accessible for all students in the vicinity, and that depending on population size or student need, there may need to be student-specific services.
3. Provision of transport needs to be sufficient to ensure that students are able to attend college, university and extra-curricular activities, assessing the needs of students in a meaningful way.
4. That the commissioning of both policing and health provision needs to have included consultation with students and students' unions.
5. That students' unions need specialised support to enable them to meet the new demand of enhanced local policy making.
6. That one in three students is a victim of crime (NUS Crime and Safety workshop)
7. That one in ten students are victims of hate crime (NUS Crime Survey 2009).
8. That only 8-13% of hate related incidents involving prejudice against a student's sexual orientation were reported to their institution, or the police. (No Place for Hate, 2011).
9. That third party reporting of crime may be a way of supporting hate crime victims and encouraging them to speak up.
10. That students need to have confidence in reporting mechanisms and their local police team to want to use them to report crime.
11. That having a strategic plan for engagement between student unions, local policing teams and institutions ensures student issues are listened to and reacted to.
12. That greater communication between local policing teams and student unions fosters greater understanding and the ability to influence local priorities for those teams.
13. As part of the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011, a new power has been introduced to allow licensing authorities to charge a late night levy for premises that have an alcohol licence.

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14. Many Students' Union's who run commercial bars and other outlets may be affected by this.
15. Some institutions have/are developing partnerships with private providers (such as Unite and Liberty Living)
16. Private provider accommodation prices are much higher than institution prices.
17. There is no pastoral care offered at most private provider accommodation.
18. Institutions have no steer on lengths of contracts and room allocation within private provider accommodation.
19. When building new accommodation, some institutions have to provide a percentage of affordable housing for the local community.
20. Pastoral care and student welfare within student accommodation forms an important part of University life and living.
21. The price of private provider accommodation is too expensive for students.
22. A lack of control over room allocation could lead to segregation of certain groups of students.
23. Student accommodation is affordable housing and students contribute highly to the local community.
24. The dispute process is a vital service for students who find it hard to get their deposits back at the end of their tenancies.
25. Between 2007 and 2011 56.32% of tenants received some or all of their deposit back after going through the dispute process with TDS.
26. Currently government guidelines state that "If you live in university halls, or in a house where everyone is classed as a full-time student for Council Tax purposes, you'll be exempt from paying Council Tax."
27. Currently there is no legal clarity as to whether Postgraduate Research ("PGR") students in their write-up phase are exempt from council tax, although in some areas they are granted brief periods of exemption or discounts.
28. As PGR students are just that, students, they should be eligible for exemption while in the write up stage of their degree.
29. To classify as a student for Council Tax purposes a student must be "enrolled to attend a course of education lasting for at least one academic or calendar year - and which you are normally required to attend ["either at the relevant premises or otherwise"] for at least 24 weeks out of the year and study for, [on average,] at least 21 hours per week during term time."
30. Local Authorities have challenged the interpretation of "...either at the relevant premises or otherwise...", arguing that PGR students in their writing up phase do not originally meet this requirement and as such cannot obtain exemption from council tax during this phase or their studies.
31. As local councils are becoming more and more thinly funded they are beginning to plug holes and become more strict on any local discount arrangements that they have in place, making this problem more widespread for Postgraduate Research students.
32. The Health and Social Care Bill is currently making its way through parliament.
33. It transfers responsibility for public health from NHS to Local Authorities.
34. It will create Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health and Well Being Boards and a National Commissioning Board.
35. Healthwatch England will be launched in October 2012 – a consumer champion for the interests of patients/carers, advising the new CCGs on the shape of services to ensure local needs are taken into account and holding the NHS and Local Authorities to account.
36. GPs will continue to deliver 'contraceptive services' as part of their contract and CASH (contraceptive and sexual health) services will be mandated as part of the Public Health requirements.
37. Brook is the country's largest young people's sexual health charity that exists to promote the sexual health of young people and those most vulnerable to sexual ill health.
38. The diversity of our movement should be celebrated and supported.
39. NUS and many constituent members have made great improvements to meet the needs of disabled students, such as implementing access breaks and introducing disabled students officers and committees.
40. In a recent NUS survey, 8% of disabled students had experienced hate crime and a third were worried about being subject to abuse.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Students' Union's are leading the way with responsible licensing and retailing.
2. Students' Union's put a lot back into their community through civic engagement work.
3. Anecdotal evidence shows that students rarely go through the dispute process when struggling to get their deposit back.
4. The dispute process can be very long winded and complicated for tenants to complete.
5. Students have very different tenancy styles compared to others in the private rented sector.
6. Local Authorities don't have expertise in commissioning sexual health.
7. Under this agenda sexual health will become part of local democracy and is potentially subject to vociferous attack from those who oppose sexual and reproductive rights – more so than at a national level.
8. Young people are unlikely to be a priority for Clinical Commissioning Groups and Healthwatch groups.
9. Young people must be continue to be a priority in sexual health provision and a large majority of the student membership fit into the young people demographic.
10. NUS should use its influence to ensure that students receive adequate sexual health services and that their voices are heard on any local commissioning groups, boards and other mechanisms including HealthWatch.
11. NUS must empower Student Unions to be a part of decision making on local issues that will affect healthcare delivery for students.
12. More must be done to challenge discrimination and prejudice against disabled students, and ensure that our movement is open to all. Our unions must be safe, accessible spaces.

Conference resolves:

1. To produce briefings updating student unions on the changes to local policy development and implementation.

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2. To develop a strategy for how to support unions operating in a post-Article 4 Direction world.
3. To support unions by producing guidance on local authority processes and by identifying a sharing best practice on engaging with local authorities.
4. To lobby ACPO (the Association of Chief Police Officers) to ensure that student unions are engaged with local crime commissioner democratic processes.
5. To produce guidance on how to lobby for a range of local crime initiatives at a local level, for example 'safe havens'.
6. To lobby the Department of Health to ensure that student unions are consulted on changes to local health service provision and that they are engaged with health commissioners so that they can make efforts to inform local service provision.
7. To build on the Get On The Bus campaign to extend the fight against the removal of travel subsidies in FE wherever these cuts are proposed.
8. To work with the Campaign for Better Transport to fight the removal of essential transport services upon which students, both HE and FE, depend upon to get to and from university or college.
9. To ensure that consideration for "non-traditional" students is given when guiding student unions on all local planning and policy, including those with dependents, disabled students, international students, or those that live at home, are in social housing or commute.
1. That the NUS Welfare zone will produce a model student engagement plan that seeks to improve and develop relationships between student unions and local policing teams.
2. That information will be collected on successful third party reporting schemes in student unions and this practise spread if it is found to be useful.
10. That the welfare zone will provide guidance on how to influence and lobby for safer neighbourhood initiatives, and the setting of local police team priorities.
11. For NUS to lobby the government for Students' Unions to receive an exemption or fee reduction on the late night levy
12. NUS to lobby universities to review any contracts with private providers.
13. NUS to research into which institutions have to contribute to affordable housing, looking to lobby the government to recognise the difference between private sector and university accommodation.
14. NUS to run a Unite against Unite campaign to ensure all institutions recognise the important of institutional student accommodation.
15. For NUS to produce a student-friendly guide on the dispute process – how it works and how students can use it to get their deposits back when struggling to do so.
1. For NUS to establish strong working links with Brook in order to lobby for the protection of sexual health services and giving young people a voice within local and national systems and structures.
16. To provide a briefing on the Health and Social Care Bill to Student Unions that will help them understand how it will affect students and actions they can take to ensure they are part of the process.
17. To support the Disabled Students Campaign's Access Challenge, which educates and encourages students' unions on accessibility.
18. To work with the Disabled Students Campaign to produce guidance on hate crime reporting.
19. To encourage disabled students representation in every union.
20. To promote closer links between the Liberation Campaigns through joint campaigns and
21. To promote liberateyourself.co.uk as a resource for students unions and activists.
22. For all members of NEC to complete access training each year

Faith and sexuality

Conference Believes

1. Good mutually respectful relationships between the two groups are more likely to be developed when people can express and explore their personal experiences rather than rehearse fixed opposing principles.
2. Students' unions are eager for more support and information on how to facilitate such activities.
3. The student movement can be pivotal in improving the experiences of LGBT students and students with a religion or belief (or both) and the relationships between these groups.
4. Students should be given the opportunity and be encouraged to express their values, beliefs and opinions and hear others' through dialogue.

Conference Resolves

1. To deliver a project in FE which trains individuals to facilitate conversations where personal experiences are explored, rather than rehearsing fixed, opposing principles.
2. To develop a resource bank for students' unions in both FE and HE to facilitate their work in this area.

Prevent

Conference Believes

1. NUS does not believe "radicalisation" to be widespread across universities and colleges in the UK; however, we recognise that it might take place on some occasions, and that universities and colleges have a responsibility in ensuring the safety of all students and staff.
2. Open debate, the exchange of opinions and the development of student ideas and understanding are central to the culture of universities in promoting freedom of speech and ensuring academic freedom. Similarly, freedom of expression and speech are basic human rights to be protected and are protected by law.

3. It is NUS' belief that although universities provide obvious fora for those who seek to radicalise students, universities are one of the only places where such views and opinions can be challenged effectively in open forums and debates.
4. Students' unions are at the heart of ensuring our colleges and universities are places in which a diversity of people and opinions are not only heard, but celebrated. The range of activities and events that take place in students' unions demonstrate this diversity of interests, ideas and opinions and this is to be generally encouraged, not restricted.
5. NUS should continue to work with its member students' unions to ensure that where there are risks posed by speakers these risks are identified and mitigated.
6. The language, concepts and unspecific terms of definition used in the Prevent strategy are unhelpfully generalist and in some cases problematic, and could well be open to discriminatory interpretations.
7. The Government does not offer sufficient advice and guidance for institutions, Student Unions, or any other student organisation, on how to implement a strategy for dealing with hate speech, non-violent extremism or those with radical views on campuses in a positive way; yet is quick to condemn any institution or organisation that allegedly fails to meet a set of standards – standards that they haven't even laid out.
8. That the refusal to work with and engage in dialogue with student groups, or the condemnation of these groups on the grounds of so-called non-compliance will only further marginalise and potentially "radicalise" wings of their these groups.
9. There have been a number of instances, although not necessarily widespread, wherein local implementation has been inappropriate and has implicated certain students as being "vulnerable to radicalisation", such as Muslim students. For example, Student Unions have been approached by local Prevent officers asking for details of student Islamic society members, and institutions and/or community groups have issued information that is by nature prejudice against these groups. This is totally unacceptable.
10. There is a direct link between the Prevent strategy, the concepts and assertions within it and its inability to properly define its terms and objectives, and this poorly conceived implementation
11. The Prevent strategy targets Muslim students in particular.
12. The CSC report is Islamophobic.
13. Students are not criminals and everyone is innocent until proven guilty.
14. The Prevent review reinforces crude stereotypes of young Muslim people that will only feed prejudice and discrimination, and lead to isolation and stigmatisation which will only prevent their continued engagement and contribution.
15. That hate speech threatens to disrupt good campus relations and can provide the 'mood music' in which hate crime flourishes.
16. That the freedom to express views can sometimes be tempered by the need to secure freedom from harm for students and communities.

Conference Resolves

1. To stand in solidarity with those negatively affected by Prevent, by broadly opposing the Prevent narrative and condemning any specific local implementation that threatens the rights of our members.
2. For NUS to continue to support students' unions to implement the guidance, 'managing the risks associated with external speakers'.
3. For NUS to continue to facilitate dialogue between different student organisations and to continue to support student unions in doing the same.
4. To ensure student unions are equipped with legal advice so that they understand their rights in relation to requests from police officers and produce guidance on how to engage with them.
5. To advice local SUs to not pass on information about members' religious or political opinions or society members lists to the police, university authorities or any other third party.
6. To encourage SUs to work with campus trade unions and their policies around the Prevent strategy.
7. To oppose any spying on students.
8. To reaffirm NUS' commitment to combatting hate speech and ensuring that student safety and welfare remains a fundamental priority within our students unions and institutions.
9. To reaffirm NUS' zero tolerance approach to Islamophobia, antisemitism and all forms of racism and discrimination.
10. To continue to support NUS' No Platform Policy against racists and fascists, whilst recognizing that it can be a blunt tool when dealing with difficult issues around hate speech and freedom of speech.
11. To lobby government and others to provide clearer guidance to universities on balancing the freedom to speak with freedom from harm, mirroring the 'risk based' approach articulated in the NUS guidance.
12. To encourage students' unions and universities to work collaboratively to protect both freedom of speech and student safety and welfare.

Stop and Search

Conference Believes:

1. The 2011 Education Act includes clauses extending college staff's authority to Stop and Search students without consent for drugs, alcohol, illegal material, potentially stolen property and any material, including electronic devices, which may disrupt lessons.
2. The act allows for staff to look through books, laptops and other electronic devices, and gives the power for these devices to be permanently confiscated, have items deleted from, or have the entire contents erased

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3. The 2011 Education Act allows staff to search students without another staff members present in extreme circumstances, even if they are of the opposite sex
4. Statistics from the Home Office show that black, mixed or Asian people are more likely to be stopped and searched, with black people seven times more likely than white people.
5. These powers can be exercised by principals and any member of staff they authorise
6. Under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, College principals already have powers to stop and search students without consent, if they have good reason to suspect a student is carrying a weapon or illegal materials
7. Racism is on the rise across all sections of society: in sport and the media, in politics and in our communities. There is a significant rise in Islamophobia and racism and the far right continues to mobilise.
8. Tory politicians are seeking to divide and rule by blaming Black people, Muslims, immigrants and asylum seekers for the economic crisis which has been caused by the bankers and the government's 'austerity' policies.
9. The Tory Prime Minister has been leading the charge with high profile attacks on multiculturalism and immigration.
10. The English Defence League continues to organise violent and racist protests in towns and cities across Britain. These far right mobilisations seek to intimidate and attack the Muslim community, including targeting Mosques, other places of worship, shops and local businesses.
11. Unite Against Fascism has continued to play a leading role in working with local campaigns, faith groups, MPs and politicians and community leaders to organise peaceful, pro-multicultural mobilisations to defend communities from the EDL's 'protests'.
12. It is important for NUS to actively campaign against racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.
13. Over the past year we have seen a rise of racism on our campuses.
14. It is unacceptable that both the annual NUS Anti-Racism and Anti-Fascism Conference has been abolished and that there is no longer a budget provided for campaigning. Resources are needed to organise national events, to produce resources and to train students in how to deal with racism on campuses and it is the responsible of NUS to provide them.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Stopping and searching students creates an atmosphere of insecurity and a lack of trust and will put students constantly on edge.
2. Colleges are described as adult environments, but stop and search will contradict this attribute
3. As a microcosm of society, colleges will inevitably become arenas of discrimination against Black and Asian people
4. "Reasonable grounds to suspect" and "exceptional circumstances" are loose terms that can easily be misinterpreted, opening it to abuse
5. Vulnerable students are likely to be impacted negatively by the implementation of these measures
6. The new measures increase the possibility of abuse of students during stop and searches
7. Colleges and Students' Unions have a duty to safeguard their students, but this act opens ways to abuse the student trust
8. The measures may have a negative impact on the learning of students, especially where electronic devices are wiped clean or permanently confiscated.
9. Training members of staff is an unnecessary cost to colleges, and only authorised professionals should be permitted to carry out stop and searches
10. Stop and searches not only create a threat to students but also to staff
11. Vulnerable students e.g. students with specific disabilities and/or victims of abuse may find stop and search distressing experiences

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate that the VP Welfare and their zone to lobby the Government detailing our concerns as part of a high profile FE Welfare campaign to fight for the removal of these clauses
2. For NUS to produce 'best practice' resources in order to support Students' Unions in actively opposing colleges implementing these measures at the governing boards of their institutions
3. For NUS to support Students' Unions in fighting for a permanent policy which falls short of these new measures, by, for example, adopting the current pre-reform policy on stop and search
4. To fight for students to have the right to choose the sex of those who search them and to have a witness present during the search
5. To work with the Black Students' campaign to monitor the statistics of the use of stop and search powers on black students in college, to look for any evidence of discrimination
6. To give Students' Unions better resources to hold to account any colleges where allegations are made of students being searched by a member of staff without another member of staff present.
7. To lobby to ensure that all searches are carried out by authorised and qualified security staff, if the measures are implemented
8. To lobby the government to put further restrictions into what is meant by "extreme circumstances" or "reasonable grounds to suspect"
9. To lobby to give students the ability to choose between having items confiscated, or to leave the classroom
10. To lobby colleges to consider the detrimental effect that stop and searches may have on vulnerable students and find a better alternative
11. That stop and search should not be extended to schools and FE.
12. That NUS writes to the Home Secretary to condemn stop and search, and the racial profiling that goes hand in hand with it
13. That the NUS work with the NUS Black Students' Campaign to support Students' Union campaigning on the issue.
14. To work with trade union branches at institutions to organise days of direct action to protest against racist stop and search.

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1. Renew our commitment to challenging racism and fascism and re-affiliate to Unite Against Fascism.
 2. Re-establish the NUS Anti-Racism and Anti-Fascism Conference and restore a budget for campaigning against racism and fascism.
 3. Work with UAF and NUS Liberation Campaigns to mobilise students to defend the Muslim community under siege by violent, racist EDL protests.
 15. Work with Love Music Hate Racism and One Society Many Cultures to support Students' Unions hosting musical, cultural and educational events to celebrate diversity and say no to racism.
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Support for students' taking a year from study

Conference Believes:

1. That students may need to take interruptions from their study for a number of reasons including, but not limited to; health, mental health, financial and family.
2. That students have the right to an informed decision as to whether an interruption would be more beneficial to their education than carrying on with that year's study.
3. That there may be inhibitive reasons other than the educational impact of taking an interruption including, but not limited to: VISAs, finances and poor information.
4. That there is little consistency of information from institutions, Student Finance [England / Wales / NI], local councils and national government with respect to policy, procedures and support.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That students can find themselves in a financial 'no-man's land' when taking a year from study, with respect to financial support from Student Finance, their institution or benefit office.
2. That finding a job short term is increasingly difficult
3. That financial support from family is never guaranteed
4. That international students taking a year out may find their VISA revoked if declared as not on a full-time course.

Conference Resolves

1. To generate a database of information and case studies from numerous areas of the UK through engaging students and Unions, detailing the differing experience of students taking a year from study.
 2. To create an online resource space for students and students' unions on the issues surrounding interruptions.
 3. To investigate and generate best-practice recommendations for institutions, Student Finance [England / Wales / NI], local councils and national government with student support and the right to an informed decision at its core.
 4. To join students unions in lobbying institutions, Student Finance [England / Wales / NI], local and national government to provide better support, consistency and information for students considering taking a year
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Cyber Bullying

Conference Believes:

1. According to the National Crime Prevention Centre, over 40% of all teenagers with internet access have reported being bullied online in the past year.
2. Stealing an individual's name and password to social networking sites to post rumors, gossip or other damaging information is the most common type of online bullying; however, it is common for people to use social media or blogs to post information and defaced photos of people. Bullying via text and phone calls is less common as technology continues to develop.
3. Cyber bullying affects people of all ages across the country but is most common with teenagers.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Cyber bullying often has a very negative effect on people and causes some serious emotional damage.
2. Severe or chronic cyber bullying can leave victims at greater risk for anxiety, depression, and other stress-related disorders.
3. In some cases, some teenagers have turned to suicide because of Cyber Bullying.
4. As technology continues to develop and more teenagers have access to the internet and social networking sites, the number of cyber bullying incidents is likely to increase.
5. It is becoming easier to cause people distress online anonymously, using websites that encourage people to spread rumors and create gossip.
6. Bullying online gives people a wall to hide behind whilst they gain confidence, and further down the line cyber bullying could also lead to physical abuse.

Conference Resolves:

1. Increase awareness around the subject matter by pushing unions to do more campaigning around the subject.
2. Create a national advice directory, where students can talk to other students or representatives anonymously about their troubles.
3. Encourage students' unions to publicise the already available support to make more students aware of where they can find help.
4. Lobby institutions to take action on websites that encourage or promote anonymous bullying, encouraging unions to push for the websites to be blocked within their institutions.
5. Call for closer monitoring of the information published on the websites, criminalizing those who can be identified.
6. Lobby the government to put more restrictions in place, stopping more of these websites being created and closing down those that already exist.

Society and Citizenship

Access and Citizenship in the Community

Conference believes:

1. That widening participation is, amongst other things, about building a stronger society and championing citizenship
2. Education is central to equipping people with the necessary tools to engage in political and social civic life
3. The growing diversity of access schemes, including work with prisons, represents an opportunity for NUS to highlight one of many ways in which students' unions can increase access to groups we have never engaged with before and develop programmes of outreach that transcend our traditional school leaver focus
4. In keeping with our democratic values, we have a responsibility to highlight the need for improved representation of young people and actively help educate students about their civic rights
5. The Open Book scheme presents an opportunity for the NUS to highlight good practice and encourage other institutions to adopt similar schemes.

Conference resolves;

1. That NUS supports students' unions to drive activism and citizenship in schools, youth groups and beyond
 2. For the Society & Citizenship zone to work with the FE and HE zones to champion access as a means to build a stronger society and more cohesive communities through volunteering and community organising
 3. To work with the 'Open Book' Scheme and highlight good practice, while encouraging others to adopt similar schemes
 4. The Soc/Cit zone will work with the women's campaign to put pressure on Universities to investigate fee waivers for asylum seekers, with a focus on women.
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Defend the Right to Protest

Conference Believes:

1. Civil disobedience is not a crime
2. The attempt to demonise protesters in the media has created a false dichotomy between good and bad protesters.
3. That excessive punishing of protesters and "exemplary" sentencing are devastating to those individuals' family and friends and are designed to intimidate others from protesting in the future.
4. That the best way to defend the right to protest is by protesting

Conference Resolves:

1. That NUS should campaign against any attempts to curb the rights to protest in the UK.
 2. To join the UCU in calling for a public inquiry into the arrests and violence used against demonstrators and to include in this an inquiry into the overcharging of protesters
 3. To launch a campaign highlighting the human stories behind police brutality and the importance of protest rights.
 4. To fully support imprisoned students including by supporting the DTRTP "twin with a prisoner" scheme and work with Student Unions, UCU and Universities to ensure those students are facilitated and supported to continue their studies during their sentence and following their release.
 5. To work with Student Unions to make sure students know their rights in advance of protests including aiding the distribution of DTRTP/NUS bust cards.
 6. To call for universities to be places of political asylum
 7. To campaign against the use of the courts to prevent protests on campus, as in Birmingham and Sheffield
 8. To campaign against the anti-trade union laws, which are a serious restriction on the right to organise and protest, and new attempts to restrict workers' rights
 9. To congratulate Edd Bauer, Birmingham Guild of Students VP Education, for his reinstatement following suspension for being arrested at an NCAFC protest
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AGM

Rules Changes

Conference Believes

1. That attendance from FE unions is low at Zone Conferences.
2. That as a result it is hard to legitimately fill the two reserved places at every Zone Conference
3. It would be preferable to elect one of the two FE reserved places on each committee at FE Zone Conference itself
4. That the intent of the original constitution was to give an appointed Returning Officer for a given election full authority over decisions surrounding that election, with the Chief Returning Officer only able to appoint or remove Returning Officers for a given election or to propose to Conference that the outcome of an election should change
5. However a misprint in the document that was then approved to National Conference lives on to this day
6. That during the policy making process, it is possible that the priority issue facing the student movement is not properly prioritised for discussion, submission and amendment
7. That the way to solve this is to allow the National President, via resolution of the NEC, to act as a "Sixth Zone", able to make priority policy recommendations on the priority issue of the day
8. Issues prioritised in this way would then not be raised inside the Zone(s) they were taken from
9. The President would like to be able to appoint a neutral, external chair of NEC meetings but the constitution currently prevents this
1. NUS membership affiliation is predominately FE. Currently FE representation is not as high as it should be.
2. There are 120 HE unions and 480 FE unions approximately
3. Only 40 out of 480 FE unions have sabbatical roles approximately (24 full time/16 part times).
4. Point 301 of the NUS Articles of Governance and Rules states, The annual meeting of the National Conference will be held before May each calendar, year at a time which, as far as is reasonably practicable, enables the widest participation.
5. For the large majority of students that study with further education establishments, this year's conference is being held within lesson time.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The NUS should not put students in a position of choosing to either fulfil their role in their union and succeeding in their studies.
2. Within the current climate, the NUS should not be seen to be HE centric by holding the most important conference of the year during a time that is difficult for many FE officers and students to attend.

Conference Resolves

1. Amend Zone Conference Rules 814, inserting at the end of the first sentence "save that one of the reserved FE places on each of the Society & Citizenship, Welfare and Union Development Conferences will be elected by delegates to the FE Zone Conference"
2. Amend Election Rules 616, removing the letter "C" from the reference to the "CRO"
3. Amend Conference Rules 396 adding c. "Policy Recommendations on issues which it believes are a priority for students and students unions to a maximum of 500 words"
4. Insert Clause 407 and renumber as appropriate "For the purposes of Ordinary Motions and Policy Recommendations Amendments, the Priority Policy Recommendations will be treated as a Sixth Zone"
5. Clause NEC Rules 136 change "a member of the National Executive Council" to "any other person"
6. to set up a working party of the NEC to review and report into how NUS should define what a "mature student" is and what a "part-time student" is, recognising that there may be differences between FE and HE in some cases.
7. For NUS to create and promote a why you should attend conference leaflet for FE explaining the positives about attendance to those who may not see the point in attending.
8. That NUS national conference rules article in Articles of Governance and Rules is amended from:

301: The annual meeting of the National Conference will be held before May each calendar year at a time which, as far as is reasonably practicable, enables the widest Participation

To

301: The annual meeting of the National Conference will be held in the Easter holidays during the month of April or, as far as is reasonably practicable, to enables the widest Participation

Zones and the Guillotine

Conference Believes

1. Delegates decide the order of policy discussion at National Conference and that this order therefore determines the priority of those motions.
2. Delegates decide the order in which the different zones are discussed and that this order therefore determines the priority of those zones.
3. One of the first acts of National Conference is to accept the Order Paper and therefore the timings of the Conference

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4. The Guillotine allows for the movement of National Conference and to ensure it keeps to these timings.
5. The ability to extend the Guillotine allows National Conference to debate the business it wishes given changing priorities during the Conference itself.
6. Extension of the Guillotine can lead to there not being sufficient time to debate some zones work
7. That a diversity of policy is important to the National Union

Conference resolves

1. That the extension of the Guillotine should not reduce the policy debate in any zone to less than 30 minutes
 2. To add "Extensions of the Guillotine shall not allow any zone policy debate to be reduced to below 30 minutes" to section 370 of the NUS Constitution and renumber accordingly.
-

Administration of elections at politically autonomous events

Conference Believes

1. That although several of NUS' Democratic events are devolved or politically autonomous, the legal liability for finance, health and safety and staffing of events is held with NUS centrally.
2. In addition all elections (save for those in NUS Wales and NUS-USI) in NUS are held under the auspices of the NUS Chief Returning Officer.
3. There is a potential for accountabilities and duties to overlap, particularly in the area of the responsibilities of the Chief Returning Officer and a devolved steering or democratic procedures committee
4. That the DPC should devolve its duties to politically autonomous steering committees under rule 50.1 in a way that facilitates free and fair elections and good administration

Conference Resolves

1. To adopt the following guidelines in the operation of elections inside politically autonomous areas and to require that the standing orders of politically autonomous areas reflect these provisions.

Delegate Registration & Credentials: Staff, events and venue support for devolved or politically autonomous events is provided centrally by NUS to liberation, and student sections events.

In doing so there is a need for a direct relationship between the relevant devolved or politically autonomous steering committee given that this committee will usually act as the "credentials" committee of the conference.

The provision of staff, events and venue support is carried out on the basis that the staff of NUS will directly:

- Handle registrations prior to the event.
- Carry out relevant and required process relating to Health and Safety and Safeguarding in relation to registrations.
- Register delegates on the day and allocate accommodation as necessary.

They will carry out these functions on the basis of any agreed processes, provisions or concerns raised by a politically autonomous steering committee.

Before each democratic event the chair of a devolved or politically autonomous steering committee is encouraged to meet with the duty manager for the event to discuss processes and concerns.

However during these processes, a devolved or politically autonomous steering committee should not seek to directly "inspect" or interfere with individual staff carrying out these processes.

Where a conflict arises about the entitlement of a delegate to be at an event, the devolved or politically autonomous steering committee must resolve the matter paying due regard to any Health and Safety/Safeguarding procedures laid down by the National President. Delegates cannot be admitted to an event "on the day" and must have registered prior to the event via the registration system.

Where a concern arises during the event as to the process of registration, credential issuing or accommodation allocation being carried out by staff, the chair of a devolved or politically autonomous steering committee must raise the matter first with the duty manager at the event but not directly with staff. If the matter is not resolved the provisions of the NUS Staff Protocol shall apply.

Elections: It should be noted that in the NUS Constitution, "The Chief Returning Officer of the National Union shall be responsible for the good conduct and administration of elections to officer and committee positions of the National Union and shall have the power to govern and interpret all matters relating to elections in accordance with the Rules". In addition they are required to "keep under review measures to enable and maximise participation in elections and measures to restrict activity of candidates and campaigns to ensure fairness". They "will have the power to interpret all election regulations and issue rulings and interpretations to this effect to all members and appointed election officials"

Where elections are held at a Nation, Liberation or Section event, although the Chief Returning Officer or deputies endeavour to attend at events, they do appoint a returning officer for each election and, whether in attendance or not, they are required to ensure that Voting Papers are issued to all registered delegates.

However, the issue arises where an autonomous or devolved steering committee chooses to issue credentials to delegates that have not fully or properly registered. This is an issue both in relation to Health and Safety/Administration/Safeguarding, but also an issue in relation to potential electoral fraud.

In addition the Chief Returning Officer is keen to ensure that candidates or their supporters are prevented from obtaining lists of delegates attending at an event in order to ensure that a devolved steering committee cannot be accused of exercising inappropriate powers.

Thus, where an election is held under the auspices of the constitution at an event other than National Conference, the Chief Returning Officer will only authorise the issuing of ballot papers to named delegates that have properly registered by the appropriate deadline.

Where for reasons of administration and/or in conjunction with the Events staff a deadline for registration is extended, the extension of the deadline must include the opportunity to verify a registration with a host union and must never be any later than 3 working days before the start of an event.

For the purpose of the issuing of ballot papers, no new registrations or changes to names of registered delegates will ever be accepted any later than 3 working days before the start of an event, or the formal registration deadline if an extension is not agreed.

In order to prevent electoral fraud and to ensure a fair election, a list of registered delegates will not be issued to any member of a liberation or section committee or steering committee and will be regarded as confidential until the day of the event itself. Any questions relating to the registration status of a union or delegate will be fielded by the events staff. Any conflict as to the entitlement of a registered person to hold delegate credentials shall be referred to the relevant steering body.

Password protection a barrier to a layer of untapped talent!

Conference Believes:

1. www.nusconnect.co.uk is the student officer/leaders and activist facing website of the National Union of Students.
2. www.nus.org.uk is the wide reaching, general public facing website of NUS.
3. Currently the majority of resource on NUS Connect is hidden behind a password system.
4. When seeking registration for NUS Connect formal approval from a Chief Exec/SLO or the President is needed.
5. The system of password protection was developed as a means to only allowing paid members of NUS to access the resources we provide for our membership.
6. NUS is developing a new digital platform that will eventually replace both these websites.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The password protection system currently deters many of our part time student officers and activists for utilizing the resources available on NUS Connect.
2. Many part student officers do not feel they have the authority to request approval from senior staff or elected officers and therefore at this hurdle may stop engaging.
3. Some unions do not grant access to NUS connect for their part time officer, society leaders and volunteers.
4. The NUS LGBT Campaign has moved many of its resources to the section of the site that is not password protected successfully increasing usability and involvement.
5. It's time NUS thought outside the box and looked at other ways of authorizing students, officers and staff at constituent members that make it easier for people to self register on NUS Connect without having to seek approval from senior members of the students union.

Conference Resolves:

1. To call for NUS to immediately review the pros and cons of password protection on NUS Connect and to investigate more accessible means to registering for the site if you're a constituent member.
2. To ensure the principles in this policy are followed through within the NUS Digital platform project seeking maximum involvement in NUS by all students and staff.

National Executive Council

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Rachel Wenstone	Vice-President (Higher Education)
Dannie Grufferty	Vice-President (Society and Citizenship)
Vicki Baars	Vice-President (Union Development)
Pete Mercer	Vice-President (Welfare)

National Executive Councillors

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Caroline Dangerfield
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Roshni Joshi
Jamil Keating
Jake Kitchener
Emma Meehan
Aidan Mersh
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Matt Stanley
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