

meeting of: National Executive Council (twenty fourth meeting)

place: London Resource Centre,

date and time: 9th May 2013, 11:30am

Members: Name

President & Chair Liam Burns

Zones Toni Pearce & Jeni-Marie Pittuck (Further Education)
Rachel Wenstone & Rachel Thornton (Higher Education);
Danielle Grufferty & Dom Anderson (Society & Citizenship);
Vicki Baars & Maggie Hayes (Union Development);
Pete Mercer & Colum McGuire (Welfare)

Liberation Aaron Kiely & Malia Bouattia (Black Students);
Hannah Paterson & Daryl Jones (Disabled Students);
Sky Yarlett & Finn McGoldrick (LGBT);
Kelley Temple & Jo Johnson (Womens);

Sections Daniel Stevens & Dennis Esch (International Students)
Sean Rillo Razcka & Fee Wood (Mature & Part Time Students);
Robin Burrett & Luke James (Postgraduate Students)

Nations Stephanie Lloyd & Sam Reid (NUS Wales)
Robin Parker & Stacey Devine (NUS Scotland);
Adrienne Peltz (NUS-USI)

Block Aidan Mersh, Alex Causton-Ronaldson, Mark Swards, Caroline Dangerfield,
Emma Meehan, Jake Kitchiner, Jamil Keating, Jamie Woodcock, Joe Vinson, Matt
Stanley, Michael Chessum, Roshni Joshi, Surya Prakashsh Bhatta,

In attendance

Staff Jim Dickinson (Director Policy and Delivery); Amy Davies (Executive Office
Manager);

All except the following were in attendance from the NEC:

Apologies Dennis Esch, Aidan Mersh, Hannah Paterson, Daryl Jones, Finn McGoldrick, Robin
Burrett, Sam Reid, Alex Causton- Ronaldson,

Absences Sean Rillo Razcka

1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Toni Pearce (TB) opened the meeting

1.2 Apologies were *noted*.

Maggie Hayes will arrive later

Liam Burns will arrive later

The following were also noted for submitting apologies to the meeting:

Gordon Maloney

Malia Bouattia

Jamil Keeting

Emma Meehan

1.3 There were no conflicts of interests.

1.4 The minutes of the NEC meeting on 25th February were approved, with a correction. Vicki Baars (VB) spoke on Amendment 2 of Motion to national conference.

1.5 There were no matters arising.

2. Reports and accountability

2.1 Presidents' Report was delayed until after he arrived.

2.2 Zone Convenors gave updates on their areas of work.

Toni Pearce gave her report and added comment on the work on Student Governors.

Dannie Grufferty gave her report and added that NUS had received funding from HEFCE on for environmental projects through Students' Unions. Swaziland campaign. Took questions on

Rachel Wenstone gave apologies for not submitting a report which will be circulated after the meeting and gave a verbal update.

Vicki Baars gave her report and added comment on the career services work on campuses.

Pete Mercer gave his report and added comment on the situation with Unite accommodation.

The reports were *approved*.

2.3 Liberation reports were *approved*.

Kelley Temple added a statement on York Students' Union urging NEC members not to sign anything on behalf of NUS until a steer is given by the York Students' Union Womens Officer after a meeting on Friday.

2.4 Sections gave verbal updates.

Daniel gave a verbal update on UKBA, immigrant access to the NHS. He will circulate a full written report.

Fiona gave a verbal update and encouraged more people to attend Mature students sections conference.

2.5 The nations reported verbally to NEC and these were *noted*.

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Adrienne was congratulated for the work she has done in NUS USI.

2.6 Report and Notices from the Scrutiny & Special Groups.

There was nothing to report.

2.7 Block of 15

The councillors gave feedback on their experience at National Conference. The points will be passed onto DPC.

2.1 Presidents' Report.

Liam added to his report that the future of education consultation needs to be filled in by CM's and NEC. The new Group Chief Executive starts on the 8th July. He also added the importance of the role of NEC in scrutinising the Trustee Board.

3. Motions to National Conference

Debate on taking parts

Chair made a ruling that no parts would be taken

There was a challenge to overturn the chairs ruling

VOTE: FELL

Motion 325

Speech for: Fiona Wood

Speech Against: none

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 326 was withdrawn by proposer

Motion 327

Speech for: Rachel Wenstone

Speech against: none

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 403

Amendment 403a

VOTE: PASSED

Amendment 403b

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 403

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 404

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 405a

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 405

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 411

VOTE: PASSED

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Motion 412a
VOTE: PASSED

Motion 412
VOTE: PASSED

Motion 413
VOTE: PASSED

Motion 414
Speech For: Colum Mcguire
Speech against: none
VOTE: PASSED

Amendment 415a
VOTE: PASSED

Motion 416
Speech For: Aaron Kiely

Amendment 416a
Speech For: Michael Chessum
Speech Against: Liam Burns
Speech For: Michael Chessum
Speech Against: Joe Vinson
VOTE: PASSED

Speech against: Kelley Temple
Point of clarification

5 minutes break
Point of clarification
Another round of speeches granted

Speech for: Aaron Kiely
Speech Against: Stephanie Lloyd
Speech for: Vicki Baars
Speech Against: none
VOTE: recorded vote: FELL

DS	KT	JP	AP	CM	JJ	AK	MS	JW	MC	RJ	PM	DG	RW	LB	MH	RT	VB	SY	FW	HP	JB	SL
AB	FO	AG	AG	AG	AG	FO	FO	FO	FO	FO	AG	AG	AG	AG	AG	AB	FO	FO	AB	AG	AG	AG

12 Against
8 For
3 Abstain

Motion 417
Speech for: Matt Stanley
Speech Against: Dannie Grufferty
VOTE: FELL

Motion 418
VOTE: PASSED

Motion 419
Speech For: Aaron Kiely
Speech Against: Kelley Temple

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VOTE: FELL

Motion 420

Speech for: Colum Mcguire

Speech Against: none

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 421

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 422

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 423

Speech for: Jamie Woodcock

Speech Against: Rachel Wenstone

Speech For: Michael Chessum

Speech Against: Dannie Grufferty

VOTE: FELL

Recorded VOTE

DS	KT	JP	AP	CM	JJ	AK	MS	JW	MC	RJ	PM	DG	RW	LB	MH	RT	VB	SY	FW	HP	JB	SL
AB	AB	AG	AG	AG	AG	FO	FO	FO	AB	AG	FO	FO	AG	AG	AG	AG						

15 Against

5 For

3 Abstain

Motion 424

Speech for: Michael Chessum

Speech Against: Rachel Thornton

VOTE: FELL

Motion 425

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 426

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 427

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 428

Speech for: Vicki Baars

Speech Against: Liam Burns

VOTE: FELL

Motion 514

Speech for: Vicki Baars

Speech Against: Michael Chessum

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 515

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 613

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 614

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VOTE: PASSED

Motion 615

Speech For: Colum Mcguire

Speech Against: none

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 616

Withdrawn

Motion 617

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 618

Speech for: Vicki Baars

Speech Against: Pete Mercer

VOTE: FELL

Motion 619

VOTE: PASSED

3.5 Emergency motion

Solidarity with Swaziland

Speech for: Dannie Grufferty

Speech Against: none

VOTE: PASSED

ULU and London Representation

Speech For: Michael Chessum

Amendment

Speech For: Rachel Wenstone

Speech Against: Michael Chessum

Speech For: Liam Burns

Speech Against: Vicki Baars

Speech For: Liam Burns

Speech Against: Michael Chessum

Access Break

Parts – DELETE Resolves 2

Speech For: Liam Burns

Speech Against: None

VOTE: PASSED

Parts are deleted

Parts – DELETE NEC further believes 2

Speech For: Vicki Baars

Speech Against: Rachel Wenstone

Speech For: Vicki Baars

Speech Against: Hannah Paterson

Vicki removed her request for parts. No vote was taken

Parts – DELETE NEC Further believes 1

Speech for: Daniel Stevens

Speech Against: Rachel Wenstone

Speech for: Daniel Stevens

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Speech Against: Liam Burns
VOTE: FELL
Parts now go into Main motion

Back to the Amendment
VOTE: PASSED

Speech Against: none taken
Speech Summation on motion as amended: Liam Burns
VOTE: PASSED

AOB

Toni thanked NEC for coming and in particular to those who would be retiring from NEC after this meeting. Toni thanked the observers for attending and noted the next meeting was on the 15th July 2013.

DRAFT

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

National Conference 2013 remitted policy

Zone | Higher Education

Motion No: 325

Policy Area: Circle of Life

Conference Believes:

1. Currently, data of student demographics is only received after entry into education.
2. There is a need to have data on pre entry, to understand the start of the student life cycle.
3. Currently, there is no understanding of the difference between student groups, such as Mature, Part Time, Student Carers, Student Parents, Distance Learners and HE in FE.
4. That the term widening participation does not currently include student groups such as, Mature and Part Time students'.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Currently, we have no data of the impact to the different demographics and, the impact on the choice of institution, type of study and course.
2. Currently, we do not have data on the drop out rate of students in education and the reasons behind this.
3. University should be a place where students' work with institutions to have an agreed shared vision for learning.
4. Students returning to education after and with employment, bring skill sets that are often duplicated.

Conference Resolves:

1. That the HE and FE zones collect information, regarding if different demographics study closer to home? the type of study and if there are particular courses favoured?
 2. For NUS to gather data from FE and HE on the reasons on the drop out rates that affect retention of various student groups.
 3. For VP HE to approach different mission groups about being partners on an agreed shared learning process.
 4. NUS to lobby HE institutions to recognise and accredit skill sets that students bring with them into education.
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Motion No: 327

Policy Area: Student Representation in MOOCS

Conference Believes:

1. There has been considerable innovation and expansion in the provision of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in other countries over the past 12 months.
2. In the UK, Futurelearn, majority owned by the Open University, is set to launch later this year with 17 partner Universities and an agreement to develop online courses using resources from the British Library.
3. In addition to this the University of Edinburgh and University of London are currently offering courses through the United States based Coursera which already has 2.7million registered students.

Conference Further Believes:

1. MOOCs have tremendous potential in expanding access to education and lifelong learning.
2. There are associated risks with the development of MOOCs and the objectives of Universities involvement are not clear.
3. As they are currently non-credit bearing MOOCs are not subject to the 1994 Education Act and thus have the potential to develop into unregulated education systems.
4. Student representation within MOOCs is an unresolved issue, as content is generated based on individual University courses but not students of the institution.

Conference Resolves:

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1. To continue to monitor the development of MOOCs and their potential impact on lifelong learning.
2. To investigate student reputation within MOOCs

Zone | Society and Citizenship

Recommendation No: 403

Policy Area: Ethical sourcing/Ethical investment

Ethical sourcing means sourcing products that have taken into consideration working conditions, human rights concerns and environmental matters throughout their supply chain. This includes from the production of the raw material all the way to the point of being purchased by the consumer.

Ethical investment is the proactive decision to put money into something where the environmental, social, governance and ethical principles of the investors influence their investors' decisions. This can include small, specialist providers as well as ethical funds of larger companies.

Students, students' unions, NUS, and tertiary educational institutions are all consumers and so have power to influence the ethical standards of the companies they buy products and services from. Promoting ethical sourcing and investment from these consumers is essential if the tertiary education sector is to help shape society for the better, not only the experience of individual students.

Conference Believes:

1. NUS has a proud history of using our sourcing and supply chain to promote more ethical practices amongst suppliers and some of the biggest corporations in the world
2. We have lobbied for years on issues such as the environment, workers' rights, equality and Fair Trade
3. That suppliers have a duty to provide at a minimum the conditions set out in the Worker Rights Consortium model Code of Conduct.
4. The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is deeply concerning with unspeakable atrocities often away from the media gaze
5. That one of the weapons used to by militia in DRC is rape and thousands of women live in fear
6. Children are indentured into mines and forced to work in dangerous conditions and without safety equipment or correct tools to mine minerals.
7. That the militia is funded by the proceeds it receives from the mining of minerals such as Columbite-tantalite, Cassiterite, Wolframite and Gold.
8. Many of the minerals are processed in countries with large manufacture based economies like China and India that provide many of the internal parts for a large amount of electrical appliances.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Investment should mean "putting money to work" to create something of greater value. Some institutions provide funding for unethical companies and political regimes.
2. NUS and students unions have great potential to use our collective buying power to lobby suppliers on issues wider than just ethics- eg employment creation.
3. It is often a prerequisite in the private outsourcing contracts between FE colleges and their suppliers that apprenticeships are created for students at the college.
4. That ethically sourced products can be financially viable for students unions.
5. NUS has a strong record of constructive engagement within large supply chains
6. That ethical procurement is central to how NUS ensures it is working within the ethical procedures set out by members
7. Boycotting all companies with conflict minerals in their supply chain would be impossible, however a commitment to sourcing from companies with a displayed commitment to improving their supply chain
8. Since students in the United States started raising the profile of conflict minerals in supply chains, companies like Intel, HP and SanDisk have made marked improvements in their sourcing. Nintendo, HTC, Sharp, Nikon and Canon have made the least progress.
9. It is likely that this motion is being read on a monitor, tablet, phone or projector that contains conflict minerals
10. St Andrews has gone conflict-free, while Exeter Students' Guild has followed suit and aim to make the University conflict free on the 15th March. Many other Universities have conflict free campaigns running.

Conference Resolves:

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1. To provide guidance on how to conduct FOI (Freedom of Information) requests.
2. To offer guidance on the supply chain through institutions and students unions
3. To collaborate with other organisations working on ethical sourcing issues.
4. To provide training on how to campaign on ethical sourcing issues.
5. To provide guidance on balancing ethical and financial matters for students unions.
6. To explore work conducted by student bodies in other countries on ethical sourcing.
7. To actively use NUS procurement in political campaigns.
8. To collaborate with other organisations including People & Planet, War on Want, Labour Behind the Label and the Worker Rights Consortium on ethical sourcing.
9. To support student officers to campaign for universities to affiliate to the Worker Rights Consortium and to make campaign resources available via NUS Connect.
10. In the event of workers' right abuses, as reported by the Worker Rights Consortium and other monitoring bodies, we resolve to target individual brands and suppliers as part of a campaign including encouraging universities to divest where appropriate.
11. That NUS will factor whether electronic products contain conflict minerals in future purchasing decisions and will favour verifiably conflict-free products that contain minerals from eastern Congo
12. That NUS calls on electronic companies and other industries to take the necessary steps to remove conflict minerals from their supply chain
13. That NUS calls on the UK government and the international community in helping to establish an international certification system for minerals to ensure they are not contributing to conflict.

Recommendation No: 404
Policy Area: Tax Avoidance

Amidst the deepest recession since 1930's and austerity measures, there has been significant public focus on corporate tax avoidance as an emblem of inequality in our society. There has been widespread public outcry at the existence of legal loopholes that actually enables tax avoidance, and the unethical practices of those that choose to exploit those loopholes for personal and/or corporate gain.

Students and students' unions can play a key role in pushing for a more robust legal system and changes in both corporate and consumer behaviour relating to tax avoidance. There is particular potential to investigate the links between tax avoiding companies and the tertiary education sector, an area that has not yet been explored in detail.

Conference Believes:

1. There is widespread concern and public outcry of the tax avoidance of Starbucks, Amazon, Vodafone and Google amongst other large corporations.
2. Lots of organisations campaign for stronger legal enforcement on tax avoidance, but few talking about the complicity of the tertiary education sector in this, or the impact upon students and young people.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Tax avoidance is an ethical as well as fiscal issue.
2. Money lost to tax avoidance should be reinvested in education and other public goods.
3. The issue of reinvesting money lost to tax avoidance can shed light on exploring how education is a public good.
4. Some organisations have used tax avoidance to shed light on global access to education.
5. Tax avoidance by major corporations and very wealthy individuals is many times more costly to the public than benefit fraud, but the picture portrayed by the government and much mainstream media does not highlight this.
6. False benefit-claimants are often portrayed in the media as the very worst kind of criminal, while tax dodgers get plenty of airtime to explain themselves.
7. Improvements are required to address loop holes within the legal system
8. Stronger legal action should be taken on tax avoiders.
9. The tertiary education sector should lead a good example by ensuring its financial affairs are guided by ethics as well as enterprise.

Conference Resolves:

1. To conduct research with partners and how tax avoidance links to education.
2. To work with the Education campaigns to show how tax funds can be reinvested back into education.
3. For NUS to work with partners to look at the education sector's investment and tax portfolios.
4. To offer guidance to students unions and students on how tax avoidance relates to and impacts upon their unions and educational institutions; including throughout the supply chains of their unions and institutions.
5. To deliver shareholder activism to students and support students and SUs to hold their suppliers to account on tax justice.
6. To promote alternatives to SUs to working with tax avoiding companies, through case studies, financial impact assessments and alternative commercial activity.

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7. To work with other organisations to campaign for the legal loop holes that permit tax avoidance to be closed.
8. To support direct action against tax avoidance and tax evasion.
9. To work with relevant organisations to shift the media focus from the proportionately low cost of benefit fraud to the scandalous expense of tax avoidance and the impact it has on public services including education.

Recommendation No: 405

Policy Area: Child Poverty

Children and young people have been amongst the worst affected by the economic downturn and cuts to public services. The resultant increase in child poverty has an immediate effect upon individuals' educational chances and achievements, and subsequently a negative impact upon their long term employment and life chances.

Consequently, there is a real risk that rising child poverty now will have a lasting and detrimental impact upon society as whole.

If we are committed to improving access to education and participation within it, an understanding of the influence of child poverty is essential. In particular, that child poverty not only affects individual's participation and attainment once in education, but that it can stop them undertaking it at all.

Conference Believes:

1. One in three children are currently living in poverty in the UK, equating to 3.8 million children.
2. That under the Coalition Government, changes to the tax-benefit system and cuts to public services has led to a rise in child poverty.
3. Children from minority ethnic groups are overrepresented among poor children.
4. Threats to housing benefit removal for under 25s highlights the Government's lack of commitment to supporting the most vulnerable.
5. High rates of unemployment throughout the recession have exacerbated the issue of child poverty.
6. The Living Wage campaign has already lifted thousands of families out of poverty.
7. The Living Wage campaign has potential to lift millions of families out of poverty.
8. Child poverty reduced dramatically between 1998/9-2010/12 when 1.1 million children were lifted out of poverty. This reduction is credited in large part to measures that increased the levels of lone parents working, as well as real and often significant increases in the level of benefits paid to families with children.
9. Under current government policies, child poverty is projected to rise from 2012/13 with an expected 300,000 more children living in poverty by 2015/16. This upward trend is expected to continue with 4.2 million children projected to be living in poverty by 2020.
10. That the current government signed up to the Child Poverty Act 2010, which aimed to abolish child poverty by 2020.
11. Despite being a developed, Britain in recently years has seen a rise in the number of its citizens falling deeper into poverty. A recent report by 'End Child Poverty' found that nearly 4 million children in the UK are living in poverty.
12. Food banks have existed in the UK for a number of years and exist within local communities to serve those whom are most in need of food.
13. Since 2004, organisations such as the Trussell Trust have set up networks of Food Banks across the country to help and train volunteers who run the food banks.
14. Poverty in such extreme cases across the UK is simply unacceptable with families simply not having the money to buy the most basic food for themselves and their children.
15. Increased cuts in workforce and benefits along with the downscale of the economy means that more people are having to use food banks within their communities.
16. Students' unions have huge potential to help run and support these food banks and directly help the people living in their local community.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That the level and nature of child poverty in the UK is often underestimated and misunderstood.
2. Child poverty acts as a major barrier to education and employment.
3. Child poverty and its relationship with education has a major bearing on people's long term life chances.
4. That child and adult poverty are inextricably linked. Child poverty is an inevitable consequence of adult poverty and that child poverty creates adult poverty in later life.
5. That child poverty in an industrialised nation like UK is avoidable and is a poor reflection on the current economic model and government policy.
6. The recession and the government's austerity agenda has affected women, children and those from minority ethnic backgrounds the worst.

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7. Proposals to increase an individual's personal tax allowance to £12,500 instead of promoting the Living Wage would fail to provide targeted poverty alleviation to the financially worst off. Such a measure would see two-thirds of the financial gain going to households in the top half of the income distribution.
8. Many working class people want to contribute to the state and would prefer to receive a Living Wage and still pay their taxes.
9. That the responsibility of paying the Living Wage rests with private companies as well as the state.
10. That the £24 billion expected loss in revenue by this proposed scheme would place unnecessary strain on government resources.
11. Child poverty imposes costs on broader society – estimated to be at least £25 billion a year. Governments forgo prospective revenues as well as commit themselves to providing services in the future if they fail to address child poverty in the here and now.

Conference Resolves:

1. To conduct research with partner organisations on the relationship between child poverty, education and employment; to include educational attainment and the educational and employment choices people make.
2. To identify the impact of the austerity agenda on child poverty and long term life chances.
3. To work with partner organisations to identify the link between payment of the Living Wage and alleviating child poverty.
4. To work with the Welfare Zone to support students unions' on the application of the findings of the research.
5. To condemn the current government for reversing the reduction in Child Poverty achieved by the last government and its failure to comply by the Child Poverty Act 2010.
6. For NUS to look to develop a partnership between themselves and the Trussell Trust UK.
7. For NUS to actively encourage students' unions around the country to help support their local food bank through food collection, promotion and volunteering opportunities.
8. For NUS Society and Citizenship Zone to provide guidance for students' unions on how to help support food banks around the country.
9. For NUS to look to case-study and promote students' union around the country who have developed links with their food bank and showcase best practice of campaigns as a result.
10. For NUS to campaign to local authorities and national government for more intervention of professional services to help those within communities receive the support and benefit they need.
11. To demand
 - a minimum wage, without exemptions, at the London Living Wage rate, £8.55.
 - benefits you can live on, rising with inflation or earnings, whichever is higher.
 - taxing the rich and expropriation of the banks to create decent jobs in the public sector.
 - the scrapping of the anti-union laws, so workers can organise effectively to defend and improve pay, conditions and rights.

Motion No: 411

Policy Area: Councils and Cuts

Conference Believes:

1. Local Government has been subject to significant funding cuts within the past three years. Many Councils have made significant efficiencies but reached the point where any additional cuts would mean that front line services have to be sacrificed;
2. The Local Government Funding Settlement for 2013/14 will have a particularly detrimental impact on areas with high student populations, in particular affecting northern cities such as Newcastle, Liverpool, Bradford, Kingston upon Hull and Manchester;
3. Further cuts to these councils will have a huge impact on the services available to students in the areas where they live.

Conference Resolves:

1. To lobby the Government against any proposals for further disproportionate cuts to Council budgets within student towns and cities;
2. To support other groups who share these aims;
3. To develop resources to support Students' Unions who wish to lobby their local councils or participate within consultations on any budget proposals that might be detrimental to students.

Motion No: 412

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Policy Area: Reinventing the Study Leaver Employment Landscape

Conference Believes:

1. UK Youth unemployment, as reported in December, is almost at one million.
2. That according to the International Labour Organisation, 12.6% of 15 – 24 year olds across the world are unemployed.
3. 25% of graduates begin work in London, yet only 3.8% are in the North East, 4.7% in Wales and 3% in Northern Ireland.
4. There has been a 0.6% decrease in graduate jobs this year according to the Association of Graduate Recruiters.
5. 7 in 10 people get jobs through people they know according to the UK Commission on Employment and Skills.
6. Fewer than 6% of graduates leave university and become self-employed.
7. According to Futuretrack, graduates are largely satisfied with most aspects of their post-study jobs, however, the Institute of Leadership and Management report that most graduates have unrealistic expectations of progression post-study.
8. That according to the further education data organisation 'the data service', there is little data kept and analysed in comparison to data in higher education on employment rates in FE.
9. That there are many organisations involved in the field of employment and entrepreneurialism to encourage growth, investment, partnership and ultimately increase the number of people employed.
10. That throughout history trade unions have improved the rights of all workers.
11. The third sector and public sector, where many graduates might want to start their careers, is shrinking due to government cuts
12. That access to information on work experience, volunteering and employment opportunities can often be disparate and has become a lottery based on the focus individual institutions place on employability and employment.
13. Youth unemployment is one of the biggest and most pressing issues of the young generation with almost 1 million unemployed
14. Downward pressure in the job market has created the additional problem of underemployment that negatively impacts students during their entire student journey
15. As one of the leading organisations representing young people, NUS has the responsibility, capability and potential to influence government strategy and employers' practices on, employment issues.

Conference Further Believes:

1. An approach to resolving the employment crisis should be a focus on behalf of the seven million members of NUS.
2. That study beyond primary and secondary education in colleges and university should make you more employable, without the purpose of that education being solely to make you more employable.
3. That references to employability imply study leavers entering jobs that exist already, whereas entrepreneurialism is about helping study leavers create their own jobs and futures.
4. That study leavers need reduced risk support in creating their own employment opportunities.
5. That large graduate recruiters who receive tens of thousands of applications and recruit few without providing feedback are machines built for rejection, not recruitment.
6. The focus on largest graduate recruiters has been unhealthy as it distorts the graduate view of the workplace in terms of geography and economics of opportunity beyond study.
7. That the focus of largest graduate recruiters on certain institutions means that many students with the talent and inclination to join these organisations do not even get the opportunity to apply.
8. That in a global economy, we should think globally and act locally to rise to the challenges we face.
9. That many recruiters resort to hidden methods of 'sifting' often based around cultural or social competencies in order to recruit and that this is wholly unfair.
10. Universities, colleges and students' unions have an important role in setting realistic expectations of students, prior to leaving study, whilst working in the long term to challenge the employment landscape and help raise expectations of all stakeholders.
11. Many argue these cuts are unnecessary.
12. The small and medium sized enterprise sector is growing and we have an opportunity to shape these businesses for our students.
13. That in further education, there is little data collected as compared to higher education and it is left unanalysed and unable to be interpreted. Therefore, attempting to comment on study-leaver employment rates in a meaningful way from further education is problematic.
14. That it is important to remember that hand-in-hand with a growth in employment, must come a greater understanding of the role, purpose and relevancy of trade unions.

15. That students across tertiary education would benefit from a recognised central source of information on employability and employment opportunities.
16. One of the primary motivators for people to undertake education is to develop their knowledge and skills in order to advance their employment prospects.
17. Combined with the major hike in tuition fees and the threat of FE fees, the scale of youth unemployment and underemployment is putting many young people off from undertaking further study.
18. Austerity measures implemented have resulted in cuts to key services for young people that detrimentally affect their long term employment opportunities.
19. That employability strategy is an important aspect of helping students into employment, but should complement, not substitute for employment creation strategies.

Conference Resolves:

1. That NUS should carry out research into the issues surrounding unemployment, especially regarding access to the professions, further education study leavers, apprentices, cultural practices in recruitment and issues faced by liberation and section groups.
2. That this research should have clear actions for the government and others to create change.
3. To call on the government to establish a programme of infrastructure support for students to provide free space and reduced rates to encourage and support growth.
4. To create a seal of approval with which employers can be recognised for their positive recruitment practices where they fall in-line with NUS' guidelines.
5. To create a graduate careers service charter outlining what the services should look like across the UK to meet the changing needs of students, society and the economy.
6. NUS should work with UUK to promote opportunities for employment in small and medium sized enterprises and ensuring accurate information is published in institutions about options beyond study.
7. That NUS should encourage students' unions, employers, local councils and universities to host regional careers fairs opening up opportunities to new students.
8. That NUS should ensure that universities and colleges are preparing their students to enter a global society not just a local society.
9. That NUS should investigate a new model of study leaver and broader graduate recruitment, employment and economy, in order to eradicate the systemic unfairness that exists currently.
10. That NUS should lobby for greater clarity of information on employment and study leavers from further education, including longitudinal destination of leavers, as in higher education.
11. That NUS should form a coalition of partners who are campaigning for job creation, growth and on the importance of entrepreneurial mind-set in order to establish joint campaigns which have maximum impact in these areas.
12. That as part of educating study-leavers about the employment landscape, NUS should work with trade union partners to increase awareness and encourage membership to protect study-leavers.
13. That NUS will explore viable ways to create, or support the creation of, a centralised online hub where students can access opportunities in work experience, volunteering and employment during and after study.
14. To conduct research on the case for creating entry level jobs.
15. To work with NUS Services on encouraging the creation of jobs through its supply chain.
16. For NUS and NUS Services to use its influence through student consumer buying power to encourage big employers to create job opportunities for our members.
17. For NUS to provide guidance to students' unions, institutions and local employers on how to create jobs for our members.
18. For NUS to work with careers services and job shops in HE to engage local businesses on job creation for our members.
19. To work with careers services and job shops in HE on the creation of a charter for good practices in ethical employment.
20. To lobby the government on the provision of adequate careers guidance for our FE membership in the absence of the Connexions service.
21. For NUS to gather and disseminate good practice and key issues from students' unions and institutions on schemes to create employment for students and young people.
22. To establish an on-going employment commission, to holistically oversee NUS' work on employment, to be comprised of representatives from students' unions, tertiary education institutions and employers.

Motion No: 413

Policy Area: Strong Students' Unions for Strong Citizens

Conference Believes:

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1. That successive governments have not invested in young people and have marginalised them in political discourse, favouring generations who are more likely to vote.
2. That the coalition has shown no genuine commitment to equipping young people with the skills needed to engage in politics and wider society.
3. That students and young people are blamed for their apathy, when the focus should be on the failure of those in power to engage them effectively in democracy and civic activity.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That students' unions - particularly through student activities - have the ability to develop leaders and reach out to communities.
2. That students' unions are hubs of civic engagement and often reach out to marginalised groups.
3. That many student activity groups, including liberation and campaigning groups, already engage communities in their activities.
4. That unions such as University of the West of Scotland have received Government funding to deliver citizenship activity.
5. That government programmes like the National Citizens Service would benefit from involvement by NUS and students' unions.
6. That implementing Citizenship education nationally for all students aged under 18 would significantly encourage a culture of civic and democratic engagement amongst future generations.

Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS to work with partners to deliver a national programme of citizenship activity in communities through students' union activities.
2. To work with partners to engage students around elections and national referenda to inform students and young people of the issues and mobilise the student and youth vote.
3. To work with trade unions to deliver training to schools on developing and supporting school councils and local youth councils to help develop tomorrow's leaders.
4. To lobby for Citizenship education to be implemented nationally for all students up to age 18, with NUS and partners feeding into its curriculum so it delivers a quality and engaging curriculum.
5. To work with partners to support students' unions to deliver liberation education through liberation groups locally.

Motion No: 414

Policy Area: Sex and Relationship Education

Conference Believes:

1. That comprehensive Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is more important than ever with high levels of domestic and sexual violence in Britain, with two women a week being killed by a former or current male partner and one in three women experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime, and many men also being victims of domestic abuse.
2. That current SRE in schools is wholly inadequate, with a quarter of pupils receiving none, and this problem is compounded by government cuts to citizenship and PSHE education funding.
3. That reports of ideologically-driven organisations delivering inaccurate presentations in schools are worrying, and that all SRE education should be impartial and promote tolerance of all sexualities.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That current Government policy on SRE is not sufficient, with no requirement upon schools to provide SRE in the curriculum. The problem is often exacerbated in free schools and academies which receive even greater freedom on what to teach.
2. That it should be compulsory for schools to provide SRE which emphasises a zero-tolerance approach to violence and abuse in relationships, as well as the need for safe sex and SRE that covers all types of relationships including same sex relationships.

Conference Resolves:

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1. To lobby political parties and MPs to support compulsory comprehensive SRE in schools, and oppose cuts to SRE and PSHE funding
2. To support the ongoing campaign by MPs to pass legislation to make SRE education compulsory in schools, and pressure the Government to implement the measure in full should it pass Parliament.

Motion No: 415

Policy Area: Responding to NHS Reform

Conference Believes:

1. The Health and Social Care Bill comes into effect from 1st April 2013.
2. Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will be abolished and the responsibility of commissioning health care funds transferred to several hundred 'clinical commissioning groups' which will in many cases be led by GPs.
3. Local Authorities will have a responsibility to engage with the public in how healthcare is commissioned and delivered.
4. Healthwatch organisations are being set up around the country to monitor and champion health and social care services.
5. That the new Health & Social Care Act has resulted in increased NHS privatisation.
6. That the British Medical Association, Unite, UNISON, the Royal College of GP's and the Royal College of Nurses have all called for the repeal of the Health and Social Care Act on the grounds that it would cause 'irreparable harm' to the NHS.
7. That the BMA says the Health and Social Care Act will be 'detrimental' to medical education.
8. All students, regardless of age, should have access to free, confidential sexual health services suitable to their needs and within a practical distance to travel to.
9. For some groups of students, particularly from liberation groups, it can be harder to access a sexual health service that is suitable and accessible to their needs. For example often MSM (men who have sex with men) are advised to have full screenings as opposed to quicker, easier tests due to higher risks associated with this group.
10. Sexual health is often seen as a 'fluffy' area of work by Students' Unions and whilst a great deal of work is carried out raising awareness to students on the importance of looking after your sexual health, we must start turning our campaigning efforts to providing an effective difference to the services that can be accessed and opposing all cuts to services.
11. Having sexual health services on campus can make accessing sexual health services easier for students and yet these seem to be further reduced and potentially wiped out under the new commissioning climate.
12. That sexual health services on campuses should be available to the wider public and particularly made accessible to all students in that area.
13. The NHS is facing a huge threat. There have been damaging cuts to public services that are affecting hospitals and services across the country. Thousands of jobs have been cut and the conditions of many more are under attack.
14. Significant parts of the NHS are now run by private companies and after the 2011 Health and Social Care Act this process of marketisation and privatisation is set to accelerate.
15. There has been resistance to the attacks on the NHS, from the 25,000 people march in Lewisham to strike action by NHS admin workers in Yorkshire.
16. That further action is needed to defend the NHS now; it cannot be put off until the election in 2015.

Conference Further Believes:

1. NUS have failed to show leadership in prioritising the healthcare of students.
2. Local Authorities taking such a huge responsibility in commissioning health care is concerning, particularly when they have a lack of understanding on commissioning health services. It could also produce a culture where service commission favours those who shout the loudest or are most effective within a democratic system, as opposed to where the need is.
3. Young people are likely to get missed out in engagement with clinical commissioning groups and Students' Unions provide a perfect organisational group to seek representation for groups.
4. Services particularly relevant to students such as mental and sexual health are under threat under a new commissioning regime.
5. The first year under such a new system, where even those leading it are unsure of its direction and implication, is absolutely crucial to monitor.
6. The current climate of changes to our health care system pose huge threats in privatisation of health services cuts to key services and closure of clinics and hospitals.
7. NUS must respond sensibly to NHS reform, opposing cuts and privatisation but using our resource in a pragmatic fashion that will protect services for students.

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8. That privatisation of the NHS undermines its fundamental value of providing free, comprehensive and equal care for all driven by compassion not profit.
9. That the NHS should be publically and not privately owned.
10. That privatisation presents a risk to the education of healthcare students; companies tend to focus on short term profits rather than long-term training and education.

Conference Resolves:

1. To pull together research on where clinical commissioning groups exist, what areas they cover and how this relates to relevant colleges and universities.
2. To show Students' Unions how they can win seats on relevant engagement bodies in their areas, ensuring close partnership is made between local HE and FE Unions on the issue.
3. To make the case for proper and accessible healthcare services for students by consulting Students' Unions on what's currently available in their local area – prioritising travel distance local GPs and hospitals are, where specialist services lie and how accessible they are.
4. To ensure NUS is making strong links with Healthwatch, holding both them and Public Health England to account on their decisions and direction.
5. To adopt a pragmatic and progressive approach to opposing cuts and privatisation of our health care system ensuring that the best interest of students lies at the heart.
6. For NUS to examine the ways in which NHS cuts and privatisation are creating health inequalities, especially for minority groups e.g. women, BME, LGBTQ and the disabled.
7. For the Vice President Welfare to work with the Medical Students Council in campaigning against NHS cuts and privatisation, in particular the Health & Social Care Act.
8. To continue to lobby for access to sexual health services to be free for all students.
9. To continue to work with NUS liberation campaigns on how sexual health services affect students from those groups and prioritise campaigning on these.
10. To create a cultural shift in narrative that sees campaigning on sexual health as a crucial tool that can fight against cuts to services, lobby for better provision and protect the sexual and reproductive rights of students.
11. To make the case for campuses to be an excellent space in the local to host sexual health services that can be accessed by the local community.
12. To join campaigns against cuts and privatisation of public services.
13. To support strike action by NHS workers.
14. To support the Keep Our NHS Public campaign.

Motion No: 418

Policy Area: Bedroom Tax

Conference Believes:

1. The so called "bedroom tax" will affect over 600,000 people
2. It will lead to mass evictions
3. There is a shortage of social housing, in particular social housing with only one bedroom
4. The Government estimates that claimants will be £15 worse off on average
5. This is an affront to the principles of the welfare state.
6. It is not supported by the wider public
7. We have a duty to the wider community as well as to students

Conference Resolves:

1. To adopt a stance against the bedroom tax
2. To lobby MPs to drop the bill

Motion No: 420

Policy Area: Protecting and Advancing the Arts

Conference Believes:

1. There is a social value in art and arts education. Music, drama, visual and performing art enriches society and is a public good.

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2. We must challenge this Government, which has taken many poor policy decisions which seem to undermine the value of art, to support its practice, development, its link to the national economic and cultural wealth – and the importance of investing in the opportunity to experience art and an arts education.
3. Arts education in schools is under sustained and serious threat as a result of policies which prioritise subjects and not creativity. Arts and creativity should be protected as part of the curriculum at all levels.
4. Foundation diplomas are of paramount value to arts education – they allow students with passion to explore their options before entering degree programmes.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS will join and lead national campaigns to protect and advance the arts.
2. NUS will facilitate schemes, through student volunteering, access opportunities, institutional partnerships and any other possible route to make arts accessible to the communities and society.
3. NUS will hold elected representatives such as MPs accountable for their support of, or for making cuts to, arts and social and cultural capital. This will include making support for arts and cultural wealth a part of our general election strategy and asking each political party to commit to specific pledges in their manifesto. NUS will investigate, with sector partners, which elected representatives will be our Arts Champions.
4. NUS will work with the NUT to resist the devaluing of the arts and seek to create policies and solutions, which are of value to schools, to allow children to experience an arts education – this is vital to the strategic success of arts institutions in FE and HE. Arts should be part of the core curriculum.
5. Foundation diplomas for arts should remain free and funded properly by the government.

Motion No: 421

Policy Area: Evidence Based Drug Policy

Conference Believes:

1. Drugs can have serious consequences for the individual user and society in general
2. The misuses of drugs can blight the lives of individuals and families and the

Conference Further Believes:

1. It is right and proper that the state should intervene to regulate and control the use of such substances
2. There is a need for evidence-based policy making on drugs with a clear focus on prevention and harm-reduction

Conference Resolves:

1. To lobby the government to immediately establish an independent panel tasked with performing an impact assessment of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and properly evaluating economically and scientifically, the present legal frameworks for a strictly controlled and regulated cannabis market.
2. To lobby for any resources consequently released to be reinvested into effective education, treatment and rehabilitation programmes and for the widespread provision of the highest quality evidence-based medical, psychological and social services for those affected by drugs problems, including heroin maintenance clinics for the most problematic and vulnerable users.

Motion No: 422

Policy Area: An NUS for migrants rights

Conference Believes:

1. Conference notes that anti-immigration sentiment is now firmly established across large parts of the political spectrum and public conversation in the UK, Europe, and other industrial nations;
2. Conference believes that such currents and moods are inimical to the interests of students across the world, who are increasingly required to equip themselves for careers which develop across international labour markets;
3. Conference believes that university and college communities across the country are well placed to make the argument about the value and importance of migration to the prosperity and well-being of the population of the UK and encourages student societies to consider the work they might do to promote this amongst the media and the networks in which they are involved in their towns and regions;
4. Conference believes that policy in the area of migration should be constructed on a firm basis which takes the rights of migrants firmly into account and commits itself to supporting the 'rights-based approach' which has been

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advocated by international institutions such as the ILO and taken up by many migrant support networks across the world and the UK.

Conference Resolves:

1. Following this, conferences calls on the UK government to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrants and their Families, which has been promulgated by the United Nations.
2. More specifically, in respect of the rights of an important group of migrants in the UK, conference calls on the UK government to sign and ratify the ILO Convention on the Rights of Domestic Workers, who are a particularly vulnerable group in our society.
3. In furtherance of all these ends, conference also expresses its support for the 'Our Day' campaign launched by over 50 migrants rights organisations in the UK and pledges itself to work with them in 2013 to ensure that International Migrants Day (18 December) is marked in a lively and enthusiastic manner across the UK.
4. To encourage member unions to make themselves aware of students at risk of deportation and to relay key facts and information to NUS.
5. To explore affiliation with the National Coalition of Anti Deportation Campaigns, Migrants' Rights Network and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and to delegate the decision of affiliation to the NEC of 2013/14.

Motion No: 425

Policy Area: EUROPE

Conference Believes:

1. David Cameron has promised a referendum on EU membership.

Conference Further Believes:

1. There are many bad things about the EU – austerity policies, lack of democracy, attitude towards migrants. However, these are also bad things about the UK!
2. The majority of people in Britain have nothing to gain from leaving the EU.
3. The growth of the nationalist right (eg UKIP) is a threat we should take extremely seriously.
4. We should oppose the current agitation against workers coming to Britain from Eastern Europe.

Conference Resolves:

1. To oppose campaigns for Britain to leave the EU.
2. To work for student and labour movement unity across Europe, to oppose austerity, fight to level up rights, services and conditions, and fight to expand democracy (eg a fully democratic European parliament).
3. To oppose agitation against Eastern European workers and say that migrants, from the EU or outside, should be welcome.

Motion No: 426

Policy Area: Syria

Conference Believes:

1. That there are an estimated 300 HE Syrian students in the UK and at least 100 are Syrian government-sponsored under the British Council Capacity Building Scheme and have had their funding stopped.
2. That some Syrian students face expulsion due to non-payment of their tuition fees; consequently, they face deportation as their visas would become invalid.
3. That should they return to Syria, those involved in anti-government activities risk detention, torture and assassination; all whose courses are truncated, face financial penalties from their government.
4. That Libyan students affected by the 2011 conflict were supported to continue their studies by the Foreign Secretary, and the same should be extended to Syrian students.
5. Syrian students face immediate expulsion from UK universities if, due to the conflict, either they or their sponsors can no longer pay their tuition fees.
6. Syrian students who return to Syria before completion of their sponsored qualification, will face severe financial penalties from the Syrian authorities.
7. Syrian students whose student visas lapse and lose the right to work risk destitution in the UK.
8. Should they return to Syria those involved in anti-government protests risk detention, torture and even assassination at the hands of the Syrian regime.

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9. The British government must make an uncompromising commitment to supporting the rights and freedoms of the Syrian people.
10. The Foreign Secretary William Hague ensured that Libyan students affected by the conflict in 2011 were able to continue their studies and should extend this gesture to Syrian students.
11. As the duty of the NUS is to represent and support all students, it should ensure that the plight of Syrian students in the UK is not overlooked by the British government.

Conference Resolves:

1. To lobby UK government to ensure that Syrian students are supported financially and otherwise to facilitate the completion of their studies.
2. To lobby UUK and affected institutions to:
 - a. Waive or reduce all fees or defer payment deadlines for all affected Syrian students, whether sponsored or privately funded.
 - b. Provide adequate welfare provisions, welfare grants, bursaries and scholarships for these students.
 - c. Not transfer liability for tuition fees from the Syrian government to sponsored students personally.
3. To call on all UK universities to waive or reduce the fees or extend the payment periods for all Syrian students affected by the conflict, whether sponsored or self-funded, so that they can complete their studies.
4. That UK universities should not make any Syrian student sponsored by the Syrian government personally liable for their tuition fees but should register their tuition fees debts against the Syrian authorities.
5. To request all UK universities to make hardship grants, scholarships and bursaries available to all affected Syrian students, whether sponsored or privately funded, to cover their living expenses.
6. To call on UK universities to allow any Syrian students who have already been forced to suspend their studies to return to complete their degrees and have access to the necessary financing to cover living expenses.
7. To call on the British Council, UKCISA and the Universities Minister to put measures in place to allow all Syrian students registered in UK universities, whether sponsored or self-funded, to complete their studies.
8. To encourage the NUS and Students' Unions to lobby Universities UK and mission groups such as the Russell Group, 1994 Group, University Alliance, and Million+ to permit Syrian students to complete their studies through campaigns, resolutions and student media.

Motion No: 427

Policy Area: Scottish Independence

Conference Believes:

1. That in the autumn of 2014, the people of Scotland will vote on whether or not they want to become an independent nation.
2. Only the people living in Scotland that are registered under the electoral commission will be able to vote on this referendum.
3. That NUS Scotland is the body which represents students studying in Scotland.
4. Currently, the position of NUS Scotland is to remain neutral on the matter of Scottish independence.
5. That it should be up to the students studying in Scotland to decide if NUS Scotland should take a position or not.
6. That NUS UK should remain neutral on the matter of Scottish independence and respect the final decision that is made by NUS Scotland as to whether or not they should take a position or not.

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate NUS UK to remain neutral on the issue of Scottish independence for the entirety of the debate.

Zone | Union Development

Motion No: 515

Policy Area: NUS – Arts unions need different support

Conference Believes:

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1. Students' unions are the legitimate democratic voice of students but, in arts institutions which are often small and specialist and underfunded by government, resourcing is often low.
2. Arts students are creative and passionate people but very time poor, and find it hard to participate in 'traditional' students' union and NUS activity.
3. Specialist unions deserve specialist support.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS will work with GuildHE, which represents many arts institutions, to ensure that students' unions are well funded, well supported and can function as independent and representative organisations.
2. NUS will continue to support arts students' unions by working with sector groups, such as the UK Art and Design Institutions' Association, and bringing together them together to discuss their mutual development.

Zone | Welfare

Motion No: 613

Policy Area: Council Tax and Part Time Students

Conference Believes

1. Part-Time students must currently pay full council tax, whilst Full-Time Students are exempt if they are living in a residence with other students.
2. That this is an unfair attack on Part-Time students.

Conference Resolves

1. To Campaign for Part-Time students to be exempt from paying council tax.

Motion No:

614

Policy Area:

Transport: Fair, Safe, Affordable

Conference Believes:

1. Transport costs can be a significant financial burden on commuting students.
2. The cost of travel can restrict students' access to education and University and Union services.
3. Restrictions on the 16-25 railcard unfairly disadvantage mature students in that they are unable to apply for a 3-year railcard.
4. Restrictions on the 16-25 railcard unfairly disadvantage part-time students, who are not eligible to apply.
5. The cost of public transport can be equal to or more than the cost of running a car.
6. Rail fares have risen 54% in the last 10 years, largely due to the above inflation formula used to set ticket prices: the Retail Prices Index (RPI) measure of inflation plus an additional percentage.
7. Bus and coach fares have risen by over 70% in the last 10 years.
8. NUS currently have a Transport policy due to lapse and further work is needed to ensure that the 16-25 railcard does not have any restrictions on peak services or on the purchase of an annual travel card and that National Rail better publicise the fact that the railcard is available to full time students over 26.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Students should be encouraged to use environmentally friendly means of travel.
2. Students with caring responsibilities and access needs can be adversely affected by limited and expensive student car parking spaces on campus.
3. More affordable public transport will reduce the financial burden of transport costs on students, increase job opportunities for students and graduates and will reduce road congestion and CO2 emissions.
4. Inadequate cycle facilities and a lack of on-road cycle training can lead to serious safety concerns for students who cycle to and from University.
5. Students who travel late at night should not have to pay above the daytime rate for late night bus travel. Students should have the option to travel safely at all times of the day and night without having to face a financial penalty.

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6. There has been a significant rise in Part-time students attending HE institutions in the last decade, with a trend towards students choosing to live at home and attend local Universities.
7. Universities should be mindful of their demographic and consider lecture times around childcare and other responsibilities that students face when setting timetables.

Conference Resolves:

1. To examine issues commuting students face in relation to travel costs, access to transport and safe travel alternatives.
2. To Lobby National Rail to make the 16-25 railcard available to part-time students and to allow mature students to apply for a 3-year railcard.
3. To continue to lobby National Rail to ensure that the 16-25 railcard does not have any restrictions on peak services and that they better publicises the availability of the 16-25 railcard to full time students over 26.
4. To support Student Unions in ensuring students with caring responsibilities and access needs have access to on campus parking and cheaper parking permits.
5. To support Student Unions to lobby their Universities for flexible lecture times, taking into consideration peak-time travel costs and the needs of students with caring responsibilities.
6. To lobby for changes in the way train ticket prices are set using the Retail Prices Index (RPI) measure of inflation plus an additional percentage.
7. To work with cycle training providers to ensure students have access to affordable and safe on-road cycle training.
8. To support Student Unions in lobbying their local authorities for better, safer cycling facilities.
9. To lobby for a cap on late night bus fares that ensures that they do not rise above the cost of day-time rates.

Motion No: 615

Policy Area: Welfare for Trainee Teachers

Conference Believes:

1. Students on teacher training placements have a busy, challenging and demanding learning experience. Placements can last a long time and be very difficult to arrange alongside childcare arrangements.
2. Trainees should have experience of a variety of placements so they can gain a more rounded experience of schools.
3. Trainee teachers do not study on the same academic timetable as most students; they work to the school year; this means that they need access to services at different times
4. Universities should accept responsibility and contextualise placement allocation, helping student parents to access placements closer to childcare solutions.
5. Universities should accept the responsibility of accepting parents and carers onto courses and provide childcare support options themselves; or
6. Universities should work with schools to help place students with childcare needs in schools that have facilities for childcare; it is good for all partners in a placement experience to share responsibility for student success in their learning.
7. University should accept responsibility for delivering a wide range of different placements to ensure their students have had the highest level of experience prior to finishing their degree.
8. Trainee teachers have to pay for travel before claiming money back, sometimes for several weeks of placements. This can cause issues for those trainees who have little money and have more important bills to pay before placement travel.
9. Students should receive upfront payment for placement cost or there should be a system in place for those students who cannot wait until the end.
10. Students should receive full reimbursement for the cost of travel to placement.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS should work with national halls providers to extend the use of longer accommodation contracts.
2. Universities need to cater for teacher trainee timetables so services on campus are open e.g. library, computer suites, cafes, support services.

Motion No: 617

Policy Area: Welfare in the Arts

Conference Believes:

1. The context of an arts education means that students are likely to experience high pressure, intense critique and long hours, leading to challenges in their physical and mental health. This has implications for their academic and personal success.
2. Many students on arts courses need support with study skills due to lack of familiarity with academic discipline or a high proportion of students facing disablement.
3. Every student has the right to full, free and easily available welfare support.

Conference Resolves:

1. To work with arts institutions and students' unions to present options for better on-site and out-of-hours support for students. This may involve collaboration between institutions and students' union.
2. To work with institutions and students' unions to discuss how better study skills support for all students can be developed.

Motion No:

619

Policy Area:

Integration between home and international students

Conference Believes:

1. University environment encourages International students to group together, often leading to a cultural divide on campus.
2. That problem will only increase as the number of international students increase
3. This limits the interaction time of the student in English, affecting their studies and employability

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS should commission research into initiatives promoting better integration between international students and home students at other higher education institutions around the country.
2. Following this research, NUS should support Student Unions' to facilitate more integration amongst different groups and societies
3. That NUS lobby universities to increase English Language support to international students

Emergency Motions

Solidarity with Swaziland and Free Maxwell Dlamini

NEC believes:

1. Maxwell Dlamini, former President of the Swaziland NUS, now Secretary General of the Swaziland Youth Congress, was detained last month and has been charged with sedition (actions that are deemed to tend toward insurrection against the government) for organising an "elections meeting"
2. Maxwell's arrest follows a number of events over recent years in which student and trade unionists in Swaziland have been unable to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of arrest or harassment by the Swazi government
3. NUS, Action for Southern Africa and The Free Maxwell Dlamini Campaign, a coalition of Swazis and international groups, are demanding that Maxwell Dlamini is released unconditionally with immediate effect
4. That the State of Emergency declared in Swaziland has endured for longer than any other of its kind
5. That the State of Swaziland has banned political parties and any kind of political organising.

NEC further believes:

6. That students across the world have the right to organise collectively, protest peacefully and demand a better education system
7. It is shocking that the Swazi government is complicit in oppressing the student movement, with the arrest of Maxwell highlighting this
8. Furthermore, actions by the Police and Swazi authorities during the May Day rallies on 1st May 2013, and the mass arrest of many workers shows that the international struggle of workers is our struggle too.

NEC resolves:

1. That NUS condemns the actions of the Swazi government
2. For NUS to write to the Swazi ambassador expressing our concern over the developing situation
3. To work with trade unions both here, in Swaziland and South Africa to put pressure on the UK government and the Swazi authorities to free all political prisoners in Swaziland
4. To explore with the Swaziland NUS a long-term partnership between our two student organisations.

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Composited Emergency Motion ULU and London Representation

London

Proposer: Michael Chessum

Seconders: Dennis Esch, Roshni Joshi, Malia Bouattia

NEC Believes

1. The University of London is threatening to close its students union, ULU, which represents more than 120,000 students across the city. This proposal is to close ULU from summer 2014 and replace it with a management-run student services centre.
2. The proposal is the culmination of a review, on which no student sat. Student union responses to the Review were largely (though not uniformly) positive, and ULU submitted a wide-ranging response to increase its representative capacity (which was cut almost entirely in 2007) and form the nucleus of a pan-London union.
3. The combined salaries of the Vice Chancellors of the University of London – the people who have the power to attack ULU and take away its resources – is £4.1m. ULU's block grant is under £800k, most of which goes back to the University in rent.
4. There has been wide-ranging support for ULU from numerous quarters, including a large proportion of the London Assembly.
5. ULU has been proactive about building links with non-UoL CMs, and has called a meeting on May 16th to move towards establishing more formalised London-wide representation, and this has been well received by officers.
6. ULU has moved a long way to address the criticisms of the Review: it has overhauled its governance; more than tripled the number of officers; introduced a full-time Women's Officer and autonomous Liberation Officers; and put in place measures that could increase its elections turnout tenfold in the coming year.
7. ULU has also pursued a wide array of pan-London campaigns, including the establishment of a tenants' union; holding anti-cuts demonstrations; running a student rights at work campaign; campaigning on staff conditions; fighting for international students against immigration controls; and campaigning on Liberation. These campaigns have regularly involved non-UoL CMs, and ULU has a policy of viewing this participation as part of its core work.
8. Four different motions have been passed at National Conference in the last decade calling for the creation of bespoke NUS representation/campaigning structures and development services for unions in London.
9. In part these respond to the existence of wider political structures of concern to London students.
10. These have recognised that whilst ULU has historically held some of this role, it has only had in membership unions that are part of the University of London, thus disenfranchising FE and new university students in particular.
11. This year a rules review has taken place in NUS that was tasked by the NEC with taking steps to implement the mandate by consulting with London unions.
12. The rules review motion was tabled at the AGM but Conference ran out of time to consider it.
13. A detailed consultation exercise was carried out amongst London unions both inside and outside of UL which resulted in the following being proposed:
 - a. In any pan London system being able to influence the agenda of the Mayor of London (MoL) should be central to whatever is proposed.
 - b. There should be advice and support available to allow Unions to engage with and influence their local councils in a more strategic way.
 - c. There should be structures that set high level strategic direction and policy for representation and campaigning work in London.
 - d. Any system should seek to capture a wide range of student voices whether through focus groups, research or polling.
 - e. It will be critical to cover key issues such as travel, housing, policing, recycling, and employment that the MoL/GLA has control over
 - f. We should also seek to influence and recognise areas that the MoL can assert themselves such as young people's education and skills, emergency planning and a desire to have greater influence over schools.
 - g. There should be a focus on the 'London Student Community/Communities' and how reflect students as citizens of London
 - h. It should focus on influencing MoL elections
 - i. It's main strength should be in generating research, evidence and networks that as well as empowering London students' unions to set priorities and run powerful, collective campaigns, also reaches the diversity of London students where individual students' unions can't due to lack of resource.
14. Any pan London student representation and campaigning body should exist inside NUS but should retain the ability to separately influence the MoL on London specific issues that might not impact on others in the UK in the same way- effectively having a similar status to that of an NUS nation
15. An internal assessment has been made on the speed with which we might be able to set this up, and both constitutionally and practically this can be created very quickly

NEC Further Believes

1. There is significant scope for a pan-London union to campaign on housing, transport and public sector cuts – all of which are particularly pressing in London. There is also a need for representation to the GLA.
2. In addition and in parallel this year, a review has been taking place of ULU that was instigated by students' unions.
3. The ULU review has now reported and recommends splitting ULU, arguing that a pan-London student representation and campaigning system should exist (either inside or separate to NUS) separately from the services, activities and facilities operation based on Malet Street.
4. It is clear that students in London need and deserve a pan-London representation and campaigning structure that fully involves all students; is part of NUS but is politically autonomous of the main structures; and delivers real change for London's students
5. It is not at all clear that all unions across London (or indeed unions inside UL) wholesale or in the majority oppose all aspects of the ULU review. It is rightly a matter for ULU's democratic structures to decide a position
6. However there is wide agreement that it is critical that any future solution for ULU:
 - a. Ensures that money currently spent on ULU remains for the benefit of students and specifically ring fenced for local students' unions

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- b. That the Governance of the services, activities and infrastructure operation on Malet St be student led and continue to allow for political activities and organisation.
- c. Delivers on small and specialist college union development, sports and activities – as well as students involved in intercalating modules and intercollegiate accommodation.

NEC Resolves

1. To support the efforts of ULU and CMs in London to ensure that there is democratic, campaigning and credible student representation across London.
2. To campaign to ensure that the outcomes of the ULU review reflect the believes above- ensuring that money currently spent on ULU remains for the benefit of students, the Governance of the services, activities and infrastructure operation on Malet St be student led and allow political activities/organisation, and ensuring small and specialist college union development and activities are secured, along with representation for intercalating modules and intercollegiate accommodation.
3. To progress implementation of a pan London representation and campaigning structure that fully involves all students; is part of NUS but is politically autonomous of the main structures; delivers real change for London's students and involved current ULU officers.

DRAFT